

Littleton United Methodist Church
January 3, 2010
The Feast of the Epiphany
Service of Word and Table

Prelude *Of the Father's Love Begotten* arr. WILBUR HELD
During the prelude, please silently prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

Members and guests please sign the attendance pad located at the end of the pew.

+Introit *Shine, Jesus, Shine (refrain & vs. 1)* Page 2173

+Greeting

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: O come, let us worship the Lord, and consider what wondrous things God has done-

People: **The magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!**

Pastor: O come, let us worship the Lord, and consider what wondrous things God has done-

People: **The exiles who dwell in the shadows see a glorious light!**

Pastor: O come, let us worship the Lord, and consider what wondrous things God has done-

People: **The Christ who embodies the word unveils the hidden plan,**

Pastor: Making all people joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel!

People: **O come, let us worship the Lord, for God *has done wondrous things!***

+Entrance Hymn #220 *Angels from the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE

Prayer of the Day

God of the stars, whose guidance is always available to those who look up and listen, speak to us now. We are troubled by many things. Break into our thoughts to reveal great joy at the heart of life, that we may worship wholeheartedly, offer your our best, and lead others to the discoveries of faith. AMEN.

The First Reading *Isaiah 60:1-6* Diana Parham, Lay Reader

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and

proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14



Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!
May he judge your people with righteousness,
and you poor with justice!
Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!

R

In his days may righteousness flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
May all the kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!
For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.

R

The Second Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—Surely you have heard

about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *As With Gladness* LEAVITT

+Gospel Acclamation #2043 *Alleluia* CELTIC ALLELUIA

+The Holy Gospel *Matthew 2:1-12*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord, the word of God for us, the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *"Enlightenment"* Rev. Rob Licht

+The Apostles' Creed Page 881

Prayer of Confession

Mighty God, we are unprepared to meet you, but we cannot put off this encounter. You continue to summon us to the mountaintop, to feel your presence and respond to your Word. You invite us to lift up our heads and to see the rule of glory but we have stubbornly refused to acknowledge your work among us or to see any purpose emerging from the depths of despair. We fear death. We shrink from life. This is our greatest sin, cutting ourselves off from you. God help us. AMEN.

A Moment of Silent Confession

Words of Pardon

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet Sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

All: **Glory to God. Amen.**

The Offertory *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. WILBUR HELD

A special note to our guests: The ministries and work of our church are supported by the generosity and sacrificial

giving of our members and friends. You are our GUEST today. Please do not feel compelled to make a contribution. Please accept this time of worship as our gift to you. We hope that it has been meaningful and that you will worship with us again.

+The Doxology #221 (verse 4)

CRANHAM

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

+The Prayer of Dedication

Hymn #254

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

The Great Thanksgiving (Alternate Musical Setting)
The Lord's Prayer

Laminated Sheet
Page 895

+Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. May it seal the covenant between us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

+Closing Hymn #219

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response *Go, Tell It on the Mountain (refrain only)* Page 251

+Taking God's Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude

From Heaven Above

arr. WILBUR HELD

+The congregation will stand as you are able

**** Communion rail offerings are designated for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.**

**** Printed copies of the sermon are available after the service in each narthex.**

Our Presence



- Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service
11:20 AM Sunday school
- Monday: 11:15 Trustees meeting at Casa Mia's restaurant
1:00 PM Mary Lucy Self Circle
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM Bible Study
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- Friday: 9:00 AM Food Delivery
9:30 - 12:00 Littleton ACTS Food Pantry open
7:00 PM Family Movie Night
- Saturday: 3:00 PM Memorial Service for Sue Beazley

Our Gifts



Offerings 12/27:	\$2,320.05
Offerings 12/31:	\$ 700.00

Our Mission Statement

Littleton United Methodist Church strives to provide all-inclusive worship of God through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are committed to deepening our spiritual growth.

We are to minister in Christ's name to the needy, the sick, the dying, the unchurched, and to each other.

We are to be active Christians, spreading the Good News.

We are to strive to witness for Jesus in our daily lives, in our community and throughout the world.



Our Service

Serving in Worship:

Choir Director / Organist: Tom Parker
Organist emeritus: Trudi May
Acolyte: Martha Sherman
Greeters: Frances Howell (east)
Kay Newsom (west)
Ushers: Ed Angel (east)
Sherman Merchant (west)
George Alston (west)
Nursery: as needed
Sound: Dick O'Sullivan
Ed Angel
Communion stewards: Ed & Darla Angel

2009 Committee Chairpersons:

Administrative Council: Richard Sherman
Congregational Care: Jean Houston
Shepherding: Elizabeth Solovieff
Discipleship: Helen Burtchell
Age Level: TBA
Outreach: Helen Burtchell
Missions: Richard Sherman
Finance: Mike Herman
Pastor-Parish: Sherman Merchant
Lay Leadership: Rob Licht
Trustees: Shirley Anschutz
Kitchen: Marie Fields
Membership: Marj Prescott
Scholarship: Marvin Newsom III
Memorials: Matt Johnston
Newsletter: Susan Merchant
Sunday School Superintendent: Jean Jarvis

Serving in our Church, Community and World

The **Trustees** will meet on Monday at 11:15 AM at Casa Mia's restaurant.

The **Mary Lucy Self Circle** will meet in the board room on Monday at 1:00 pm.

Bible Study resumes this Wednesday at 10:00 AM.

The **Littleton ACTs Food Pantry** will be open from 10:00 AM until noon this Friday. Our church is responsible for staffing the food pantry this month. If you would like to volunteer this Friday and/or January 22nd, please speak to Liz, Darla, Kaye or Pastor Rob. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 9:30am.

Family Movie Night will be on Friday at 7:00 PM in our fellowship hall. This month's movie will be Disney's recently released "**Princess Protection Program**".

The **Memorial Service for Sue Beazley** will be on Saturday at 3:00 PM in our sanctuary. There will be a reception and visitation with the family in the fellowship hall, immediately following the service. If you would like to bring something for the reception, please contact Marie Fields at mariefields@embarqmail.com or 586-4757 by Wednesday.

*****Note—the side door will be locked during the worship service.**