

Littleton United Methodist Church
January 10, 2010
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
Service of the Word

Prelude *Come, Let Us Meet Him* SMITH
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 friendship pad located at the end of the pew.

+Introit *Shine, Jesus, Shine* 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: God anointed Christ to console the afflicted.

People: **Come, let us worship the Lord our Comforter!**

Pastor: God anointed Christ to emancipate the enslaved.

People: **Come, let us worship the Lord our Liberator!**

Pastor: God anointed Christ to bind up the wounded.

People: **Come, let us worship the Lord our Healer!**

Pastor: God anointed Christ to deliver the troubled.

People: **Come, let us worship the Lord our Savior!**

+Entrance Hymn #139 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN

Prayer of the Day

God of cleansing waters and purifying fires, touch our lives today to recall us to the power of our baptism and reconfirm our commitment to Jesus Christ. Name us again as your own people: precious, gifted, created to glorify you in fullness of life, in peace with ourselves and with one another. Send your Holy Spirit once more to energize our worship and enliven our witness to the world. Hear us as we pray for one another and for your church in every place. AMEN.

The First Reading *Isaiah 43:1-7* Elizabeth Solovieff, Lay Reader

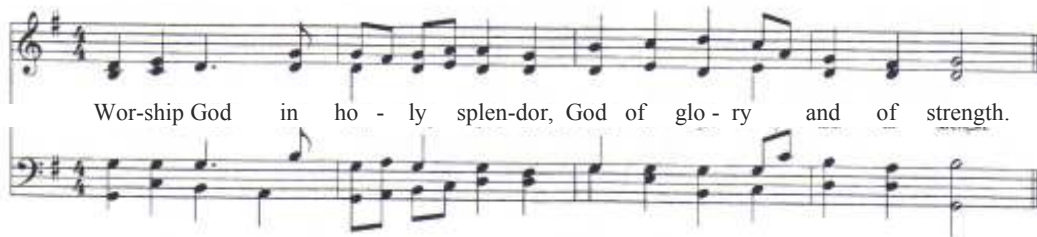
But now, this is what the LORD says— he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your

children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

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

Psalter

Psalm 29



Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, upon many waters.

**The voice of the Lord is powerful,
The voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

R

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars,
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

The Lord makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness,
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forests bare;
and in his temple all cry "Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
The Lord sits enthroned as Ruler for ever.

**May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!**

R

The Second Reading*Acts 8:14-17*

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

Anthem*Only Begotten, Word of God Eternal*

LEAVITT

+Gospel Acclamation #2043*Alleluia*

CELTIC ALLELUIA

+The Holy Gospel*Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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

Sermon*"Fire and Water"*

Rev. Rob Licht

+Hymn #252*When Jesus Came to Jordan*

COMPLAINER

Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Introduction to the Service	Page 50
Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith	Page 50
Thanksgiving Over the Water	Page 51
Reaffirmation of Faith	Page 52
Thanksgiving	Page 52

The Offertory*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

SALZBURG

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 #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

+The Prayer of Dedication

The Prayers

Sharing our Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

Page 895

+Closing Hymn #2248

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response

Dona Nobis Pacem

Page 376

+Taking God's Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude

To Thee, O Lord, Our Hearts We Raise

TURNER

+The congregation will stand as you are able

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

Our Presence

Attendance:

Worship service: 56
Sunday school: 9



Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service
11:20 AM Sunday school
3:00 Laity Workshops - First UMC Roanoke Rapids

Monday: 10:00 AM Beckham Ransom Circle at Susan Merchant's home
7:00 PM Administrative Council

Tuesday: 5:00 PM Game Night

Wednesday: 10:00 AM Bible Study
Noon: Women in Christian Fellowship
7:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday: 2:00 PM Warren Hills Birthday Party

Our Gifts



Offerings last week: \$3,698.52

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: Leah O'Brien (east)
Jill Russo (west)
Ushers: Ed Angel (east)
Sherman Merchant (west)
George Alston (west)
Nursery: as needed
Sound: Dick O'Sullivan
Ed Angel

2010 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 **Rocky Mount District Laity Workshops** are scheduled for this afternoon at First UMC in Roanoke Rapids. We are hoping that we can gather a group to attend. We will meet in the church parking lot at 2:15 in order to carpool. The workshops are from 3:00-5:00.

The **Beckham Ransom Circle** will meet on Monday at 10:00 AM at Susan Merchant's home.

The **Admin Council** will meet on Monday at 7:0 PM in the board room.

Game Night will be on Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Bring your appetite, bring a game, bring a friend, or just bring yourself for some fun and conversation. A big pot a Chili will be waiting for you with all the trimmings and desert will also be provided.

Helping hands are needed:

The **Littleton ACTs Food Pantry** Our church is responsible for staffing the food pantry this month. If you would like to volunteer January 22nd, please speak to Liz, Darla, Kaye or Pastor Rob. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 9:30am.

Volunteers needed for **Communion preparation**. Interested in knowing how we prepare for serving communion and becoming part of this very special time of celebration, speak with Darla Angel.

5th Sunday Fellowship Brunch. If you would like to help and be a part of the committee that makes this wonderful time of fellowship possible, speak to Elizabeth Solovieff, Darla Angel, or Kaye Herman.