

**Littleton United Methodist Church**  
**January 24, 2010**  
**The Third Sunday After the Epiphany**  
**Service of the Word**

**Prelude** *Wonderful Words of Life* arr. TORNQUIST  
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: Come, let us worship the Lord,

People: **Whose law revives the soul.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship the Lord,

People: **Whose testimony instructs the mind.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship the Lord,

People: **Whose precepts gladden the heart.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship the Lord,

People: **And the Lord our God shall bless us!**

**+Entrance Hymn #545** *The Church's One Foundation* AURELIA

**Prayer of the Day**

**Spirit of God, who inspired the Scriptures and gave them fulfillment in Jesus Christ, open our eyes to the gifts you have entrusted to each one of us and show us how to work together to realize your purposes in our midst. We long to live in a world where mutual caring and support replace competition and violence. Help us to honor one another's gifts and strive for the greatest of all gifts, the embodiment of your love. AMEN.**

**The First Reading** *Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10* Lois Weaver, Lay Reader

And all the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra

praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

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

**Psalter**

*Psalm 19*



The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
 and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**Day to day pours forth speech,  
 And night to night declares knowledge.**

There is no speech, nor are there words;  
 their voice is not heard;

**yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
 and their words to the end of the world.**

In them God has set a tent for the sun,  
 which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
 and runs its course with joy like a strong man.

**Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
 and its circuit to the end of them;  
 and there is nothing hid from its heat.**

**R**

The law of the Lord is perfect,  
 reviving the soul;

**The testimony of the Lord is sure,  
 making wise the simple;**

the precepts of the Lord are right,  
 rejoicing the heart;

**the commandment of the Lord is pure,  
 enlightening the eyes;**

the fear of the Lord is clean,  
 enduring for ever;

**the ordinances of the Lord are true,  
and righteous altogether.**

More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;

**sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

**R**

Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

**But who can understand one's own errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.**

Also keep your servant from the insolent;  
let them not have dominion over me!

**Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.**

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

**R**

### **The Second Reading**

*1 Corinthians 12:12-31a*

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts.

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

**Anthem**

*The Heavens Are Telling*

HAYDN

**+Gospel Acclamation #2043**

*Alleluia*

CELTIC ALLELUIA

**+The Holy Gospel**

*Luke 4:14-21*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord, the word of God for us, the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

***“Eat the Fat, Drink the Sweet Wine”***

Rev. Rob Licht

**+Hymn #600**

*Wonderful Words of Life*

WORDS OF LIFE

**+The Apostles' Creed**

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**Prayer of Confession**

O God, sometimes we do not know what to confess. We seek to keep your law, but the right course is not always clear. We want to follow your direction, but it is hard to discern what is true. Sometimes it is difficult to care about people whose values are different from ours. How can we be one with those who do not share our beliefs? At times, our faith is shaken- our faith in ourselves and our faith in you. We need your help, Lord, so our sins will not have dominion over 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**

*Arietta*

WOLFORD

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

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**+Closing Hymn #157**

*Jesus Shall Reign*

DUKE STREET

**+Dismissal with Blessing**

**+Congregational Response** *Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Unto Us, Peace)* Page 376

**+Taking God's Light Into The World**

**+Chiming of the Trinity**

**+Postlude**

*Concertino*

YOUNG

*+The congregation will stand as you are able*

## Our Presence

Attendance:  
Worship service: 50



Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service  
11:20 AM Sunday school

Tuesday: 11:30 AM UMW at Timeless Tea

Wednesday: 10:00 AM Bible Study  
7:00 PM Choir Practice

Sunday (1/31): 11:20 Fifth Sunday Brunch



## Our Gifts

Offerings 1/10: \$1,879.38

The flowers today were given  
by Skip & Shirley Anschutz  
with the hope of world peace.

## 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  
un-churched, 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: Jean Houston (east)  
            Connie Henry (west)  
Ushers: Ed Angel (east)  
          Lee Reinhardt (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: Diana Parham  
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 **UMW** will be having a lunch tea at 11:30 on Tuesday at **Timeless Tea** in Roanoke Rapids. All ladies are invited. Please contact Susan Merchant or Helen Burtchell if you would like to attend. The cost is \$9.50 plus gratuity.

Next Sunday there will be a **5th Sunday Fellowship Brunch** in the chapel immediately following the worship service. If you would like to help with this, please speak to Elizabeth Solovieff.

**Coming soon: Women In Christian Fellowship** will meet on Wednesday, February 10th, 2010 at the social hall of the Enterprise Baptist Church. The time is 12:00 bring a friend and a dish to pass. Our speaker will be Martha Faulcon from South Street Church.

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