

Littleton United Methodist Church
January 31, 2010
The Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany
Service of the Word

Prelude *When Morning Gilds the Skies* 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: From a world in which in justice sits upon the throne,

People: **We turn to you, O Lord, our refuge from workers of woe.**

Pastor: With hearts from which courage has taken leave,

People: **We turn to you, O Lord, our refuge from dealers in fear.**

Pastor: We have hewn out for ourselves broken cisterns that can hold no water.

People: **Now we turn to you, O Lord, the fountain of living water. That courage might rule our hearts and justice cover the earth.**

+Entrance Hymn #578 *God of Love and God of Power* UNSER HERRSCHER

Prayer of the Day

God of love, in whose name we have been consecrated for discipleship and service, encounter us in this hour, that we may grow in knowledge and actions. Disturb our certainties so we will be open to new insights. Upset our priorities to make room for faith, hope and love. Expand our horizons to encompass ideas we have not entertained before. Open our hearts to people we have failed to welcome into our midst. Perfect among us that childlike trust that allows change to transform us in the presence of your love. We pray in Jesus' name. AMEN.

The First Reading *Jeremiah 1:4-10* Gail Workman, Lay Reader

The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." "Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD. Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

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

Psalter

Psalm 71:1-6



In you, O Lord, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame!
**In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me, and save me!**
Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
**Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.**
For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.
**Upon you I have leaned from my birth;
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.
My praise is continually of you.**

R

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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

Anthem

The Gift of Love

HOPSON

+Gospel Acclamation #2043*Alleluia*

CELTIC ALLELUIA

+The Holy Gospel*Luke 4:21-30*

Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." ' And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

Sermon*"Home Again "*

Rev. Rob Licht

+Hymn #261*Lord of the Dance*

LORD OF THE DANCE

+The Apostles' Creed

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Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you know us better than we know ourselves, but we have not believed this. You care about us even when we do not love ourselves, but it has been hard for us to understand that this is true. We see so dimly and hear your Word so faintly that we doubt your truth. We dare not trust the prophets or risk the cost of discipleship. We are afraid to believe, hope and endure when there is suffering all around us. O God, grant us courage to change, to follow Jesus in spite of ridicule and rejection. Yet keep us from insisting on our own way, which may not be your way. 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*The Majesty and Glory of Your Name*

FETTKE

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 #582

Whom Shall I Send

DEUS TUORUM MILITUM

+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

+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: 73
Sunday school: 14

- Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service
11:20 AM Fifth Sunday Brunch
- Monday: 11:15 AM 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
7:00 PM Family Movie Night



Our Gifts

Offerings 1/17:	\$970.00
Offerings 1/24:	\$10,410.10

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
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: Loretta Woodburn (east)
Anna Brown (west)
Ushers: Sherman Merchant (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

Our **5th Sunday Fellowship Brunch** will be in the chapel immediately following today's worship service. Please join us for this time of fellowship.

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

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

Our free **Family Movie Night** will be at 7:00 PM on Friday in the fellowship hall. This month's movie is the recent release, "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs".

Women In Christian Fellowship will meet **next Wednesday, February 10th**, at the social hall of the Enterprise Baptist Church at noon. Bring a friend and a dish to pass. The speaker will be Martha Faulcon from South Street Church.

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