

Littleton United Methodist Church
March 7, 2010
The Third Sunday in Lent
Service of Word and Table

Prelude *And Can It Be?* arr. PARKS
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 *Hear Us, Almighty Lord* WRIGHT
Refrain: Hear Us, Almighty Lord, show us Your mercy. Sinners we stand here before You.
(congregation sings refrain, choir sings verse)

+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: The heavens rise high above the earth, higher than any bird can soar;

People: **The east lies distant from the west, more distant than any wind can blow;**

Pastor: But above the greatest height does God raise up our hearts,

People: **And beyond the farthest distance does God remove our sins!**

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord with all our soul-

People: **Let all that is within us bless God's holy name!**

+Entrance Hymn #121 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* WELLESLEY

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, whose call comes to us through the scriptures, in the remembrance of our baptism and in our shared life in the church, feed us now with your Word, that we may bear fruit. Confront us with your truth and keep us from being tempted beyond our strength, for we seek to be faithful in our covenant with you and responsible in our relationships with one another. May we together witness to your steadfast love in ways that transform evil into good. AMEN.

The First Reading *Isaiah 55:1-9* Matt Johnston, Lay Reader

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. See, I have made him a witness to

the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples. Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor." Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

Psalter

Psalm 63:1-8



O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.**

Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

**So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name. R**

My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
when I think of you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

**For you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.**

**My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me. R**

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They

all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

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

Anthem

Now We Remain

HAAS

+Lenten Gospel Acclamation *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ*
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

+The Holy Gospel *Luke 13:1-9*

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

Sermon

"What Does It Mean?"

Rev. Rob Licht

+The Apostles' Creed

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Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we have been tempted to go our own way without reference to eternal truths. We seek our own gratification rather than the well-being of all your children. We compare ourselves to others and find their failures but seldom discover our own shortcomings. We seek to build our lives by our own limited design rather than by your larger purposes. We engage in immorality in the name of freedom and become enslaved by our selfish ambitions. The ground on which we stand is crumbling under our feet. O God, forgive us and grant us a firmer foundation. 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

Immortal Love, Forever Full

WILLAN

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 contribu-

tion. 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 #95

OLD 100th

+The Prayer of Dedication

Hymn #616

Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast

HURSLEY

The Great Thanksgiving (Musical Setting- *Land of Rest*)

Insert

Pastor: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Lord's Prayer

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+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 give us the fortitude to put aside our sinful natures. 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 #438

Forth in Thy Name, O Lord

DUKE STREET

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response

Keep, O Keep Us

SMYTTAN

Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, Ever constant by Your side;

That with You we may appear at the-eternal Eastertide. A-men.

+Taking God's Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude

Faith

MENDELSSOHN

+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

Attendance last week
Worship service: 57
Sunday school: 12



Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service
11:20 AM Sunday school
4:00 PM Laity Rally—First UMC Rocky Mount

Monday: 10:00 AM Beckham Ransom Circle at Darla Angel's home
7:00 PM Administrative Council meeting

Wednesday: 10:00 AM Bible Study
12:00 PM Lenten Lunch
7:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday: 9:00 AM Food Delivery
10:00—noon Littleton ACTS Food Pantry

Saturday: 7:00 AM Christian Men at Work

Our Gifts



Offerings 2/21

\$3,491.28

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: Matt Johnston (east)
 Richard Sherman (west)
 Jack May (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

There will be a **District Laity Rally** this afternoon at 4:00 PM at First United Methodist Church in Rocky Mount.

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

The **Admin Council** will meet Monday evening at 7:00 in the board room.

The fourth **Lenten Lunch** will be at St. Alban's Episcopal Church this Wednesday at noon. Reverend Fred Eichner will be speaking. Each person should bring a bag lunch. The host church is responsible for providing drinks and desserts. The remaining schedule for the Lenten lunches follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
March 10	St. Alban's Episcopal Church	Rev. Fred Eichner
March 17	Weaver's Chapel UMC	Rev. Mike Currin
March 24	at Littleton United Methodist (Littleton Presbyterian host)	Rev. Will Tabron

This Friday the **Littleton ACTS Food Pantry** will be open from 10:00 AM until noon.

Christian Men at Work will meet this Saturday at 7:00 AM at the Littleton Baptist Church. All men are welcome to this breakfast and time of fellowship.

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