

Littleton United Methodist Church
March 14, 2010
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Service of the Word

Prelude *What Wondrous Love is This?* arr. INNES
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 *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.**

People: **For when we judge ourselves unworthy to be called the children of God, the Lord looks upon us with compassion, and runs to embrace us while we are still far off.**

Pastor: O magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt God's name together!

People: **For when we judge our neighbors unworthy to be called the children of God, the Lord looks upon them and weeps for joy, and makes a great feast while we stand at a distance.**

Pastor: O magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt God's name together!

People: **For the humble shall be received with honor, and the haughty shall be humbled; every prodigal shall return with hope, and every elder shall rejoice with gladness!**

+Entrance Hymn #340 *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* RESTORATION

Prayer of the Day

O God, whose love for us never fails, even when we wander far from home, teach us compassion for all who are lost and confused. Keep us from living as competitors for your favors, that we might participate joyfully in your forgiving and reconciling work. Make us ambassadors for Christ, that all your children may come home to your welcoming arms. AMEN.

The First Reading *Joshua 5:9-12* Bob Workman, Lay Reader

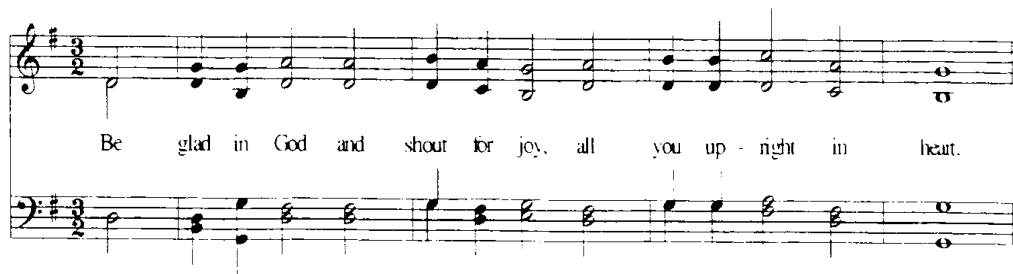
Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the place has been called Gilgal to this day. On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at

Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan.

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

Psalter

Psalm 32



Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
**Blessed are those whom the Lord does not hold guilty,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
When I did not declare my sin, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**
I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;"
then you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

R

Therefore let those who are godly
offer prayer to you;
**At a time of distress, the rush of great waters
shall not reach them.**
You are a hiding place for me,
you preserve me from trouble;
you encompass me with deliverance.
**I will instruct you and teach you
the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**
Do not be like an unruly horse or a mule, without
understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle.
Many are the pangs of the wicked;

but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous;
shout for joy, all you upright in heart! **R**

The Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

Anthem

Once Upon a Tree

CHOPLIN

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

+The Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

Sermon

"The Prodigal Sons"

Rev. Rob Licht

+Hymn #2197

Lord of All Hopefulness

SLANE

+The Apostles' Creed

Page 881

Prayer of Confession

O God, we will not try to hide from you the wrong we have done or the good we have neglected. You know our transgressions. You have observed our pretensions. We have claimed too lightly the label of "Christian." We often cut ourselves off from you and from people we disdain. At times our rebellion leaves us hungry, alone and friendless. O God, we are not worthy to be called your children. Grant us, we pray, your forgiveness and pardon. Give us a renewed sense of who you intend us to be and who we are to become. **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

Prayer

VIERNE

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 #95

OLD 100th

+The Prayer of Dedication

The Prayers

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Page 895

+Closing Hymn #2149

Living for Jesus

LIVING FOR JESUS

+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

Come, Follow Me

McBURNEY

+The congregation will stand as you are able

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

Our Presence

Attendance last week
Worship service: 58



- Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service
11:20 AM Sunday school
- Monday: 1:00 PM Sewing Circle / Blanket Bee
5:30 PM Family Game Night in the fellowship hall
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM Bible Study
12:00 PM Lenten Lunch at Weaver's Chapel
7:00 PM Choir Practice
- Friday: 2:00 PM Birthday Party at Warren Hills Nursing Home



Our Gifts

Offerings 2/28	\$1,441.00
Offerings 3/7	\$4,226.00

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: Jean Houston (east)
 Margie Drescher (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

The **Blanket Bee / Sewing Circle** will meet at 1:00 PM on Monday in the fellowship hall.

There will be a **Family Game Night** on Monday at 5:30 in the fellowship hall. Bring your friends and join us for a delicious meal, games and conversation.

The fifth **Lenten Lunch** will be at Weaver's Chapel this Wednesday at noon. Reverend Mike Currin 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 17	Weaver's Chapel UMC	Rev. Mike Currin
March 24	at Littleton United Methodist (Littleton Presbyterian host)	Rev. Will Tabron

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