

Littleton United Methodist Church
March 21, 2010
The Fifth Sunday in Lent
Service of the Word

Prelude *I Cry Unto Thee, Lord Jesus Christ* BACH
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.**

Pastor: Remember not the former things,

People: **Nor dwell on the things of old**

Pastor: For the Lord is doing a new thing; do you not perceive it?

People: **Let us press on to make God's goal our own,**

Pastor: Forgetting whatever lies behind,

People: **Straining toward what lies ahead!**

Pastor: As it was in the beginning,

People: **It is now, and ever shall be-**

Pastor: World without end!

People: **Amen!**

+Entrance Hymn #298 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* HAMBURG

Prayer of the Day

God of the poor and the oppressed, whose mercy and pardon are for all those who put their trust in you, teach us to be faithful to all we have learned from Jesus Christ. We seek the power of resurrection faith and the strength to achieve the goals you set before us. May we answer your call and bear fruit for your realm, attracting others to your loving embrace. AMEN.

The First Reading *Isaiah 43:16-21* Leah O'Brien, Lay Reader

This is what the LORD says— he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the

desert and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

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

Psalter

Psalm 126



When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
**Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**
then they said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
**The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad.** **R**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb!
**May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy!**
Those who go forth weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
**shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.** **R**

The Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

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

Anthem

Medley of the Cross

SHAFFERMAN

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

+The Holy Gospel

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

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 Real Cost"

Rev. Rob Licht

+Hymn #2216 *When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise*

KINGSFOLD

+The Apostles' Creed

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Prayer of Confession

O God, whose upward call in Christ Jesus we have so often chosen to ignore, we confess that we settle for lesser goals while you summon us to embrace the realm of heaven. We seldom look beyond our own interests to the well-being of our sisters and brothers. We can see the wasteful acts of other people but not our own selfish habits. We exaggerate the contributions we make but ignore the sacrifice of others. We need forgiveness, O God. Do a new things within and among 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

I Surrender All

RENFROW

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

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+Closing Hymn #453

More Love to Thee, O Christ

MORE LOVE TO THEE

+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

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

HERNAMAN

+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: 54
Sunday school: 14



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

Monday: 10:00 AM UMW meeting

Wednesday: 10:00 AM Bible Study
12:00 PM Lenten Lunch in our fellowship hall
7:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday: 10:00 - noon Littleton ACTS Food Pantry

Saturday: 1:30PM - Special Choir Rehearsal

Sunday (3/28) noon - Lunch Bunch

Our Gifts

Offerings 3/7 \$4,226.00



The flowers today were given
by Barbara & Lee Reinhardt
in honor of Lee's birthday.

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: Jill Russo (east)
Leah O'Brien (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 **UMW** will meet at 10:00 on Monday in the board room.

The last **Lenten Lunch** of the year will be in our fellowship hall this Wednesday at noon. Reverend Will Tabron will be speaking. Each person should bring a bag lunch. Littleton Presbyterian Church is the host church and they will be responsible for providing drinks and desserts.

The **Littleton ACTS Food Pantry** will be open on Friday from 10:00 until noon.

Saturday there will be a **special Choir Rehearsal** at 1:30PM.

Next Sunday (Palm Sunday, 3/28) there will be a **Lunch Bunch** at noon in our fellowship hall. As always, everyone is invited to share a delicious meal for a donation.

Please note the bulletin insert with the **Easter flower order form**. The deadline for flower orders is next Sunday.

Volunteers are needed to learn and help with the **sound system** to record the church services. If you would like to help with this, please contact Dick O'Sullivan or Ed Angel.

Our annual **Stop Hunger Now packaging event** will be April 10th. Volunteers and donations are needed. Please let Sherman Merchant know if you would like to volunteer. Donation checks should be made to LUMC with "Stop Hunger Now" in the memo.

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