

Littleton United Methodist Church
May 2, 2010
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Service of the Word

Prelude *Be Thou My Vision* arr. WOOD
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 #304 *Easter People, Raise Your Voices (verse 1 only)* LANCASHIRE

+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: Let us who are lame spring up and dance!

People: **Let us who are blind look up and dream!**

Pastor: Let us who are deaf hear and rejoice!

People: **Let us who are mute shout and sing!**

Pastor: Our God will not be left without a faithful witness

People: **For we shall bless the name of the Lord forever!**

+Entrance Hymn #384 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* BEECHER

Prayer of the Day

Loving God, glorified on earth by the witness of Jesus Christ, touch our lives with the love that creates disciples, that we may learn to love one another. Teach us new attitudes so we will welcome the new heaven and the new earth that you have promised and work together to live as your people. AMEN.

The First Reading *Acts 11:1-18* Greg Solovieff, Lay Reader

The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them." Peter began and explained everything to them precisely as it had happened: "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of the air. Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'" I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'" The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again. "Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house

where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'" As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?" When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."

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

Psalter

Psalm 148



Praise the Lord!
 Praise the Lord from the heavens,
 Praise the Lord, in the heights!
Praise the Lord, all his angels,
praise the Lord, all his hosts!
 Praise the Lord, sun and moon,
 praise the Lord, all shining stars!
Praise the Lord, highest heavens,
and all waters above the heavens!

R

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
 who commanded and they were created,
who established them forever and ever,
and fixed their bounds which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
 sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and smoke,
stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

R

Mountains and all hills,
 fruit trees and all cedars!
Beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
**Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!**
Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name alone is exalted,
whose glory is above earth and heaven.

**God has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful ones,
for the people of Israel who are near their God.
Praise the Lord.**

R

The Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.

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*

+The Holy Gospel

John 13:31-35

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 Power of a Vision"

Tim Townsend

+Hymn #561

Jesus, United by Thy Grace

ST. AGNES

+The Apostles' Creed

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Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we admit that we find it hard to hear your promise of new life. Even when we are dissatisfied with our lives, it is easier to cling to what we know than to risk the unknown. You challenge us to accept people who are different from us, but we are eager to associate with them. You command us to love one another, but some people are not lovable. O God, melt our defenses so we can accept your love and let it flow through us. Grant us courage to embrace newness. AMEN.

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 *We Know that Christ is Raised and Dies No More* arr. PAGE

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 #548

In Christ There Is No East or West

McKEE

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response #310

He Lives (refrain only)

ACKLEY

+Taking God's Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude

Trumpet Rondeau

MOURET

+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: 61
Sunday school: 10



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

Monday: 11:15 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

Sunday (5/9) Mother's Day

Our Gifts

Offerings last week \$1,158.00



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: Loretta Woodburn (west)
Frances Howell (east)
Ushers: Richard Sherman (east)
Al Prescott (west)
Bob Workman (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

If you would like to link your **Food Lion MVP card** to the LUMC Charity in the Community Rewards Program, you may give your MVP card # to Susan Merchant or Elizabeth Solovieff, and we will enter the information onto Food Lion's web site for you.

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

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

Our next **Family Movie Night** is this Friday at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. This month's movie is "**Alvin & the Chipmunks - the Squeakquel**".

Warren County Schools are in need of proctors for end-of-year exams. If you would like to help with this, you may call Mrs. Tameeka Williams-Burchette at New Tech High School 252-257-3767 x2207 or Celeste Long at Warren County Middle School.

Friends are invited to attend a **Celebration of Life Service for Reynold G. (Skip) Anschutz** on May 15, 2010 1:30 PM at 138 Weavers Point Drive, Littleton. **In lieu of flowers**, contributions may be given to Littleton United Methodist Church.

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