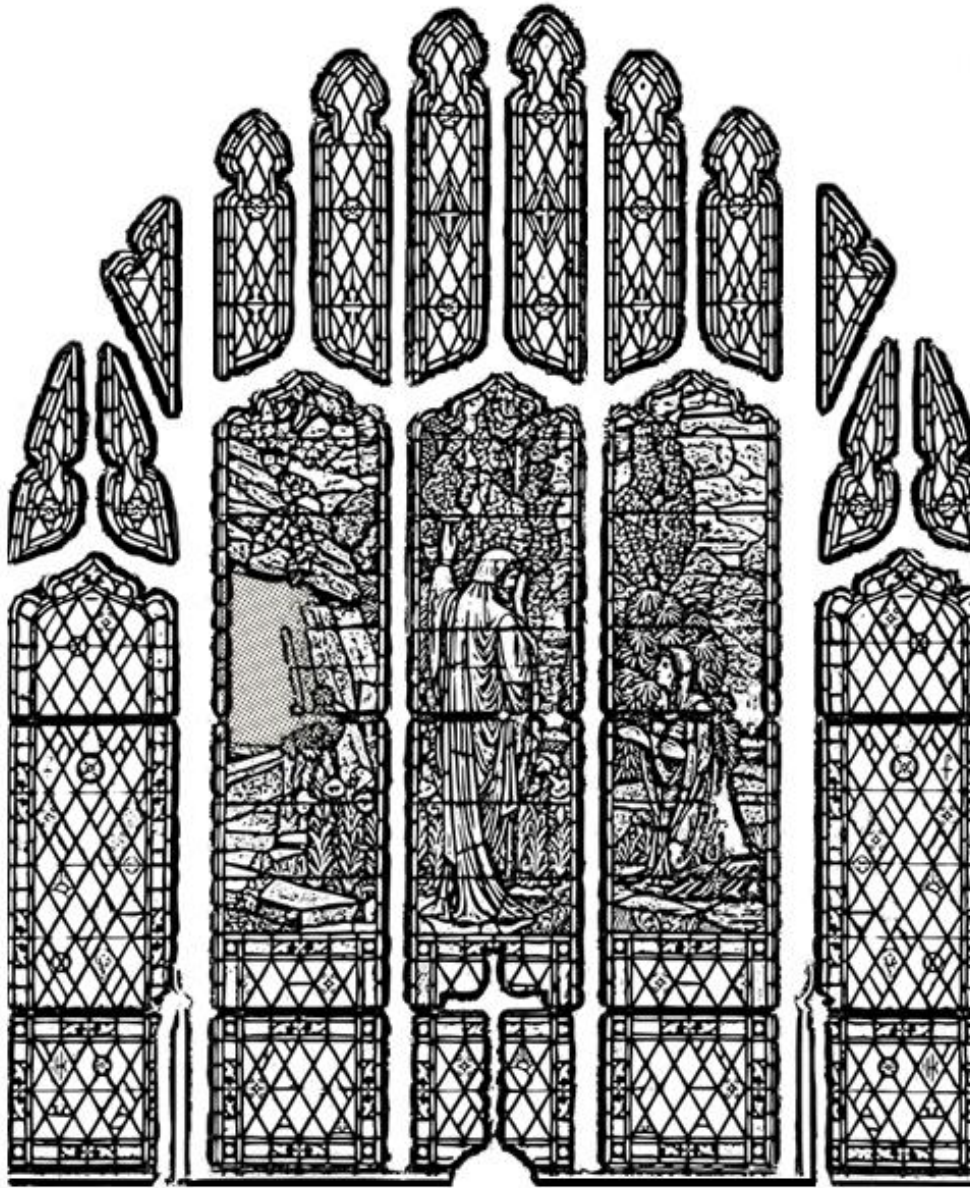


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, July 21, 2024, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

3319 WEST LIBERTY AVENUE ... PITTSBURGH, PA 15216 ... 412-531-7131

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, PASTOR ... tstrandburg@mlumc.org



Sunday, July 21, 2024 – The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Wherever Jesus went, says Mark, needy people “begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed” (v. 56). Our Good Shepherd has come to us in Jesus ... but it raises some questions: Do we have the compassion of the Christ? Are we willing to “suffer with” the hurting people around us? Can we be like the cloak of Jesus today?

**Indicates an invitation to stand in spirit or posture, as able.*

The Prelude

St. Felix

Betty Roe (b.1930)

***The Greeting**

∇. The Lord be with you.

℞. And also with you.

***Call to Worship**

∇. Here we have gathered as God’s people, inspired by the Spirit ...

℞. to witness more effectively, to listen more deeply,

∇. to speak more truthfully, to live more peacefully,

℞. to love more energetically, to teach more eloquently,

∇. to pray more seriously, to worship more enthusiastically,

℞. to celebrate more joyfully, to sing more faithfully,

to give more generously, to serve more compassionately.

***Opening Hymn**

“O Love, how deep, how broad, how high!”

UMH 267

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

Holy God, send some companions

who can look in a pained face and not turn away,

who can look at bruises and scars and not pull back,

who can hear anger and rage and not run away,

who can touch a fragile body with tenderness and not pity,

who can stay through the dark nights and shadowed days.

Holy God, touch us and use us to be the neighbor, the friend to those in need.

Amen.

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

“Jesus' hands were kind hands”

UMH 273

A Message for Young Disciples (10:45 am)

As the young disciples gather at the front of the church, all sing:

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.**

The young disciples (3 yr. - 3rd grade) then depart the sanctuary for Kids Praise.

Teachers will lead them back to the sanctuary prior to the conclusion of the service.

The First Lesson

A Reading from the Epistle to the Ephesians

EPH. 2:11-22

So then, remember that at one time you gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision” — a circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

“There is a balm in Gilead”

UMH 375

The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.

Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

***The Affirmation of Faith**

UMH 882

All are invited to stand, in spirit or in posture, and to face the altar as the affirmation of faith is recited.

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***The Sign of Peace**

℣. The peace of Christ be with you.

℞. **And also with you.**

*The people are now invited to share signs of peace with their fellow members of Christ's body.
Extended conversation would ideally and most appropriately be reserved until the end of the service.*

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am) "Lord, whose love through humble service" UMH 581

The Anthem (10:45 am) *God's Peace* Trad. American (BEACH SPRING),
text Marva Dawn

*Come away from rush and hurry to the stillness of God's peace;
from our vain ambition's worry, come to Christ and find release.
Come away from noise and clamor, life's demands and frenzied pace;
come to join the people gathered here to seek and find God's face.*

*In the pastures of God's goodness we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of his mercy we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of his presence all his saints are richly fed.
With the oil of his anointing into service we are led.*

*Come, then, children, with your burdens—life's confusions, fears, and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus; take instead his kingdom's reign.
Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them—he alone will satisfy;
all our longings find attainment when to self we gladly die.*

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication UMH 94**

***The Sending Hymn "O day of God, draw nigh" UMH 730**

***The Dismissal**

☩. Let us bless the Lord.

℟. **Thanks be to God.**

***The Benediction**

The Postlude *Temple March* James Lyon (1872-1949)

The people remain in place until the altar party has retired.

Please remember in prayer:

Convalescing in care facilities

Priscilla Utzig, Providence Point
Carol Fairgrieve, Providence Point
Jo Newman, Friendship Village

Convalescing at home

Bishop George Bashore
Jean Boyer
Carol Van Sickle
Don Langston
Susan Lichtenfels
Dawn Lonsinger

Serving in the military

Jason Boyer
SPC Natalie Brown
PFC William Dilla III
Maj. Zachary Allen Finch
1Lt. Shaun Hay
LCpl. Wyatt Hoover
James Iantelli
1Lt. Jaskiewicz
Sgt. Keith Kimmell
Sgt. Brendan Lamport
Sgt. Matthew McConahan
Thomas Orda
David Poncel
Sgt. Steven Reitz
LTC Scott B. Rushe
Pvt. Max Siegert
Pastor Rick Townes
Maj. Azizi Wesmiller
LTC Matthew Wesmiller
Sgt. Keith Scott Winkowski
Sgt. Michael Zimmerman

Leaders in Worship this Morning

RICH TREMBLAY (8:30AM) AND DONNA CHESLEIGH (10:45AM), LECTORS
THE SUMMER CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MR. A. MITCHELL V. STECKER, MINISTER OF MUSIC & ORGANIST
THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by
Chuck Vogel & Family
in loving memory of
Brenda.

The flowers at the columbarium this morning given by
the Kish & Gullborg families
in loving memory of our wonderful dad,
William H. Gullborg.

*For information about furnishing altar flowers for future services,
contact Lizzie Diller at 412-860-3614. The cost is \$45 per arrangement.*