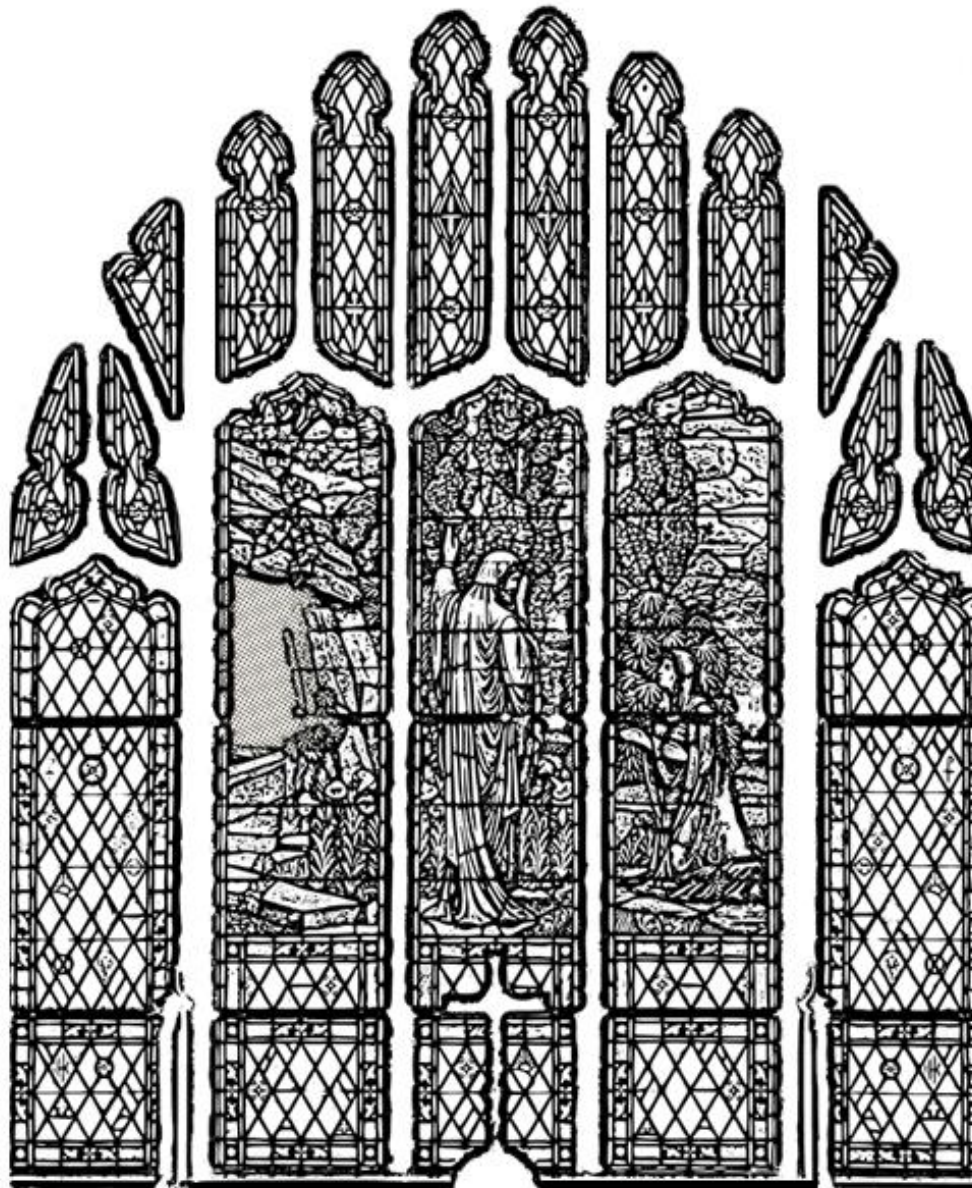


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, January 19, 2025, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

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



Sunday, January 19, 2025 – The Second Sunday after Epiphany

The wedding at Cana is like a movie trailer for all that will someday come to pass — the rescue of the universe from the forces of darkness and the everlasting celebration that will follow. The true significance of water turning to wine is God's redeeming love, already at work in the person of Jesus Christ.

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

The Prelude Adagio in A flat (from *Sonata I*, Op. 65, No. 1, II.) Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

As the prelude begins, all are humbly asked to conclude any conversation and make use of this moment of quietude to prepare your hearts and minds for the worship of Almighty God.

The Introit (10:45) *O Taste and See* Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Ms. Williams, soloist
O taste and see how gracious the Lord is; blest is the one that trusteth in God. (Ps. 34:8)

All rise, in body or spirit, at the sound of the chimes.

***Opening Hymn** **"I sing the Almighty Power of God"** **UMH 152**

***The Greeting**

∇. The Lord be with you.

℞. **And also with you.**

***Call to Worship**

∇ Lord Jesus, here we are to worship and praise you.

℞ **You clothe the lilies, you feed the birds of the sky.**

∇ You lead the lambs to pasture.

℞ **Here we are to worship and praise you.**

∇ You lead the deer to the waterside.

℞ **You multiplied loaves and fishes,**

∇ And changed water into wine.

℞ **Here, now, change and transform our lives.**

∇ Remind us, Lord Jesus, that when we live in you,

℞ **We are new people — new beings — filled with your love!**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

**O God, as you were with the wedding party in Cana of Galilee,
be with us here today.**

The wine of our lives and souls has run out.

Fill this place with the presence of your Holy Spirit.

**Fill the water pots of our souls this day
with new and fresh wine from your wine cellar.**

**Send your anointing power in this place and in the lives of your people
that we may find strength to hold on and hold out.**

**Help us to know that the best wine is yet to come,
and we can taste and see your goodness.**

**Show yourself to be powerful, empowering, and awesome this day
and for all times to come.**

In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray; amen.

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

"Your Love, O God, has called us here" (vv.1,2)

UMH 647

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 Psalter

Ps. 36:5-10

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains; your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the
shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them
drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we
see light. O continue your steadfast love to those who know you and your salvation to the
upright of heart!

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

"For the fruits of this creation"

UMH 97

Tune: AR HYD Y NOS

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to John

JN. 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

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 Sermon

"Will Wonders Never Cease"

Rev. Strandburg

***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)

"Spirit Song"

UMH 347

The Anthem (10:45 am)

In Christ we Come to Offer Thanks

Thomas Keesecker
text by Delores Dufner, OSB

*In Christ we come to offer thanks with mind and voice in harmony,
to praise the ageless God of time for life in this community.*

*O God of seasons' ebb and flow: in Christian life, in work and prayer,
in joyful hope we seek your face and daily find you everywhere*

*For faithful love in ages past, believers holy, kind, and strong,
for sacred story, sacred place, we lift our hearts in festive song.*

*For Gracious Presence with us still, for family, stranger, guest, and friend,
for ministry and mission shared: we sing of blessings without end.*

*Transforming Light of future years, empower us now to run the race,
our hearts expanded to proclaim that all is gift and all is grace.*

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

UMH 94

***The Sending Hymn**

"Sent forth by God's blessing"

UMH 664

***The Dismissal**

∇. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. **Thanks be to God.**

***The Benediction & Recessional**

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

The Postlude

*Prayer concerns will return to the bulletin next week.
If you wish to solicit prayers from the congregation for any matter
(health, travel, special concerns, etc.), please contact Cheryl
in the church office to have your concern added to the prayer list.*

Leaders in Worship this Morning

KALEB KNABB AND TREY KNABB, ACOLYTES

ALAN VOLEK, CROSS BEARER

KIM RHOTON (8:30AM) AND DONNA CHESLEIGH (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MR. BRENTON RAHMAN, CHORAL SCHOLAR

MS. TIMOTHY WILLIAMS, STAFF MEZZO-SOPRANO

MR. KIRBY DILWORTH, STAFF TENOR

MR. A. MITCHELL V. STECKER, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & LITURGY

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by

Laura and Nate Ward

in celebration of the birthdays of

Silas and Asher Ward

and Martha Roberts,

and in loving memory of

Darl Roberts.

The rosebud on the altar given

in honor of the birth of

Elodie Jane Neary

on November 14, 2024.

She is the daughter of

Samantha Neary,

who serves as the Director of the Weekday Ministries Program.

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