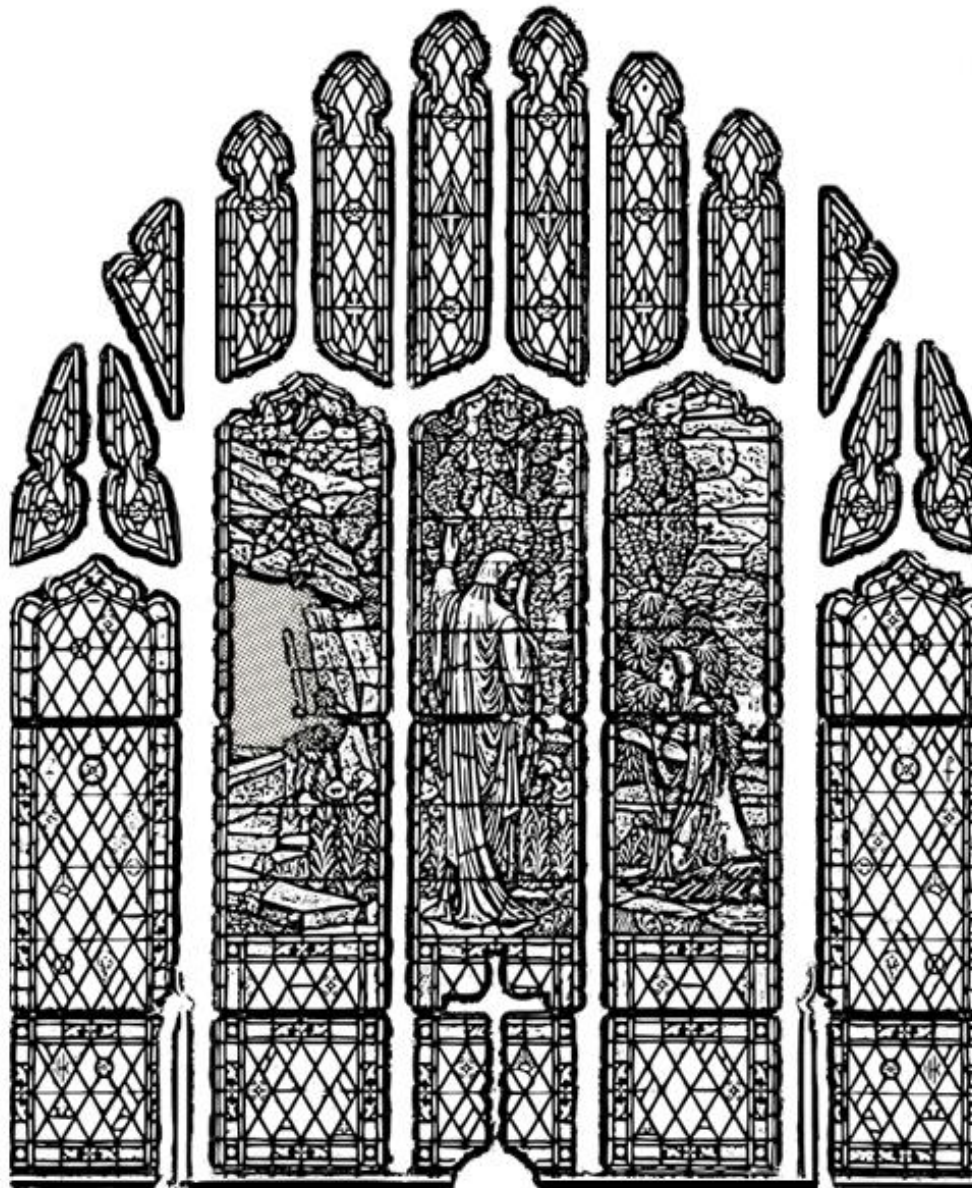


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, February 2, 2025, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

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



Sunday, February 2, 2025 – The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Jesus was determined to seek out and save lost people. We can accept his invitation to continue the search by beginning with ourselves, assisting those in need in our communities, and looking for the power of God at work around the world.

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

The Prelude *Adoration* Florence B. Price (1887-1953)

The Introit (10:45) *The Lord is my Shepherd (Ps. 23)* Leon C. Roberts (1950-1999)
Text: Biblical

As the chimes sound following the introit, all rise, in either body or spirit, for the procession.

***Opening Hymn** **“Precious Lord, take my hand”** **UMH 474**

***The Greeting**

∇. The Lord be with you.

℞. And also with you.

***Call to Worship**

∇ We are to God like precious coins,

℞ **Worth searching for when one is lost.**

∇ We are to God like precious sheep,

℞ **Worth seeking out when we wander from God's fold.**

Come, Good Shepherd among us; find us as we worship you.

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

We pray, Lord Jesus, for you to be made known in our community.

We pray for multitudes of interconnections

between our church and those around us who don't know you as you are.

We pray that by the power of your Spirit,

**you would reveal the ways you are working in our friends and families,
in our coworkers and colleagues.**

Use us, Jesus, to represent the truth of who you are to an unbelieving world.

Let us earn the right to be heard, and when we've earned that right,

**may we share words of life, words of relevance,
words of truth, words of beauty, words of grace.**

Amen.

*Silent Prayer

*Response

"Through it all"

UMH 507

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 book of the prophet Jeremiah

JER. 1:4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."

But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*Hymn

"Swing low, sweet chariot"

UMH 703

*The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke

LK. 4:21-30

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'"

And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

“Lost Apples”

Rev. Strandburg

***The Sign of Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: 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) “What a friend we have in Jesus” UMH 526

**The Anthem (10:45 am) *Woke up this morning* Spiritual, arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland
and Verolga Nix**

*Oh, I woke up this mornin' with my mind and it was stayed, stayed on Jesus.
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.*

*Can't hate your neighbor in your mind, if you keep it stayed, stayed on Jesus.
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.*

*Makes you love everybody with your mind, when you keep it stayed, stayed on Jesus.
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.*

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

UMH 94

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The musical setting, by Mark A. Miller, is found in The Faith We Sing, #2257

***The Great Thanksgiving (Sung)**

∇ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∇ Lift up your hearts.

℞ **We lift them up to the Lord.**

∇ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

℞ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words:

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Sung)

Holy, holy, holy Lord;

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words:

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

(Sung)

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words:

... all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

(Sung)

Amen, amen, amen!

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Giving of the Bread & Cup

Hymn during Communion "Let us break bread together on our knees"

UMH 618

Prayer following Communion

Blessed God,
help us, whom you have fed and satisfied in this holy food,
to hunger and thirst for what is right;
help us, who here have rejoiced and been glad,
to stand with those who are persecuted and reviled;
help us, who here have glimpsed the life of heaven,
to strive for the cause of right
and for the coming of the kingdom of Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns, now and forever.
Amen.

According to the use of the Church of England (alt.)

***The Sending Hymn**

"I want to be ready"

UMH 722

***The Dismissal**

∇. Let us bless the Lord.
℞. Thanks be to God.

***The Benediction & Recessional**

The Postlude

Levee Dance

F. B. Price

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

Prayer Concerns

George Gittens, *recovering from recent surgery.*

Shaun Eric Davis, *struggling with constant pain from Rheumatoid arthritis.*

Nadine Zambozi, *recovering from impacts of hurricanes in Punta Gorda, FL.*

Quay Strandburg, *navigating health difficulties and transitions into a new phase of living.*

Family and loved ones of Jack Seitz, who passed from this life earlier in the month.

Those impacted by the recent Wildfires in California.

Those impacted by the Washington, D.C. plane crash.

Captain Shaun Hay, LTC Azizi Wesmiller, LTC Matthew Wesmiller, and Spc Russell Dale, *serving in the Army.*

Corporal Wyatt Hoover, *serving in the Marines.*

Please remember the special concerns of those in our community and throughout our world in your personal prayer life throughout the 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.

A Music Note

As we enter into Black History Month, the music selections will remember and celebrate the rich contributions of African-American persons to the body of the church's song. The congregational hymns are largely drawn from the spiritual tradition, as is the anthem; the introit is a setting of the beloved 23rd Psalm by composer Leon C. Roberts; the anthem is a contemporary arrangement of a lesser known spiritual; and the communion setting is by Mark A. Miller, a living composer and life-long United Methodist who currently serves on the faculties of Drew Theological School and Yale University. The prelude and postlude this morning are both by Florence B. Price, a composer, organist, pianist, and teacher, who was the first African-American woman to have her works performed by a major American symphony.

Leaders in Worship this Morning

OLIVIA SCHMIDT AND AGNES ALEXANDER, ACOLYTES

COURTNEY SCHMIDT, CROSS BEARER

LIZ DiPIETRO (8:30AM) AND LIZZIE DILLER (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

Jane Spicher

in honor of the upcoming birthday of

Rob Spicher,

her wonderful husband,

which will be celebrated tomorrow.

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