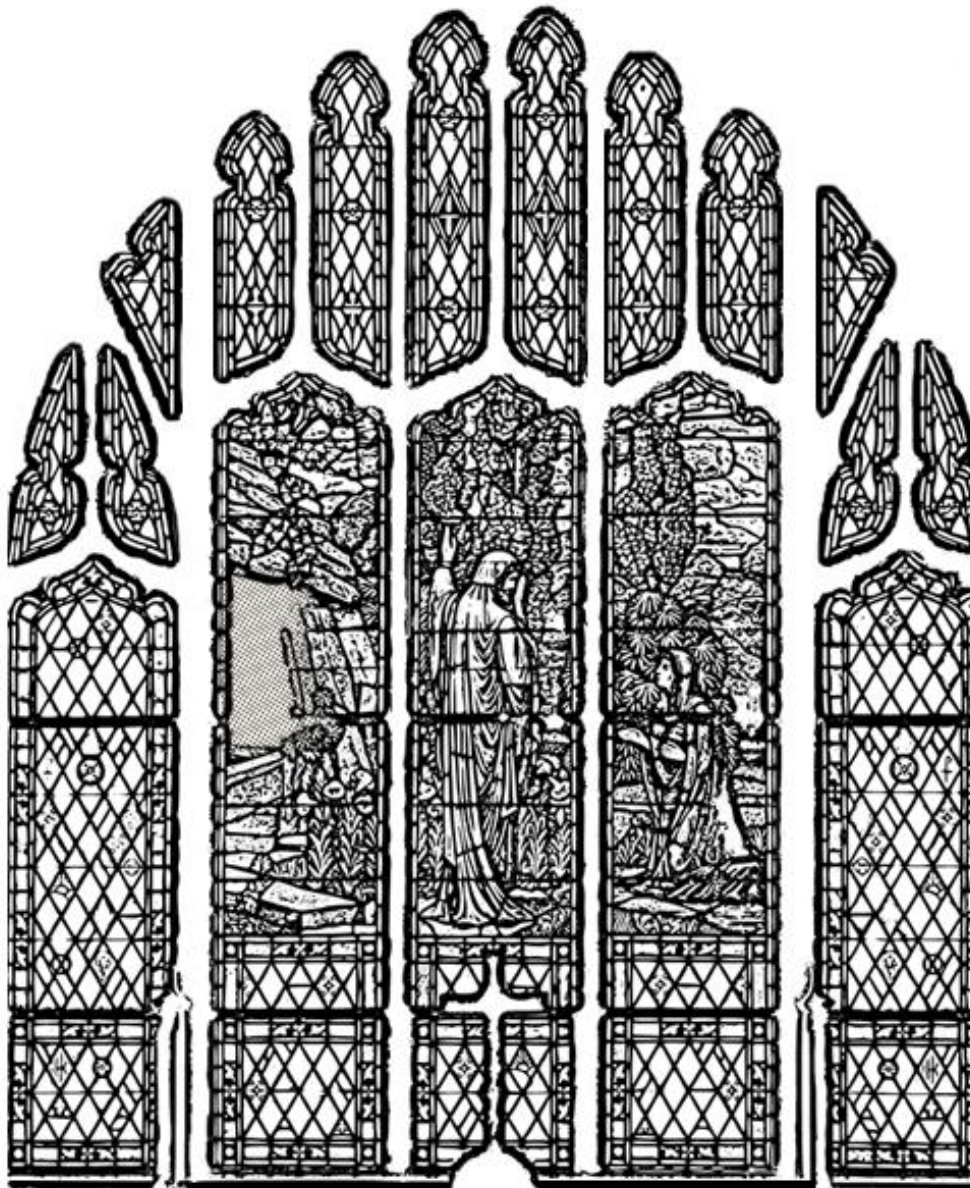


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

Third 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 21, 2024 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

Simon, Andrew, James and John show us how to change direction and follow Jesus as disciples. The values of God's kingdom (love, justice, healing, & hope) are important guideposts along the way. When we share our love and knowledge of the kingdom of God with others, we move a little closer to the destination.

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

The Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Sentence of Scripture

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

Mk. 1:17

The Introit (10:45)

Healey Willan

ANTIPHON: *All the earth shall worship Thee, and shall sing unto thee, O God.*

They shall sing to Thy name, O Thou Most High.

*V. Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: sing forth the honor of His name, make His praise glorious.
Glory be...*

*Call to Worship

℣ We look ahead, and God beckons,

℟ **We glance over our shoulder, and God nods to us,**

℣ We turn to each side and find our constant companion,

℟ **We look up and feel the shadow of the Holy Comforter.**

℣ Even the earth we walk on is holy ground,

℟ **Step by step, on every journey, along each path, through each temptation,
God is with us, always and forever.**

*Opening Hymn

"Lord, you have come to the lakeshore"

UMH 344

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

**You have brought us, O God, to another Lord's Day,
when we are privileged to worship you with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
May we have unity of mind and heart
as we open ourselves to the movement of your Holy Spirit.
As your love grows within us,
may we have rich fellowship with you and with one another.
In Christ's name. Amen.**

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

"Jesus, united by thy grace" (vv.1,2,6)

UMH 561

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 Kidz 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 Jonah

JONAH 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

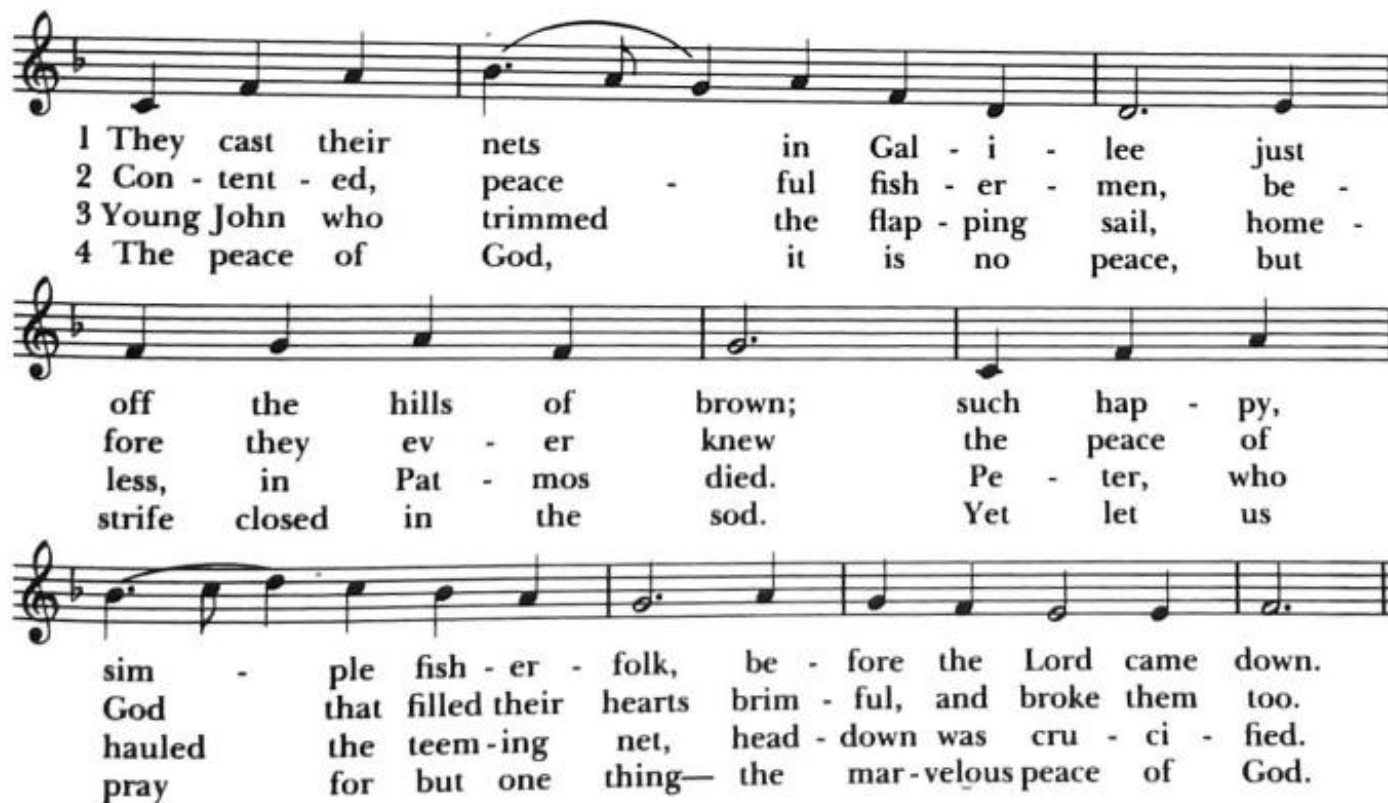
When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

"They cast their nets in Galilee"



1 They cast their nets in Gal - i - lee just
2 Con - tent - ed, peace - ful fish - er - men, be -
3 Young John who trimmed the flap - ping sail, home -
4 The peace of God, it is no peace, but

off the hills of brown; such hap - py,
fore they ev - er knew the peace of
less, in Pat - mos died. Pe - ter, who
strife closed in the sod. Yet let us

sim - ple fish - er - folk, be - fore the Lord came down.
God that filled their hearts brim - ful, and broke them too.
hailed the teem - ing net, head - down was cru - ci - fied.
pray for but one thing— the mar - velous peace of God.

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark

Mk. 1:14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed 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

“Wayfinding With Jesus”

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**

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.*

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am) "Help us accept each other" UMH 560

The Anthem (10:45 am) *Come, my way, my truth, my life* Homer Wickline (1911-1996)

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as killeth death.*

*Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes a guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move:
such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.*

***The Doxology UMH 94**

***The Prayer of Dedication**

***The Sending Hymn "Sent forth by God's blessing" UMH 664**

***The Dismissal and Blessing**

The Postlude

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

Please remember in prayer:

Convalescing in care facilities

Anne Hoffman, Friendship Village
Priscilla Utzig, Providence Point

Convalescing at home

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

Serving in the military

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

Leaders in Worship this Morning

ROB SPICHER (8:30AM) AND MR. STECKER (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MS. TIMOTHY WILLIAMS, STAFF MEZZO-SOPRANO

MR. KIRBY DILWORTH, STAFF TENOR

MR. A. MITCHELL V. STECKER, MINISTER OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by

John, Jeff, Amy, and Ken

in loving memory of their brother,

Rich Lonsinger

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