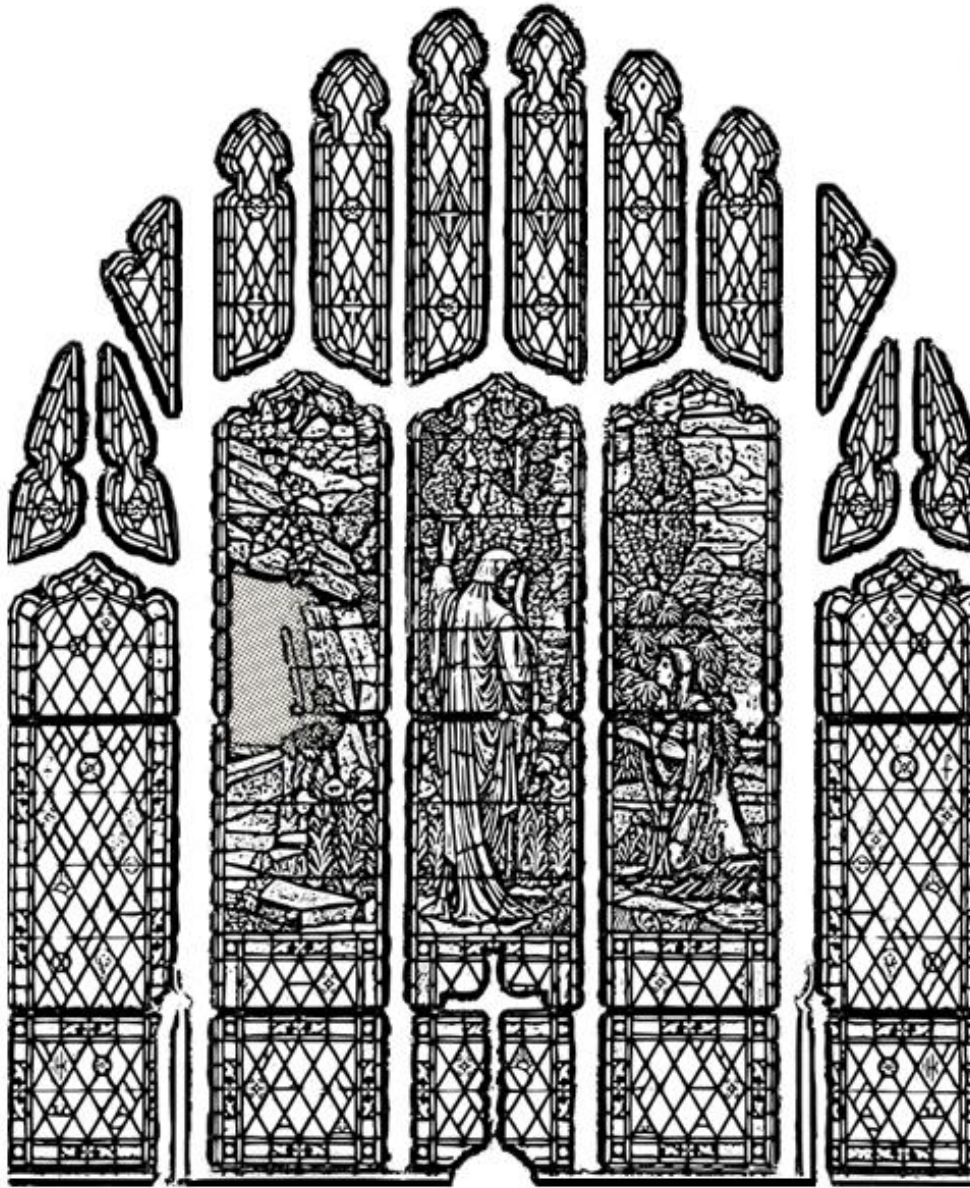


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, January 28, 2024, 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, January 28, 2024 – The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Today's scripture reading shows us that even the demons knew and recognized Jesus' authority. But knowing about Jesus is different than knowing Jesus. We have an opportunity to claim Christ's authority over our lives. Will we take it? We'll talk about that this Sunday.

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

The Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Sentence of Scripture

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Ps. 111:1

*Call to Worship

✠ Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart in the company of the upright in the congregation.

✠ **Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

✠ The works of God's hands are faithful and just;
all God's precepts are trustworthy.

✠ **They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

✠ God's works extend to you and me and the whole community
as the Spirit nurtures gifts and graces in each of us.

✠ **Great are the works of the LORD, whose love and grace endures forever! May His
name be ever praised!**

*Opening Hymn

"Only trust him"

UMH 337

*Opening Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

**God of power and might,
You sent prophets to your people,
calling us back to Your covenant, and teaching us Your ways.**

**In the fullness of time, You sent us Your Son Jesus,
who taught with such authority, that our eyes were opened to see
Your ways anew.
Open our hearts and minds,
that we may understand and proclaim His teachings for all to hear.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

"Open my eyes" (v.1)

UMH 454

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 Deuteronomy

DEUT. 18:15-20

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' Then the Lord replied to me, 'They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'"

**Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: Thanks be to God.**

***Hymn**

"Alleluia, Alleluia"

UMH 162

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark

Mk. 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God."

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

"Authority"

Rev. Miller

***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) "Jesus, savior, pilot me"

UMH 509

The Anthem (10:45 am) Psalm 111 (WAREH)

Mr. Stecker

Text: Thomas Norton (1532-1584)

*1. With heart I do accord
To praise and laud the Lord,
In presence of the just:
For great his works are found,
To search them such are bound,
As do him love and trust.*

*2. Such as to him bear love,
A portion far above
He hath up for them laid:
For this they shall well find,
He will them have in mind,
And keep them as he said.*

*3. Redemption great he gave
His people for to save,
It also hath appeared,
His promise doth not fail,
But evermore prevail:
His holy name be feared.*

*4. Whoso with heart full fain,
True wisdom would attain,
The Lord fear and obey;
Such as his laws do keep,
Shall knowledge have full deep;
His praise shall last alway.*

***The Doxology**

UMH 94

***The Prayer of Dedication**

***The Sending Hymn**

"Majesty, Worship His Majesty"

UMH 176

***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
SPC Natalie Brown
PFC William Dilla III
Maj. Zachary Allen Finch
LCpl. Wyatt Hoover
James Iantelli
1Lt. Jaskiewicz
Sgt. Keith Kimmell
Sgt. Brendan Lamport
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
Sgt. Matthew McConahan

Leaders in Worship this Morning

ABBY and EMMA PUTRILL, ACOLYTES

JOETA D'ESTE (8:30AM) AND DONNA CHESLEIGH (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 SCOTT A.F. MILLER, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by

Jane Spicher

in celebration of her wonderful husband

Rob

upon the occasion of his upcoming birthday,

which is celebrated on February 3rd.

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