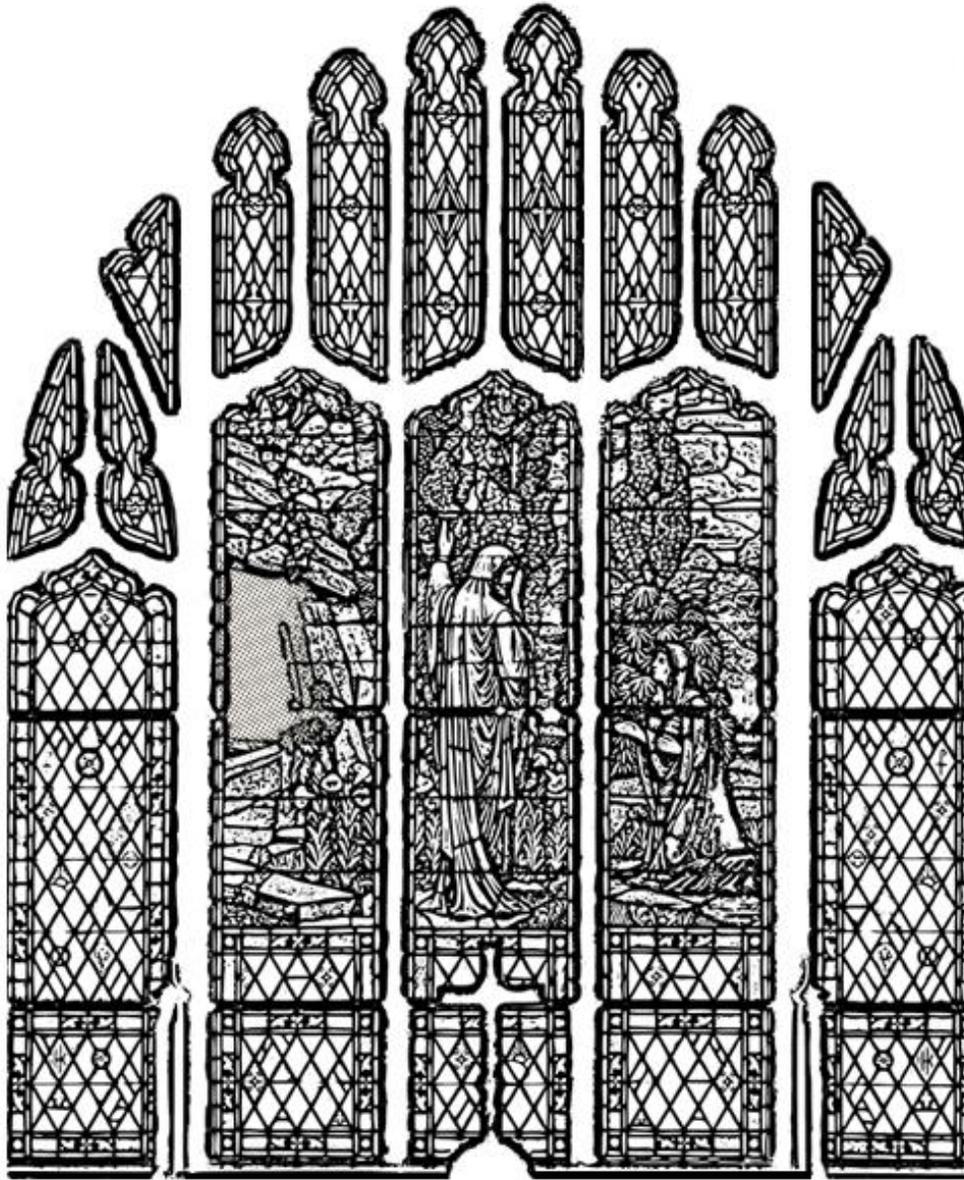


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, September 8, 2024, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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



Sunday, September 8, 2024 – The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

What's the word for the experience of wanting to get away and be alone, and then meeting someone you haven't seen for years? Jesus went to Tyre, trying to "escape notice," but it didn't work. Although interrupted, he met with the needy and did "everything well." This is the same vocation to which we are called.

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

The Prelude

In Unity and Love

Nancy Galbraith (b.1958)

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)

Introit for the 14th Sunday after Trinity

Healey Willan

*ANTIPHON: Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed;
for a day in thy courts is better than a thousand.*

*∇. O how amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts;
my soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord.*

℞. Glory be...

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

***Opening Hymn**

"In Christ there is no east or west"

UMH 548

***The Greeting**

∇. The Lord be with you.

℞. And also with you.

***Call to Worship**

∇ Holy ground! We are standing on holy ground.

℞ For where God is, the ground is holy.

∇ Holy hands! God works through our hands,

℞ So they are holy.

∇ Holy words! God speaks through our words,

℞ So they become holy.

∇ Holy thoughts! God moves others through our ideas and dreams,

℞ So they are holy.

∇ Holy songs! God prays in our songs,

℞ So they are holy. Therefore, let us joyfully sing.

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

"Our times are in your hands."

We say the words, we sing the words, but we don't hear the words.

If we truly embraced them, O God,

we would be forced to face the disparity between our actions and the words.

Too often we meander aimlessly to do "good works" in your name

irrespective of your wishes, your desires and your kingdom plans.

Forgive us, O God, for our misplaced ardor.

Draw us back to the secret place beneath the shadow of your wings,

where you reveal your truth

before those who become still and call upon your holy name.

Amen.

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

"Heleluyan"

UMH 78

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 of James

JAS. 2:1-10

My brothers and sisters, do not claim the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory while showing partiality. For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here in a good place, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit by my footstool," have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor person. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it

not they who drag you into the courts? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn** **"When Jesus the healer passed through Galilee"** **UMH 263**

***The Second Lesson** **A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark**
MK. 7:24-37

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "*Ephphatha*," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

"Jesus Gets a Reputation"

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) **"Heal us, Emmanuel, hear our prayer"** **UMH 266**

The Anthem (10:45 am) *Come, bring your burdens to God* trad. South African,
arr. Welile Sigabi

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

***The Sending Hymn** **"How shall they hear the word of God"** **UMH 649**

***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 *Festival Voluntary (Op. 87)* Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

Please remember in prayer:

Convalescing in care facilities

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

Convalescing at home

Bp. George Bashore
Jean Boyer
Don Langston
Susan Lichtenfels

Serving in the military

Jason Boyer Thomas Orda
SPC Natalie Brown David Poncel
PFC William Dilla III Sgt. Steven Reitz
Maj. Zachary Allen Finch LTC Scott B. Rushe
1Lt. Shaun Hay 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
Sgt. Matthew McConahan

Leaders in Worship this Morning

ADDISON ALEXANDER AND TEDDY ALEXANDER, ACOLYTES

ALAN CHESLEIGH, CROSS BEARER

MARCY PICARDI (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, MINISTER OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by

Betty Lou Albright

in loving memory of her husband,

H. Pat Albright.

Dr. and Mrs. Albright would have celebrated their

71st wedding anniversary on September 5th.

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