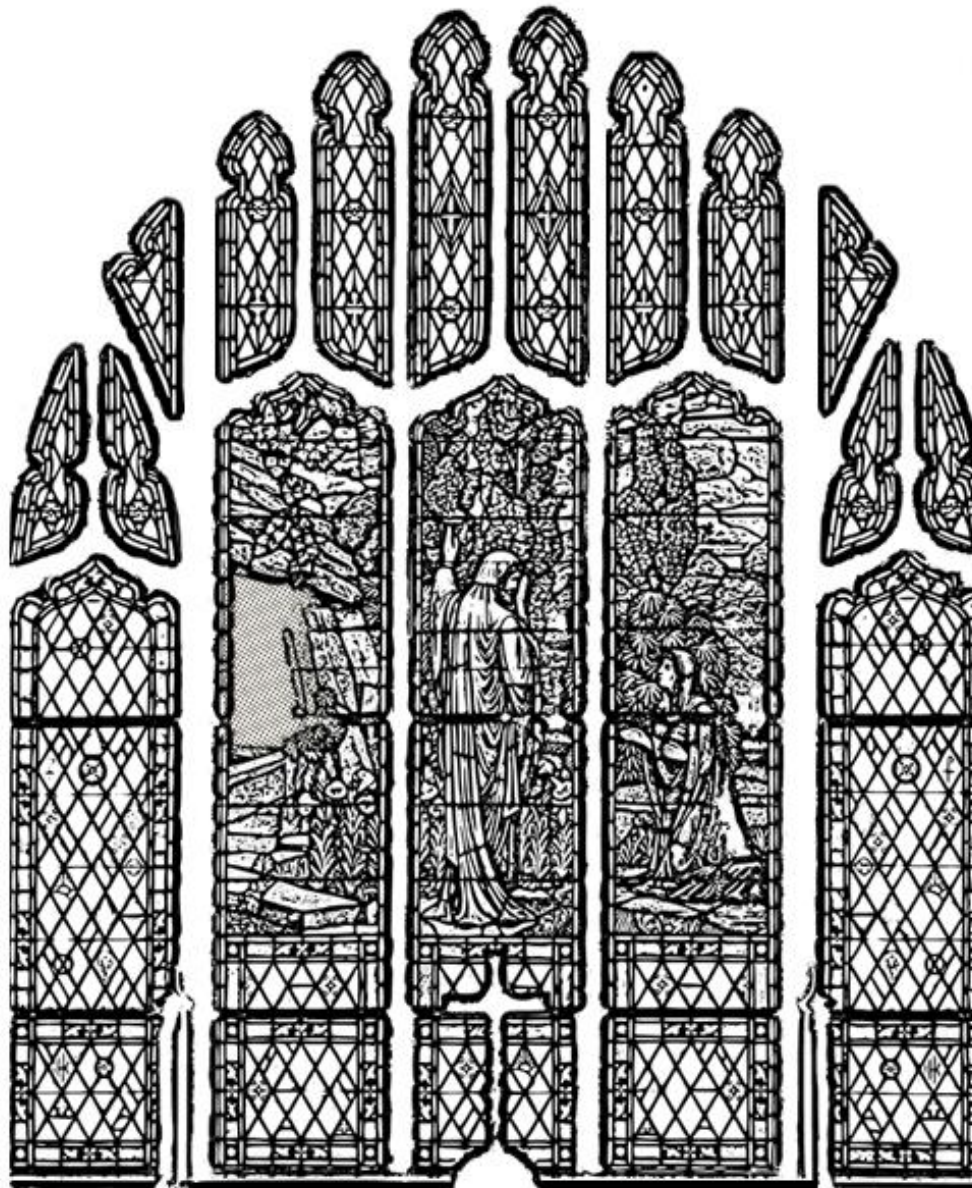


# MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, March 9, 2025, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The First Sunday in Lent

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THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, PASTOR ... [tstrandburg@mlumc.org](mailto:tstrandburg@mlumc.org)





## Sunday, March 9, 2025 – Lent I

*Many blessings have come our way from the hand of God, and Lent is a wonderful time to share the bounty from those blessings with others. Let's consider ways we can bring the "first fruits" of our harvest to the Lord, for the benefit of all who are entrusted to our care.*

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

### **Ceremonial Exercises led by Scouts (10:45)**

#### **\*The Procession (10:45)**

*The people stand when invited and remain standing as the altar party processes in silence.*

#### **\*The Decalogue**

*At 10:45, responses sung by the choir,  
musical setting by John Stainer*

∇ God spake these words, and said:

I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

**℟ Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

∇ Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them.

**℟ Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

∇ Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

**℟ Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

∇ Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.

**℟ Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

∇ Honor thy father and thy mother.

**℟ Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

∇ Thou shalt do no murder.

**℟ Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

∇ Thou shalt not commit adultery.

**℟ Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

∇ Thou shalt not steal.

**℟ Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

∇ Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

**℟ Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

∇ Thou shalt not covet.

**℟ Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

## **\*The Greeting & Call to Worship**

∞ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∞ The season rolls around again.

℞ **Deep calls to deep.**

∞ Settle down. Look within.

℞ **Be quiet. Listen.**

∞ Are you on the right path? Are you drawing closer to God? Are you more loving?

℞ **Now is the time to reflect and pray.**

∞ Now is the season for silence and giving.

℞ **Thank God for Lent. Thank God we journey not alone.**

## **\*Opening Hymn**

**“Seek the Lord who now is present”**

**UMH 124**

## **\*Opening Prayer**

*Said by all, with one voice.*

**Gracious God,**

**out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life,  
creating us to serve you and our neighbors.**

**Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness,**

**and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence**

**in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,**

**who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**

**one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **\*Silent Prayer**

## **\*Response**

**“Go to dark Gethsemane”**

**UMH 290**

## **Musical Meditation**

*Go to dark Gethsemane*

arr. Jason W. Krug

*offered by the Handbell Choirs of Mt. Lebanon UMC*

## **Sacrament of Baptism (10:45)**

**UMH 39**

Landon James Bell

*son of Andrew and Ashley Bell*

THE PASTOR *baptizes the child, after which the baptismal liturgy concludes with the following question posed to the congregation, and the response which the people make together:*

℣ Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life,  
and include this child now before you in your care?

℞ **With God's help, we will proclaim the good news  
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround Landon James with a community of love and forgiveness,  
that he may grow in his service to others.**

**We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple, who walks in the way  
that leads to life.**

### **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. - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) then depart the sanctuary for Kids Praise.*

*Teachers will lead them back to the sanctuary prior to the conclusion of the service.*

### **Reception of New Members (10:45)**

UMH 38

Richard Campbell, Brendan Demich, Jessica Demich,  
James S. Hanson, Lauren Thompson, *and* Elita Usenick

*THE PASTOR invites those to be received into membership of the local church to the front of the sanctuary, and then will pose the following questions, to which the new members make their response:*

℣ As members of Christ's universal church, will you be local to the United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

℞ I will.

*THE PASTOR then addresses the congregation with the following charges, and the people accordingly make their response with one voice.*

℣ Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

℞ **We give thanks for all that God has already given you  
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this  
congregation of the United Methodist Church,**

**we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the  
church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness,  
that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

THE PASTOR *then concludes with the following words of benediction to the new members:*

☩ The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,  
Establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
that you may live in grace and peace.

✠ Amen.

## The First Lesson

## A Reading from Deuteronomy

DT. 26:1-11

“When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’

When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God:

‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’

You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**



**\*Hymn**

**"Praise to the Holiest in the Height"**

*See inserted below*

Text: J.H. Newman,

Tune: Mt LEBANON CHURCH, A.M.V. Stecker

*Unison*



1.Praise to the Ho-liest in the height, and in the depth be praise in  
2.O wis-est Love!that flesh and blood which did in A - dam fail, should  
3.And that a high - er gift than grace should flesh and blood re - fine, God's



all his words most won - der - ful, most sure in all his ways. O  
strive a - fresh a - gainst the foe, should strive and should pre - vail; O  
pre-sence, and God's ve - ry self, and es - sence all - di - vine. Praise



lo - ving wis - dom of our God! when all was sin and shame, a se - cond  
gen'rous love! that he, who smote in Man for man the foe, the dou - ble  
to the Ho - liest in the height, and in the depth be praise: in all his



A - dam to the fight, and to the res - cue came.  
a - go - ny in Man for man should un - der - go.  
words most won - der - ful, most sure in all his ways.

**\*The Second Lesson**

**A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke**

LK. 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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.**

## **Musical Meditation**

*Bist Du bei Mir*

G.H. Stöltzel (1690-1749),  
*fmr. attr. J.S. Bach*, arr. Bryan Doughty;  
Scout Charlotte Houghton, horn soloist

## **The Sermon**

"Giving, Not Giving Up"

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.**





## *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.*

**Susan Zirpoli**, *currently under hospice care.*

*We pray for blessings upon our newly baptized and received members as they continue their walk of discipleship within our church community.*

*This week, we remember and pray for the church in **Ireland, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales** (Prayer Cycle of the World Council of Churches).*

**Captain Shaun Hay, LTC Azizi Wesmiller, LTC Matthew Wesmiller, Spc Russell Dale, and 2<sup>nd</sup> LT Keith Cable**, *serving in the Army.*

**Corporal Wyatt Hoover and LTC Zachary Allen Finch**, *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.*

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*The altar flowers this morning given by  
Joyce Magill  
in honor of  
her grandchildren.*

*The flowers at the columbarium this morning given by  
Bette Lou Reichard  
and her family, Dave, Tim, and Beth,  
in loving memory of  
Cindy.*

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

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*Leaders in Worship this Morning*

ABBY PURTILL AND EMMA PURTILL, ACOLYTES

MATT BAKER, CROSS BEARER

RICH TREMBLAY (8:30AM), AND

SCOUTS CADMEN HUGHES AND CHARLOTTE HOUGHTON (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE SCOUTS OF TROOP 23 AND PACK 870,

MR. RICH DALZOTTO, SCOUTING COMMITTEE CHAIR

THE HANDBELL CHOIRS OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,

MRS. NANCY LUTZ, DIRECTOR

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MR. BRENTON RAHMAN, CHORAL SCHOLAR

MR. KIRBY DILWORTH, STAFF TENOR

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

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

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