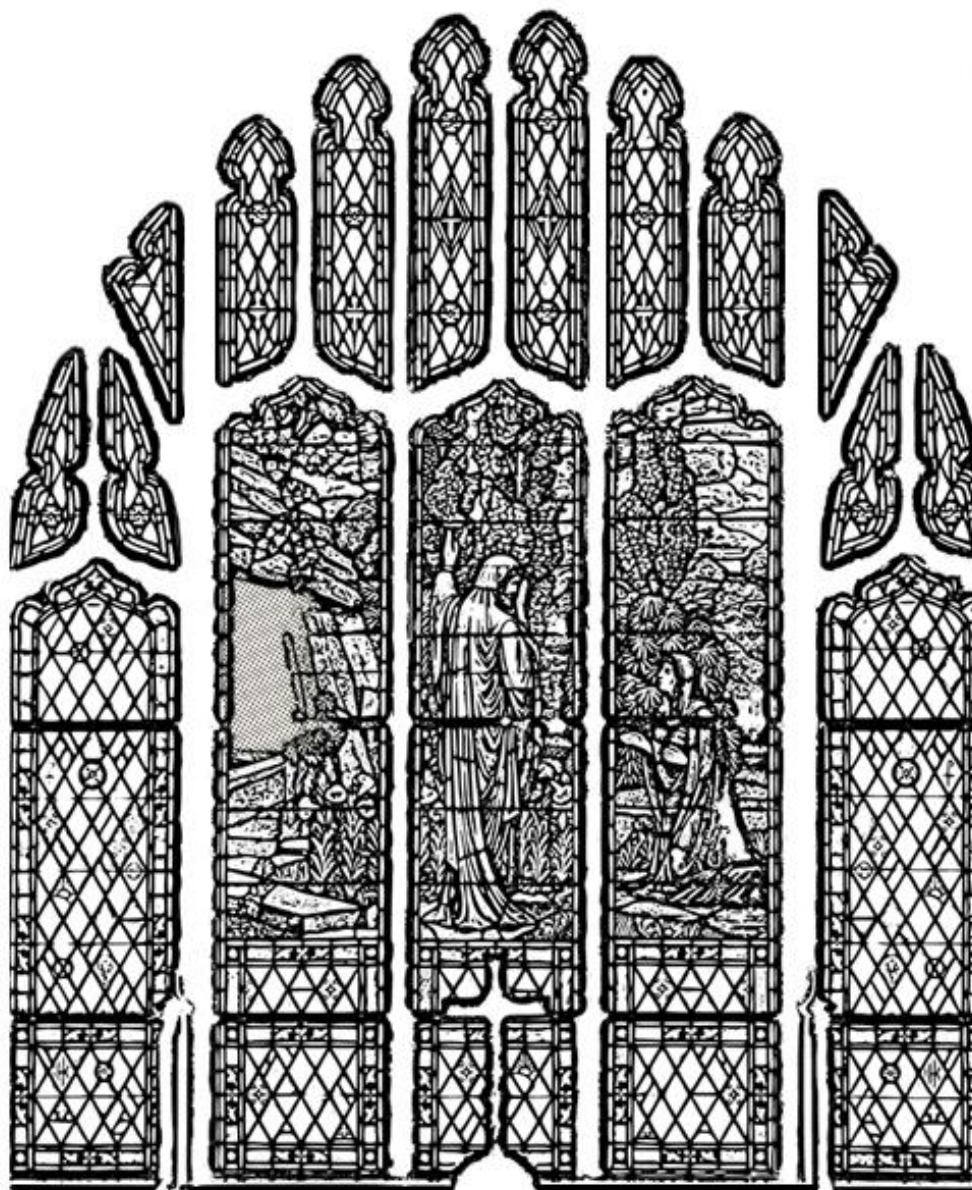


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, May 11, 2025, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

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



Sunday, May 11, 2025 – IV Easter

What do the sheep see when they look at the Shepherd? We who are part of Jesus' flock have heard the voice of Jesus "whispering" to us, but, like Jesus, we also have a shepherding task. We sheep are also under-shepherds who care for others and want to bring them into Jesus' fold where they can experience abundant, eternal life.

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

The Prelude

Fairest Lord Jesus

SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, arr. Sandra Eithun

Offered by the Handbell Choirs of Mt. Lebanon UMC

The Introit (10:45)

Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

Filitz-Stellhorn,
arr. Gerhard Schroth

*Jesus, shepherd of the sheep, who thy Father's flock dost keep,
safe we wake and safe we sleep, guarded still by thee.*

*In thy promise firm we stand, none can take us from your hand;
speak — we hear — at thy command, we will follow thee.*

*By thy blood our souls were bought, by thy life salvation wrought;
by thy light our feet are taught, Lord, to follow thee.*

*Father, draw us to thy Son; we with joy will follow on
till the work of grace is done, and from sin set free.*

*We, in robes of glory dressed, join th'assembly of the blest,
gathered to eternal rest in the fold with thee.*

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

*Opening Hymn

"The King of Love my shepherd is" (vv.1-5)

UMH 138

* The Greeting & Call to Worship

℣ The Lord be with you.

℟ **And also with you.**

℣ The God of day and darkness moves among us...

℟ **We are the people of Living Water.**

℣ The God of hope and promise lives among us...

℟ **We are the people of Living Water.**

℣ The God of the lost and lonely calls us by name...

℟ **We are the people bathed in the Living Water of Creation, God's kin, traveling
toward home and a love that will not let us go.**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

Holy One of the morning,

we come together to remember who we are and whose we are.

Open our hearts to the nudging of your Spirit that moves among us,

empowering us to listen, to nurture, and to care for all creation.

**Give us eyes to see when you break into our lives through all you have made
and wash us once again in your life-giving waters.**

Amen.

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

"The King of Love my shepherd is" (v.6)

UMH 138

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 Revelation of John

REV. 7:9-17

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me,

“These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat, for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn (8:30)**

“Savior, like a shepherd lead us”

UMH 381

The Psalm (10:45)

Psalm 23

Chant: C. Hylton Stewart (1884-1932)

The LORD is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul, and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me in the presence of them that trouble me; thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full. Surely thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to John

JN. 10:22-30

At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me, but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.”

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

“What the Sheep See”

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.

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am) "He leadeth me" UMH 128

The Anthem (10:45 am) *The Lord is my Shepherd* (Ps. 23) Howard Goodall (b. 1958)

*The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication UMH 94

*The Sending Hymn "The strife is o'er" UMH 306

*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 *Nun Danket alle Gott* (Op. 65, no. 13) Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

Prayer Concerns

George Gittens, continuing to recover from recent surgery.

Jim Lutz, who continues to recuperate at home following a recent stroke.

For those serving their country or community as first responders or in the armed forces, especially:

SPC **Russell Dale** - CPT **Shaun Hay** - LTC **Azizi Wesmiller** - LTC **Matthew Wesmiller**

2LT **Keith Cable** - LTC **Zachary Allen Finch** - CPL **Wyatt Hoover**

*This week, we remember and pray for Christ's body throughout the world, especially remembering this week the church in **India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka**. (Prayer Cycle of the World Council of Churches).*

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.

Leaders in Worship this Morning

ABBY PURTILL AND EMMA PURTILL, ACOLYTES

COURTNEY SCHMIDT, CROSS BEARER

KATHY KARNS (8:30AM) AND MARCY PICARDI (10:45AM), LECTORS

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

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 flowers in worship this morning given in recognition of
Rick & Linda Minotte's*

many years of service through choir and handbell music, lay leadership, rummage sale coordination, fish fry help, AV tech support, and much more. God bless you in your next chapter in Texas!

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