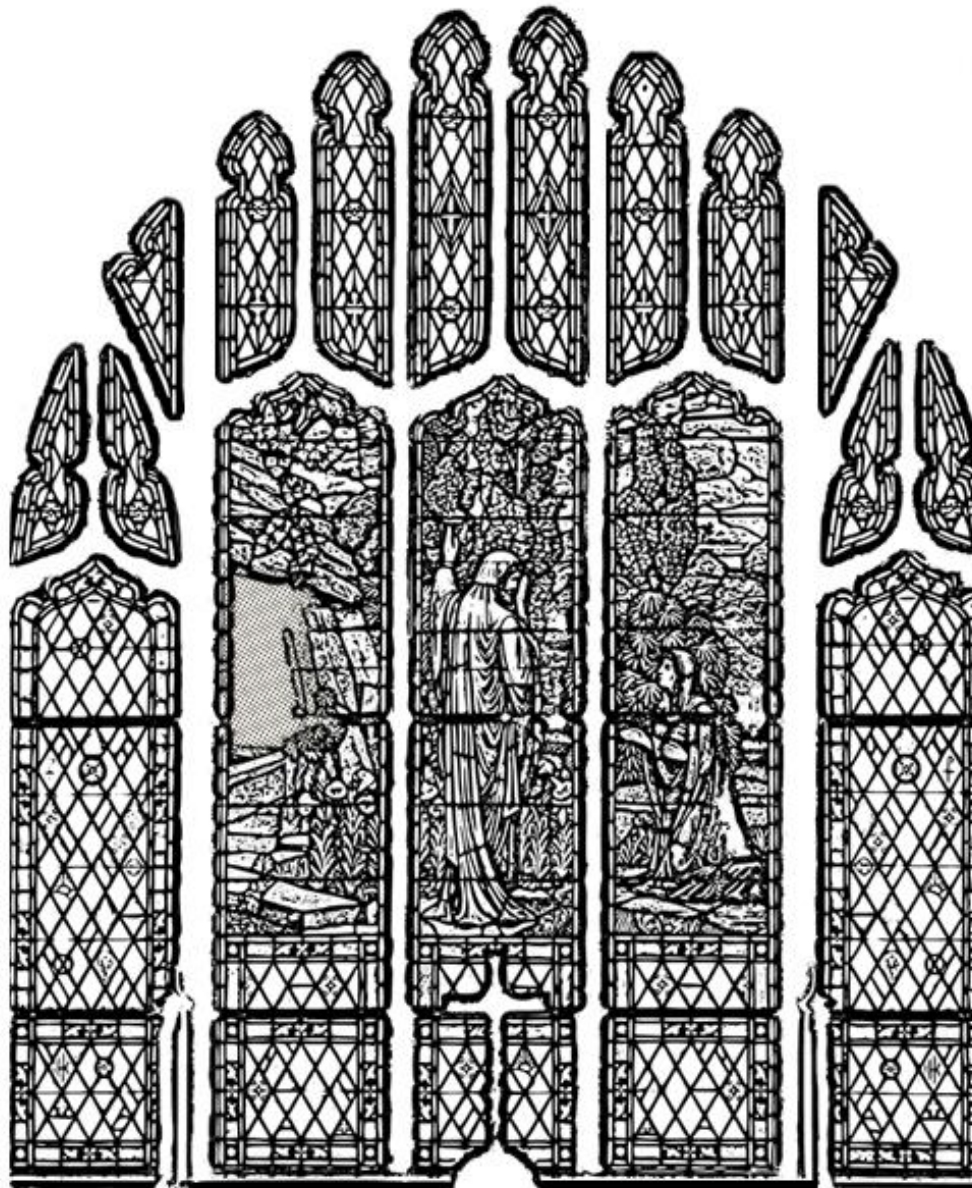


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, April 27, 2025, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Second Sunday of Easter

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

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



Sunday, April 27, 2025 – Easter II

It is sometimes difficult to discern what is happening when we listen to a sermon or digest the liturgy on the fly. Our brains are hard at work during this worship period. What if we listened instead to what our bodies are telling us. Nature has a thing or two to teach us.

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

The Prelude

No. 1 (“Nicht zu schnell”)
from Six Studies for the Pedal Piano, Op. 56

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

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.

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

*Opening Hymn

“Arise, shine out!” (vv.1-3)

UMH 725

* The Greeting & Call to Worship

∞ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∞ In the rising of the morning sun, the Holy speaks:

℞ **You are my children. Shine!**

∞ In the greening of the Earth and blooming of creation, the Holy speaks:

℞ **You are my children. Grow!**

∞ In the mountains reaching toward the sky, the Holy speaks:

℞ **You are my children. Stand with strength!**

∞ In the darkness of the winter days, the Holy speaks:

℞ **You are my children. Trust!**

∞ In the presence of the skies that float above us and the assurance of the Earth beneath us and with the calm of the Spirit within us, the Holy speaks:

℞ **You are my children. Live!**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

**Creator God, you call us to take on the holiness you have planted within us.
In our worship this day, open our eyes and hearts to your movement
that longs to make a home in us.
So be it. Amen.**

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

“Arise, shine out!” (*vv. 4,5*)

UMH 725

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 Psalter

Ps.118: 14-29

The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.”

I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

O Lord, we beseech you, give us success! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

The Second Lesson*A Reading from the Gospel according to John**

JN. 20: 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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 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) **"In the Garden"** **UMH 314**

The Anthem (10:45 am) "I know that my redeemer liveth" G.F. Handel (1685-1759),
(No. 45 from *Messiah*) Ms. Williams, soloist

*I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:
and though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.
For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.*

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

***The Sending Hymn** **"I danced in the morning"** **UMH 261**

***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 *Resurrection Dance* Adrian Vernon Fish (b.1956)

Prayer Concerns

George Gittens, continuing to recover from recent surgery.

The family and friends of **Susan Zirpoli**, whose earthly remains were laid to rest on Saturday, April 26.

Jim Lutz, recovering at home from 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 **Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia**. (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

DILLON SCHMIDT AND OLIVIA SCHMIDT, ACOLYTES

DERICK FLORIAN, CROSS BEARER

JOETA D'ESTE (8:30AM) AND LINDA MINNOTTE (10:45AM), LECTORS

Ms. TIMOTHY WILLIAMS, STAFF MEZZO-SOPRANO

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

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

MR. DAVID SEITZ, PASTORAL ASSISTANT

*The altar flowers this morning given by
the congregation
in loving memory of
Susan Zirpoli.*

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