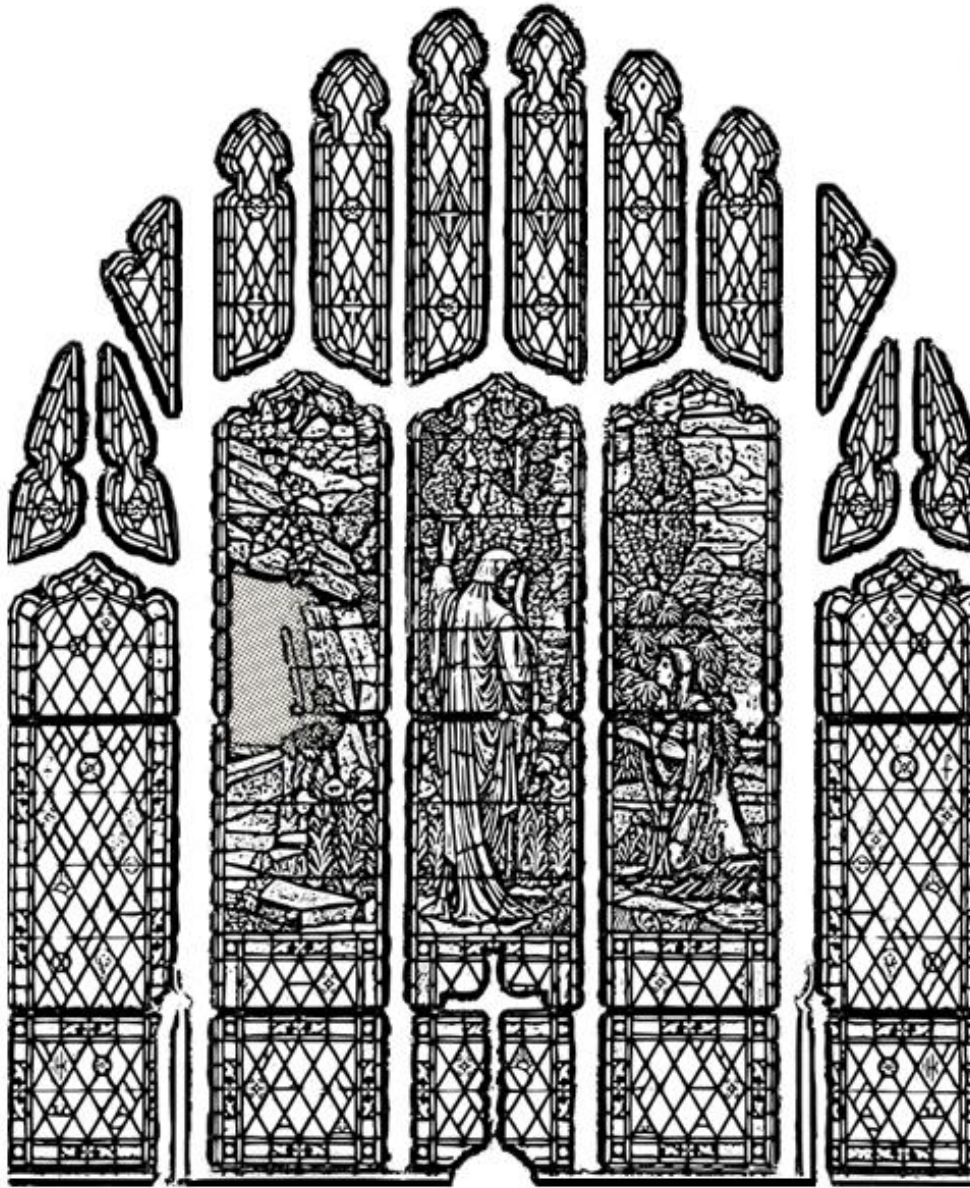


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, January 18, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Second 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 18, 2025 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

Formal invitations are not required when we invite people to church. Instead, we need to offer them a place where Jesus is alive and well. "Come and see" is an effective invitation to see where Jesus is alive and well in the life of the church today.

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

The Prelude

Mir nach, spricht Christ, unser Held
("Follow me, speaks Christ our saviour")

Johann Christoph Oley (1738-1789)

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)

O Taste and See

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is; blest is the one that trusteth in God. (Ps. 34:8)

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

*Opening Hymn

"Lord, you have come to the Lakeshore"

UMH 344

* The Greeting & Call to Worship

✠ The Lord be with you.

✠ And also with you.

✠ Christ is calling, inviting, urging and wooing: Come and follow me!

✠ **Let us set aside our worry and fear, our busyness and competing agendas to respond to Christ's call.**

✠ Christ offers us the opportunity to walk with him, to come to know his heart more deeply day by day.

✠ **Nothing is more precious than opening our hearts to God, who fills us with love.**

✠ Christ grants us the privilege of working alongside him in our Father's business.

✠ **There is no higher call and no greater joy than making a difference in the kingdom of God.**

✠ Come, let us worship the One who calls us to follow!

✠ **We worship in joy, in gratitude, in praise: Jesus Christ is Lord of all!**

*Opening Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

Guide our feet, Lord.

Show us the light of grace when we would judge others too harshly.

Warm our hearts with the glow of your love

when we would spew icy words of spite.

**Illumine our souls with joyful delight when sadness tries to take over the day.
Shine brightly on us today, Lord,
until we reflect your glory as a witness to this world. Amen.**

***Silent Prayer**

***Response** **"How like a gentle spirit" (vv.1,2,4,5)**

UMH 115

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 (school-age children) then depart the sanctuary for Kids Praise. Teachers will lead them back to the sanctuary prior to the conclusion of the service. Nursery is available for younger children; please see an usher for directions.

The First Lesson

A Reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

Is. 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.

And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God."

And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—he says,

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

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. 1:29-42

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see."

They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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) "Who is he in yonder stall?" UMH 190

The Anthem (10:45 am) *Behold the Lamb of God* G.F. Handel (1685-1759)
(No. 26 from *Messiah* (HWV56))

Behold the lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.

*The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication UMH 94

*The Sending Hymn "We would see Jesus" UMH 256

*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 *Sonata II* Sir William Herschel (1738-1822)
from "Six Fugues for the Organ"

Prayer Concerns

John White, under hospice care, that his pain may be minimal.

For the family and loved ones of **Josh Staab**, Mike Staab's son, who died suddenly this week.

David Barber, son of Gloria Barber, who is suffering from cancer, that he might have peace and relief from pain.

Gary Henry, undergoing cancer treatment.

The Rev'd **Deborah Ackley-Killian**, undergoing cancer treatment.

Norma Buhrman, enduring serious illness.

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**

We pray for victims of violence in our nation and around the world.

*This week, we remember and pray for Christ's body throughout the world, especially remembering this week the church in **Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Iraq.***

(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 the church office to have your concern added to the prayer list.

Leaders in Worship this Morning

ADDISON ALEXANDER AND DILLON SCHMIDT, ACOLYTES

MATT BAKER, CROSS BEARER

KATHY KARNS (8:30AM) AND BILL CARPENTER (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by

Laura and Nate Ward

in honor of the birthdays of

Silas Ward, Asher Ward, and Martha Roberts,

all of whom celebrate their birthday on January 19,

and in loving memory of

Darl Roberts.
