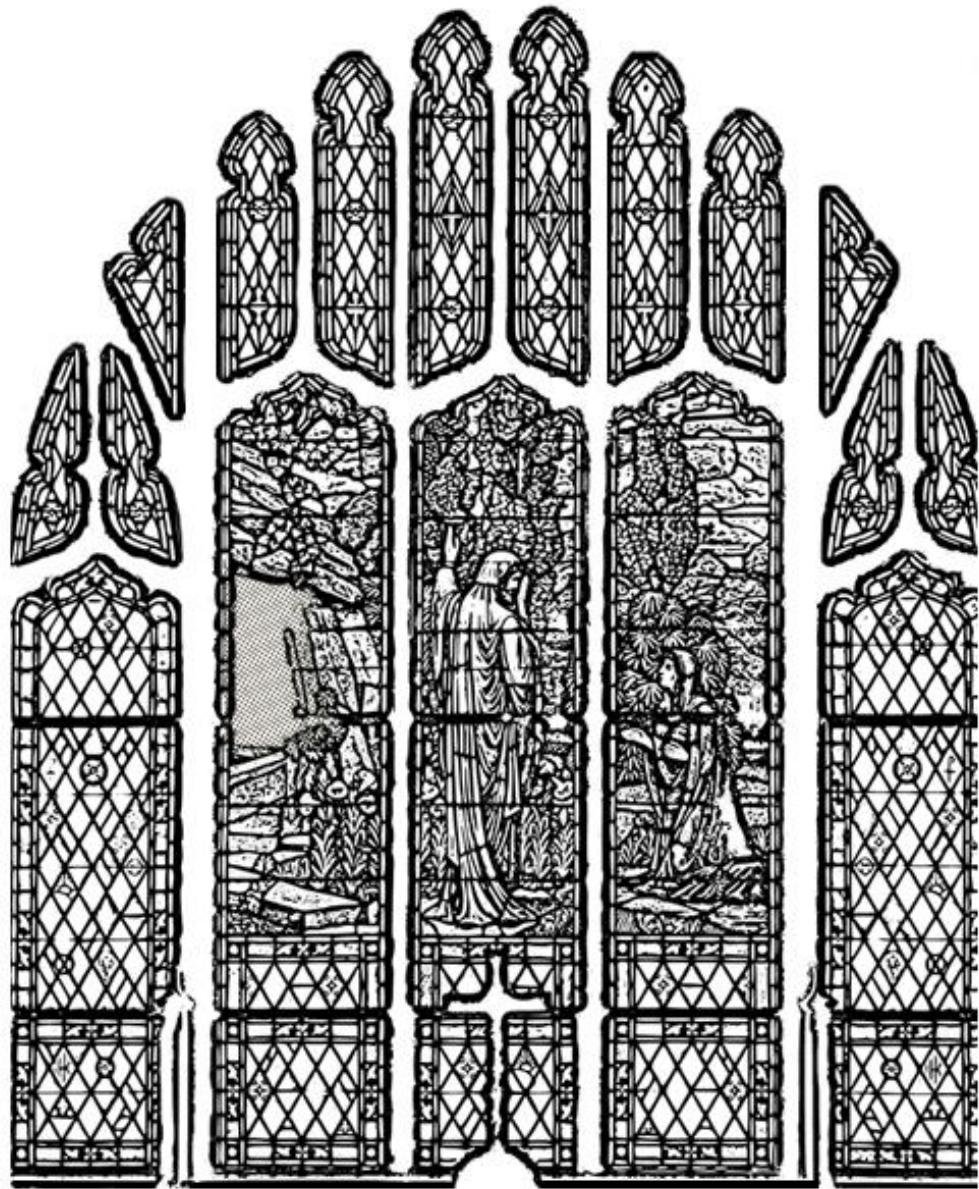


Mt. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, February 1, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

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

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



Sunday, February 1, 2026 – The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Jesus has a different idea about what it means to be blessed. It's about a healthy relationship with God that thrives in difficult circumstances. And we're all in it together.

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

The Prelude

Adoration

Florence B. Price (1887-1953)

The Introit (10:45)

Candlemas Eve

trad. English carol, arr. Martin Shaw

*Down with the rosemary and bays, down with the mistletoe;
Instead of holly, now up-raise the greener box, for show.
The holly hitherto did sway; let box now domineer,
until the dancing Easter-day, or Easter's eve appear.*

*Then youthful box, which now hath grace your houses to renew,
Grown old, surrender must his place unto the crisped yew.
When yew is out, then birch comes in, and many flowers beside,
Both of a fresh and fragrant kin, to honour Whitsuntide.*

*Green rushes then, and sweetest bents, with cooler oaken boughs,
Come in for comely ornaments, to re-adorn the house.
Thus times do shift; each thing his turn does hold;
New things succeed, as former things grow old.*

*Opening Hymn

"Lift ev'ry voice and sing"

UMH 519

*The Greeting & Call to Worship

℣ The Lord be with you.

℟ And also with you.

℣ We are a holy tapestry of mystery and meaning,

℟ **A fine garment of divine blessing and human care,**

℣ A gentle weave of deep sighs and fervent prayers,

℟ **A piece of art woven with whispers and exclamation points,**

℣ We are God's tapestry --

℟ **touched with mystery and filled with meaning.**

*Opening Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

**We thank you, O God, that winning is not everything,
nor is it the only thing in this beautiful world of yours.**

Everyone who receives your blessing is the ultimate winner:

We, the baptized, who confess you as Lord.

If we open our hearts to you, we will hear you say:

**"This is my beloved son, This is my beloved daughter,
In whom I am well pleased." Amen.**

*Silent Prayer

***Response**

"Bless thou the gifts"

UMH 587

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 Micah

MICAH 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

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 Matthew**

MT. 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil
against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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**“So Blessed”**

Rev. Strandburg

***The Sign of Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am)	"Lord, I want to be a Christian"	UMH 402
The Anthem (10:45 am)	<i>Micah 6</i>	A.M.V. Stecker Text: Micah 6:6-8 (NKJV)

***The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

UMH 94

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***The Great Thanksgiving**

This morning's communion setting, by Mark Miller, is found at TWFS#2257

- ¶ The Lord be with you.
- ¶ And also with you.
- ¶ Lift up your hearts.
- ¶ We lift them up to the Lord.
- ¶ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- ¶ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words:

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory:
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord:
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest!**

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest!**

The pastor continues in prayer, and concludes with the following words:

... all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen, amen, amen!
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest!**

Giving of the Bread & Cup

Hymn during Communion "Let us break bread together on our knees" UMH 618

Prayer following Communion

Compassionate God,
who sent Jesus Christ to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions,
to see the image of God in every person
irrespective of background, race and ethnicity.

May we be generous in our love of others
as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism and injustice;
creating communities of human flourishing,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

From Southwark Cathedral (Diocese of Southwark, Church of England)

*The Sending Hymn

"Sent forth by God's blessing"

UMH 664

*The Dismissal

V. Let us bless the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

*The Benediction & Recessional

The Postlude

Toccata on "Great Day!"

Adolphus Hailstork (b.1941)

Prayer Concerns

Quay Strandburg, Pastor Tom's father, enduring health difficulties.

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 **Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, and Tunisia**. (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

SILAS WARD AND ASHER WARD, ACOLYTES

STACY ROSLECK, CROSS BEARER

MARCI PICARDI (8:30AM) AND DONNA CHESLEIGH (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MS. BETHANY MINGLE, MS. SARAH BOICE STECKER,

MR. MICHAEL EVERHART, MR. KIRBY DILWORTH, SECTION LEADERS

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

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

The altar flowers this morning given by

Jane Spicher

in celebration of the birthday of

Rob,

her husband, celebrated February 2nd.
