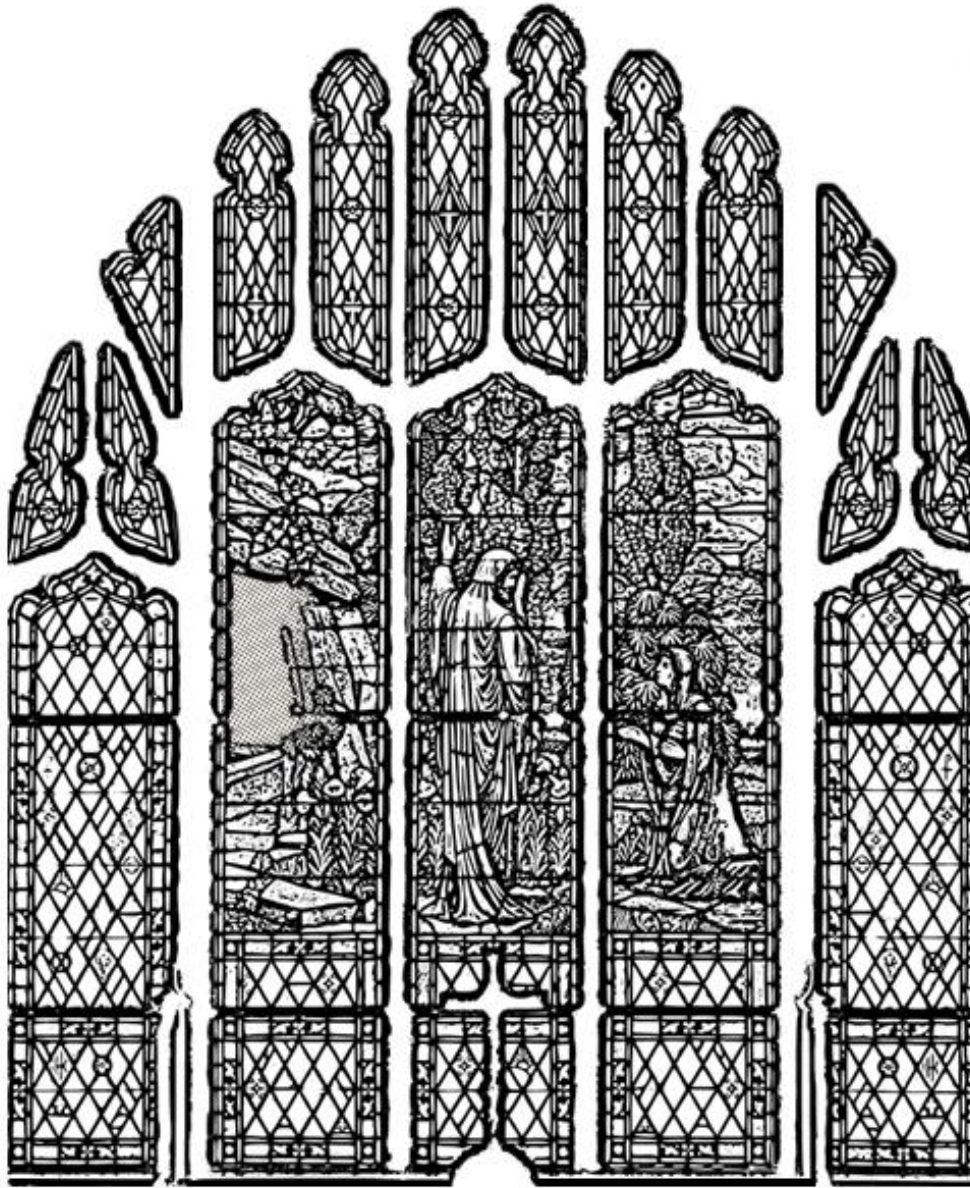


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, May 10, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Sixth 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 10, 2026 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Jesus never takes his foot off the gas but always keeps us moving forward. He remains engaged with us through his truth, his life and his love, and he calls us to stay connected with him.

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

The Prelude

In Unity and Love

Nancy Galbraith (b.1951)

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)

Introit for the Fifth Sunday after Easter

Healey Willan

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

***Opening Hymn** **“God, who stretched the spangled heavens”** (*vv.1-3*) **UMH 150**

***The Greeting & Call to Worship**

∇ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∇ We are gathered together to worship the God who has called us to love God.

℞ **And the God who has asked us to follow God’s direction.**

∇ We are invited to worship God in the Spirit of truth.

℞ **We do so because we know the Spirit and the Spirit knows us.**

∇ We are reminded that we are not alone.

℞ **Because the Holy Spirit is among us, Jesus is with God, and God is present.**

∇ Let us rejoice that because he lives, we, too, live!

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

God of all time and space,

you initiated the relationship of love and generosity with creation

at a time before and beyond all knowing.

Through the Word and the Spirit, you continue in eternal love for all beings.

Fill us with a deep and abiding awareness of your presence,

your call, and your grace in our lives and in our world.

**Shape us into the people you have made us to be – poured out in creative mercy
for the sake of Jesus Christ in all creation. Amen.**

*Silent Prayer

*Response

“God, who stretched the spangled heavens” (v.4)

UMH 150

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 First Epistle of Peter

1 PET. 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*Hymn

"O Jesus, I have promised"



1.O Je - sus, I have pro - mised to serve Thee to the end; be
2.O let me feel Thee near me; the world is e - ver near. I
3.O let me hear Thee spea - king in ac - cents clear and still, a -
4.O Je - sus, thou hast pro - mised to all who fol - low Thee that



Thou for - e - ver near me, my Ma - ster and my Friend; I
see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear; my
-bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will; O
where Thou art in glo - ry there shall Thy ser - vant be; and,



shall not fear the bat - tle if Thou art by my side, nor
foes are e - ver near me, a - round me and with - in; but,
speak to re - ass - ure me, to ha - sten or con - trol! O
Je - sus, I have pro - mised to serve Thee to the end; O



wan - der from the path - way if Thou wilt be my Guide.
Je - sus, draw Thou near - er, and shield my soul from sin.
speak, and make me li - sten, Thou Guardian of my soul!
give me grace to fol - low, my Ma - ster and my Friend!

*The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Gospel according to John

JN. 14:15-21

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

“Jesus: Not a Quiet Quitter”

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.**

*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) "Amazing Grace" **UMH 378**

The Anthem (10:45 am) *If ye love me* Thomas Tallis (ca.1505-1585)

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the spirit of truth.

The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication **UMH 94*

The Sending Hymn "Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing" **UMH 400*

***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 *Prelude, Fugue, and Chaconne in C* (BuxWV137) Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Prayer Concerns

Gayle Radnich, *who received a recent diagnosis of a health condition.*

Paul Watson, *son of Barbara Watson, recovering from a surgical procedure received this week.*

Chris Dooley, *relative of Louanne Baily, and his family, as he undergoes treatment for cancer.*

The family and loved ones of **Helen Krajewski**, *grandmother to Derick Florian, who recently passed from this life.*

David Barber, *son of Gloria Barber, suffering from cancer and recovering from a recent stroke.*

Gary Henry, *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 **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 the church office to have your concern added to the prayer list.

Leaders in Worship this Morning

ABBY PURTILL AND SAMANTHA BAKER, ACOLYTES

STACEY ROSLECK, CROSS BEARER

KIM RHOTON (8:30AM) AND DERICK FLORIAN (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
Rob & Jane Spicher
to the Glory of God and
in honor of their five grandchildren:
Luella, Alaina, Winston, Allaire, and Arazio.

*To provide flowers for a future service of worship,
please call the church office at 412-531-7131,
or use the form linked through the QR code below.*

