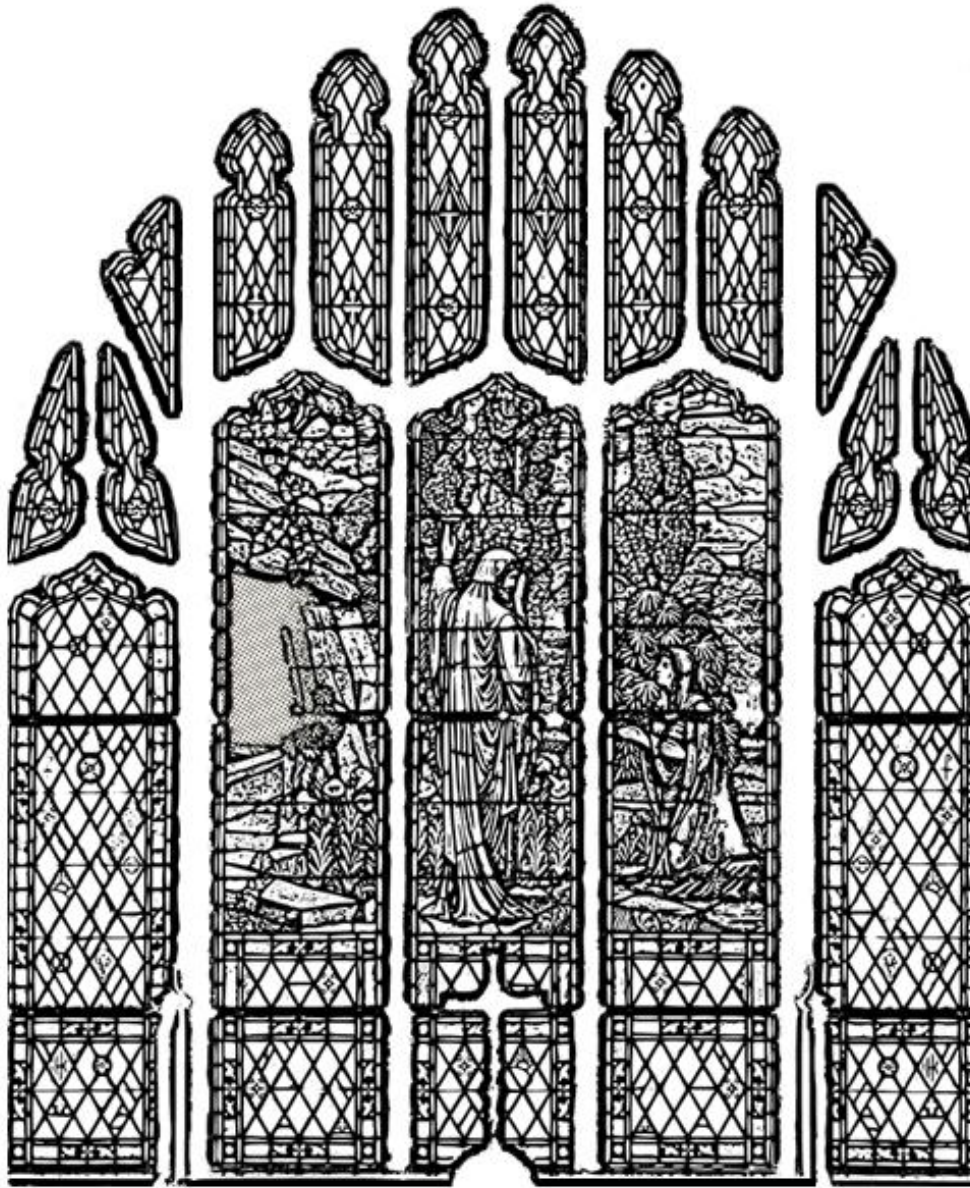


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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

The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

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

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



Sunday, October 18, 2026 – The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Today's familiar Gospel text is often reduced to politics, but Jesus redirects the question from civic duty to identity, exposing our divided loyalties. Rather than offering a neat separation of faith and public life, the passage presses a deeper claim: everything belongs to God, because we do.

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

The Prelude

Prelude from Prelude and Fugue in G (Op.37, No.2)

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

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)

Cantate Domino

Giuseppe Pitoni (1657-1743)

Cantate Domino canticum novum; laus ejus in ecclesia sanctorum.

Laetetur Israël in eo qui fecit eum, et filii Sion exsultent in rege suo.

O sing unto the Lord a new song: let the congregation of saints praise him.

Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: and let the children of Sion be joyful in their King.

Ps.149:1,2

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

*Opening Hymn

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

UMH 400

* The Greeting & Call to Worship

☩ The Lord be with you.

✠ And also with you.

☩ We are chosen children of God, bound together by the Holy Spirit.

✠ **We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.**

☩ The Spirit empowers us to live as imitators of Christ in love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

✠ **We belong to God, and through God, we learn to love one another.**

☩ The Spirit inspires us to receive God's Word with joy in a world that rejects the good news.

✠ **We belong to God, and through God, we live in joy with one another.**

☩ Come, let us worship in the assurance of God's love that chooses us, empowers us, and inspires us to live as the family of Christ.

✠ **We come to worship God in the assurance that we belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.**

***Opening Prayer**

Said by all, with one voice.

**Loving, living God, be among us now. Show us your ways. Guide our steps.
Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving.
Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours.
Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you, gifts to be
shared in service and love. Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who
receive your word with joy and live your message with love. Amen.**

***Silent Prayer**

***Response**

"Take My Life, and Let It Be"

UMH 399

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 Exodus

Ex. 33:12-23

Moses said to the Lord,

"See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight.

Consider, too, that this nation is your people."

He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

And he said to him,

"If your presence will not go, do not bring us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."

Moses said, "Please show me your glory."

And he said,

"I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord,' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live."

And the Lord continued,

"See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

"Jesu, Jesu"

UMH 432

***The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

MT. 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

“Whose Image Do You Carry?”

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.

R. And also with you.

Announcements

At the Offertory

The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am) “I want a principle within” UMH 410

The Anthem (10:45 am) *In Christ we come to offer thanks* Thomas Keesecker,
Text: Delores Dufner OSB

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

***The Sending Hymn "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" UMH 581**

*The Dismissal

¶. Let us bless the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

*The Benediction & Recessional

The people remain in place until the altar party has retired.

The Postlude *“La Rejouissance” from Music for the Royal Fireworks* G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Prayer Concerns

Jim Lutz, *enduring illness, and who will undergo surgery this coming Wednesday.*

Mark Cerneskie, *recovering from illness.*

Erma Henry, *convalescing from illness at home.*

Joyce Campbell, *sister of Nancy Marshall, struggling with ongoing health issues.*

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

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

Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. *(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

KALEB KNABB AND TREY KNABB, ACOLYTES

JJ KNABB, CROSS BEARER

RICH TREMBLAY (8:30AM) AND DONNA CHESLEIGH (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
Jane & Rob Spicher
to the Glory of God and in celebration of
the twelfth anniversary of their wedding.

*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.*

