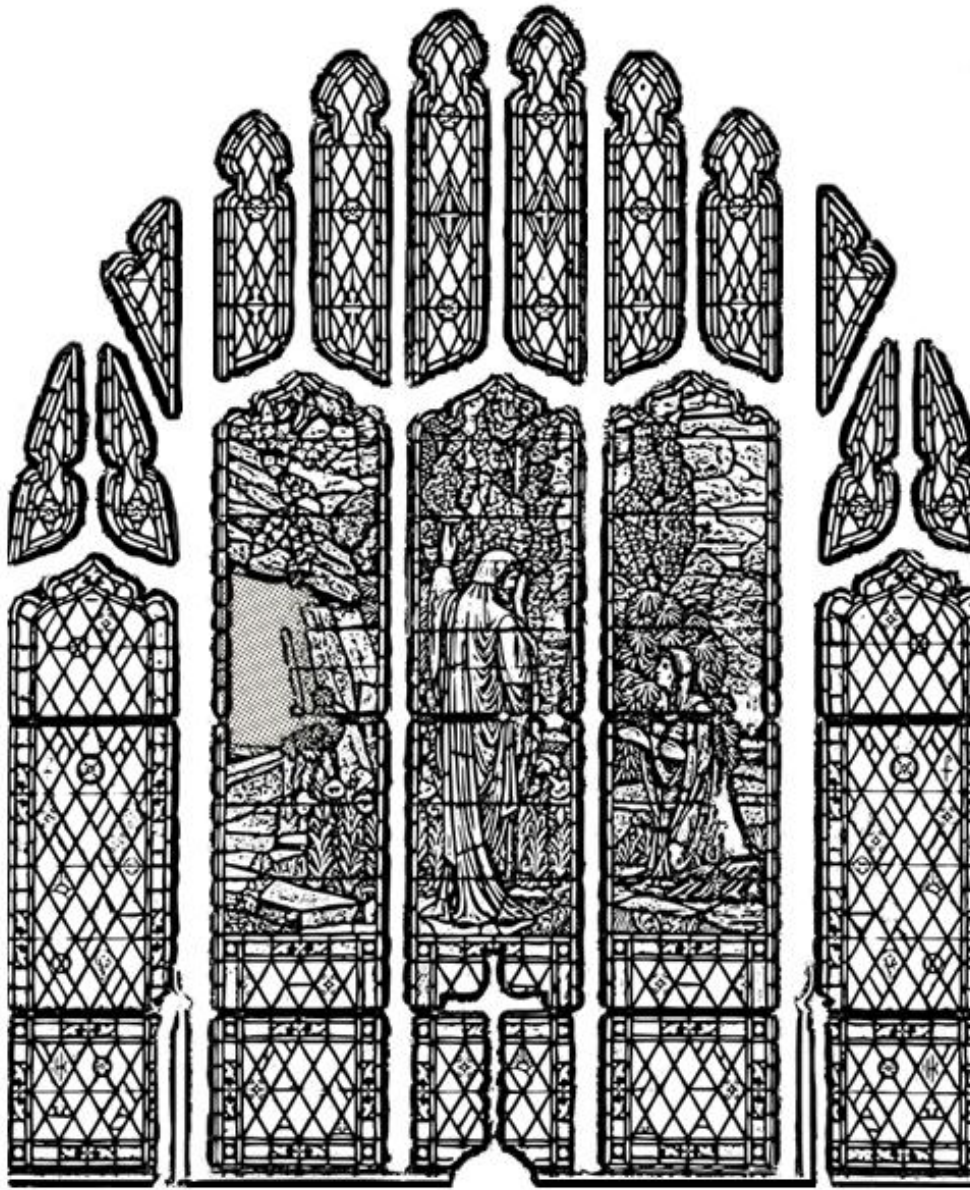


MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, November 23, 2025, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

Christ the King Sunday
with celebration of Founders' Day

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

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



Sunday, November 23, 2025 – Christ the King Sunday & Founders' Day

This last Sunday of the liturgical calendar is known as "Christ the King." In our local observance, we have recently begun to observe the Sunday before Thanksgiving as "Founders' Day." On this day, we give thanks to God for Christ our King, and for our spiritual predecessors who followed The Way before us.

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

The Prelude

Holy Manna

trad. American, arr. Judy Phillips
Offered by Promise Bells

The Introit (10:45)

Choral Fanfare for Christ the King

H. Hamilton Smith

He shall rule from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth. All kings shall pay him homage. All nations shall serve him. Alleluia: His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, and his kingdom shall not be destroyed; alleluia, alleluia.

(Ps.71:8; Dan.7:14)

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

*Opening Hymn

"Rejoice! the Lord is King"

UMH 715

* The Greeting & Call to Worship

∇ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∇ Around the world this day, the universal church celebrates the "The Reign of Christ." Christ Jesus, friend of the poor, the meek and the merciful, has been enthroned above all authority and power in this world and in the world that is to come.

℞ **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, serve the Lord with gladness, come into his presence with singing.**

∇ God has placed everything under Christ's wounded feet, appointed the one who wore a crown of thorns as the supreme head of the church, his body.

℞ **Enter his gates with thanksgiving, come into his courts with praise.**
Give thanks and praise his loving name!

*Opening Prayer

Said by all, with one voice.

Come once again, and feed your flock like a shepherd.

Come once again, and gather up the children, the oppressed,

the sick, the lonely, the humble, and the rejected of the earth.

**Turn our hearts to the least of your children,
for if we lose them, we become lost.
Reconcile us to you and to those we have hurt.
On this Christ the King Sunday,
join us together with neighbors, with strangers,
and especially with our own household.
Bring us to your light in our time of darkness,
through your Son, Jesus Christ: Amen.**

***Silent Prayer and Response**

“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God”

UMH 405

(vv.1,2, repeat v.1)

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.

The First Lesson

A Reading from the Epistle to the Colossians

COL. 1:11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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 Luke**

LK. 1:68-79

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

"Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.

"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

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**"A New Vision, A Fresh Hope"****Rev. Strandburg****Presentation of the Third Annual Sanner Commendation (10:45am)****Rev. Strandburg*****Response (10:45am)****"Great is thy faithfulness!"****UMH 140**

(v.1, repeat refrain)

***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) “For the fruits of this creation” UMH 97

The Anthem (10:45 am) *O How Amiable* Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

*O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts!
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. They will be always praising thee.
The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper thou the work of our hands upon us.
O prosper thou our handiwork.
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

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

***The Sending Hymn "Now thank we all our God" UMH 102**

***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 *Nun Danket Alle Gott: Marche Triomphale* Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

Prayer Concerns

*For those who will serve and be served this week by our church's **Thanksgiving Day Meal Ministry**.*

Clark Remington, *struggling with illness.*

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

*This week, we remember and pray for Christ's body throughout the world, especially remembering this week the church in **Timor Leste, Indonesia and The Philippines**. (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

ASHER WARD AND OLIVIA SCHMIDT, ACOLYTES

BRENDAN DEMICH, CROSS BEARER

KATHY KARNS (8:30AM) AND LIZZIE DILLER (10:45AM), LECTORS

THE HANDBELL ENSEMBLES OF MLUMC,

MRS. NANCY LUTZ, DIRECTOR

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MS. BETHANY MINGLE, SOPRANO

MS. SARAH BOICE STECKER, ALTO

MR. KIRBY DILWORTH, TENOR

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

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, SENIOR PASTOR

*The altar flowers this morning given by
Donna and Alan Chesleigh
in thanksgiving for
God's abundant blessings.*

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