



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
2nd Sunday of Easter

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship and Communion Service
April 12, 2026



*We have the closed hearing loop system.
You may be able to turn your hearing device to the "T" setting.*

***To allow all worshippers to reflect and prepare for
the service, please observe silence during the
prelude.***

2nd Sunday of Easter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE Te Deum Laudamus Dietrich Buxtehude

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please respond with words in bold)*

Easter people, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Christ *is* risen indeed!

Yet we, like Thomas, may find questions bubbling up:

How do we know? What's the proof? Is Resurrection real?

Within our questioning, Christ appears.

We may find ourselves like the other disciples, witnesses of Christ's resurrection who struggle to understand the doubt of others.

Within our certainty, Christ appears.

Whether you come to worship full of certainty or doubt, you are welcome here, for we are all participants in the story of God's redeeming work in the world, a story still unfolding all around us.

**We gather to worship, believing that in certainty and
doubt, the resurrected Christ dwells among us!**

HYMN # 312 Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

OPENING PRAYER

Risen Christ, we praise you for the power of your great love demonstrated in your life and in your death. Help us today to embrace the new life that is found in resurrection hope as we proclaim that life in you is not bound by death. Let us live into your promise of life beyond our doubts, faith over our fears, courage over our confusion, belief over our skepticism, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel your presence, resurrected and living in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 *Peter testifies to the resurrection*

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, ²²“Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³²“This Jesus, God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

Psalm 16:5-11 UMH 748 *The Lord is always near*
(Please respond with the words in bold.)

1 Peter 1:3-9 *New hope through Jesus Christ*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

John 20:19-31 *The risen Christ appears to the disciples*
(Please stand as you are able.)

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (*who was called the Twin*), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your

hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives: the fear that stifles action, the doubt that impedes our faith, the ignorance that hinders our sight, the distrust that keeps us from belief. Help us, we pray, that we will find courage in unlikely places, move to those places where love is needed, and have faith that you are with us. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News: Christ is alive and in him, we have also received the breath of life!

Through the living Christ, we are forgiven and given new life!

In the name of Christ, we are forgiven and set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God! Alleluia! Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH UMH 888

Affirmation from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20

(Please stand as you are able)

GLORIA PATRI #70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Meditation

Arthur Foote

OFFERING

<https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches>

DOXOLOGY #95

(Please stand as you are able)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Compassionate and faithful God, you meet us behind locked doors and in the doubts we dare not speak aloud. Like Thomas, we long to see, to touch, to know—and yet, by your grace, you call us blessed for believing without seeing. Accept now these gifts we bring, signs of our faith, acts of our trust. Use them to reach others still searching for hope, healing, and connection. Let our giving testify to your Resurrection power and shape us into a community where wounds are not hidden but held with love. In Christ, who breathes peace upon us, we pray. Amen.

HYMN #617

I Come With Joy

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Please respond with words in bold)

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 gives thanks and remembers God's acts of salvation, concluding:

"...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, 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. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes: "...and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith":

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding: "...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever." Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING THE BREAD GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #327 Crown Him with Many Crowns
(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE #393 Spirit of the Living God

POSTLUDE Improvisation
(Please be seated)

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Katie Monkus, daughter of Stan & Bobbie Moore,
Marty Butz, Marti Hughes, Grady Price, Leslie Brown,
Maud Lipscomb. mother of Elizabeth Dice

We extend Christian sympathy to the family of Charlie Barger.
Cards may be sent to his wife, Jean at 3031 NE 43rd Street,
Lighthouse Point, FL 33064.

We extend Christian sympathy to the family of Ted Steinmeyer.
Cards may be sent to his wife, Sally at 6319 Court Fleet Trail,
Tallahassee, FL 32309.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our next Fellowship Supper is tomorrow! Monday, April 13th at 6:00pm. Come join us for fun and fellowship! Bring a dish to share if you can.

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 8:45 am in the Minnich Conference room on Sundays, prior to worship. All are welcome! This is a 'come as you can' Bible Study and a study guide is provided. Don Henderson, bacpac@comporium.net, facilitates this group. Please reach out to him if you have questions.

Website Revamp

"A picture is worth a thousand words!" Work is underway revamping our current website and we would love to include more pictures! If you have any photos of the church, fellowship hall, the church grounds or events that have occurred there in the past two years, please send the JPG photo link with an explanation if necessary (who is in the photo, what the event was, etc.) to Cynthia Wood at cmwood50@gmail.com with an explanation if necessary. We appreciate your submissions.

The Prayer Ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM. Prayer requests may be mailed to LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

AA Meets Every Thursday Night at 4:45 PM in the Dice Hall. To honor anonymity, please do not go to the Parish building from 4:00-6:00 PM.

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, marcus61dodson@gmail.com

Organist: Bob Kintner: 828-329-2457

Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434, Maria Buehler: 828-553-2128

Audio/Visual & Livestream: Joe Haraschak: 813-918-1916

Ushers: Maria Buehler, Fred Markert

Liturgist: Scott Walter

Coffee Hour: Jay & Maria Buehler*

**Flowers and Coffee Hosts are needed in the coming weeks, including flowers next week. Please see the charts in the Fellowship Hallway to sign up. Your gifts shared in this way are a significant contribution to our worship and fellowship. Thank you to all who volunteer!*

*Some liturgical selections are adapted from umcdiscipleship.org and *Re:worship*.*