



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Community Worship Service  
April 19, 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.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRELUDE**

Adagio

Felix Guilmant

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

Today, like the disciples, we walk our Emmaus roads,  
oblivious to the living Lord who is walking at our side.

**Open our hearts to hear the Word as we walk on our journey.**

We sit at our tables as if the meal we share together is ordinary.

**Open our eyes to see God with us in Christ  
whenever we break bread together.**

We find ourselves surprised by the presence of God in our lives.

**May our minds and hearts be opened that we might see  
and believe that Christ is risen and that God is alive and  
dwells with us in all our journeys. Alleluia!**

**HYMN #309 On the Day of Resurrection**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Living Lord, on the road to Emmaus you walked with the  
grieving and uncertain disciples as a travelling companion. You  
listened as they shared their stories and opened their eyes to  
your word and your presence in their midst. Be at our side on  
our journeys and open our hearts to every encounter. Nurture  
our compassion, so that we may welcome others and listen to  
their stories. Kindle in us the desire to share our own stories of  
faith that we might both speak and hear your truth. Grant us  
the courage to become vulnerable so that our sisters and  
brothers may know you through us and that we may know you  
through them. We pray in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Isaiah 51:1-6** *Salvation for God's people*

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. <sup>2</sup> Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. <sup>3</sup> For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. <sup>4</sup> Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. <sup>5</sup> I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. <sup>6</sup> Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

### **Psalms 34 UMH 769** *Praise for deliverance*

*(Please respond with the words in bold.)*

### **1 Peter 1:17-23** *Born anew in God*

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God. <sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

### **Luke 24:13-35** *Encountering the risen Christ*

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each

other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.

<sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him."

<sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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.)*

**Merciful God, even as we proclaim in faith the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we fail to see the living Christ in our midst. We find ourselves preoccupied with our own well-being and success, forgetting your imperative to love our neighbor as ourselves and to recognize your presence in our encounters with strangers. We turn away from systems that challenge our way of thinking, choosing to justify our actions instead of examining our intentions. Show us again how to live a resurrection faith that sees life and hope in the midst of death and destruction. Transform our hearts so that where they are hardened toward you, neighbor and self, they may once again be made pliable and receptive to your Spirit, filled with love, and moved to actions of grace and mercy. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Though Jesus truly died in the hands of people, yet, by the power of God, he lives, and was revealed in the memory of broken bread. His resurrected life shows us that we too have life through the love of God revealed in Christ.

**By the power of God revealed in the life of Christ, we are received and forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **HOMILY**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH #883**

**Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada**

*(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.**

### **HYMN #613 O Thou Who This Mysterious Bread**

**OFFERTORY** Here I Am, Lord            John Carter

**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**

Ever-present God, like the disciples in Emmaus, we offer what we have. They offered their company, their table, their bread to a stranger and found themselves dining with the risen Christ. We ask that you would be with us as we offer you our love, our devotion, these gifts. May they provide avenues of grace and hospitality to others that all people may experience your presence in the midst of their struggles, their grief, their uncertainty, their lives. And may their eyes, and ours, be opened to your holy presence, now and always. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN On Emmaus' Journey** *see insert*

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Improvisation

*(Please be seated)*

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## **STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS**

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, [marcus61dodson@gmail.com](mailto: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: Fred Markert

Liturgist: Lysa Riggs

Coffee Hour: Nancy Henderson

*\*Flowers and Coffee Hosts are needed in the coming weeks. 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](http://umcdiscipleship.org) and *Re:worship*.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Fellowship Supper TOMORROW, Monday April 20—6:00pm!**

Bring a dish to share (if you can) and join us for an evening of springtime fellowship! We look forward to seeing you!

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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## **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