



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
6th Sunday of Easter

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
May 10, 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.***

6th Sunday of Easter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE Sleepers Awake, A Voice Is Calling J. S. Bach
Schlicker Baroque Style Organ

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

People of God, no matter the bends and curves in our path,
we are not left alone on this journey of faith.

God comes again as Spirit, our Advocate and Helper.

The Spirit lives in and among us, leading us in the way, the truth,
and the life of Jesus, the one who shows us the way of God.

God comes again as Spirit, our Guide and Guardian.

The Spirit draws us into God's story, showing us how to participate
in writing God's dream into reality.

**God comes again as Spirit,
our Dream Weaver and Story Keeper.**

People of Christ, God's story abides in you,
calling you to live into God's love and abundant life.

**We come to worship God and listen for God's Spirit
who inspires, guides, and helps us join in God's story,
to the end that God's kingdom comes on earth
as it is in heaven.**

HYMN #92 For the Beauty of the Earth

OPENING PRAYER

God of time and space, you initiated a relationship with creation based in love and generosity 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 through your presence with us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ezekiel 34:1-7 *Beware of false shepherds*

The word of the Lord came to me: ² Mortal, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: To the shepherds—thus says the Lord God: Woe, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? ³ You eat the fat; you clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatted calves, but you do not feed the sheep. ⁴ You have not strengthened the weak; you have not healed the sick; you have not bound up the injured; you have not brought back the strays; you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. ⁵ So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and scattered they became food for all the wild animals. ⁶ My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with no one to search or seek for them. ⁷ Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord:

Psalm 115:1-11 UMH 836 *Trust in God, not idols* (Please respond with the words in bold.)

1 Peter 3:13-22 *Stay strong in faith*

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ 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, ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

John 14:15-21 *The promise of the Holy Spirit*
(Please stand as you are able.)

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ 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.”

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.)

Eternal God, Creator of all that is, you have placed us on this earth and sustained our being through water, air, and the produce of the land. You have made us for each other, to tend and care for the weak and to share the earth’s resources. But we are a proud and hard-hearted people who hoard what the earth provides and seem loathe to share the fruits of our labors, who live for today with little thought for tomorrow, who are afraid to let pain and suffering affect us.

Incarnate God, you have walked our way and know us in our inner being. In your grace, you offer us forgiveness even before we have the chance to articulate our sorrow. You embrace us while we are yet sinful, and, in doing so, give us the chance to start again, to learn from the example you have given us in Jesus, who chose the way of the Cross that all might know the depth of your love. Spirit of God, open our hearts and minds that we may grasp your forgiveness, and forgiven, seek to live a life of redemptive love modelled on the example of Jesus Christ, in whose name we make this prayer. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God never intended us to be alone. We were always meant to dwell with God from the time of creation. Jesus came to show us this and reveal to us the Spirit of God that has always been near. In Christ, we see God and find again our place in God's presence.

In Christ, we see God who loves us, restores us, and claims us. Thanks be to God. Amen

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #885 A Modern Affirmation

(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 #130 God Will Take Care of You

OFFERTORY

The Gift of Love
Setting of Hymn #408

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

Abiding Spirit of Love, you have not left us orphaned. Even in our uncertainty, you draw near, whispering truth, stirring memory, teaching us to live as those who know we are loved. As Jesus offered himself in love and obedience, so we offer these gifts today—not out of obligation, but as signs of our love and trust. Take them, bless them, use them to remind the world that Christ’s story abides in us and in all who seek you. May your Spirit strengthen us to live what we give and give what we believe. In the name of the one who promised never to leave us. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN #364 Because He Lives

(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune in D Major David. N. Johnson

19th Century Cavaille-Col French Organ

(Please be seated)

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: Joe Haraschak, Lysa Riggs

Liturgist: Tom Blackstock

Coffee Hour: Jon & Brenda Finstrom

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

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Marti Hughes, Sally Steinmeyer, Grady Price,
Katie Monkus-daughter of Stan & Bobbie Moore,
Maud Lipscomb-mother of Elizabeth Dice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers on the altar are given by Tom and Kay Blackstock in memory of their mothers, Lois Teien and Helen Blackstock.

THANK YOU to all who signed up for flowers and coffee this month! There are still openings through the summer so check the sign-up charts in the FH hallway to select a time. We are grateful to all who offer their gifts in this way.

Our next scheduled supper is on Monday, May 18 at 6:00pm.

Come bring a dish to share as we spend time in fun and fellowship. Our Fellowship Suppers have been great fun and we are excited about our upcoming dates scheduled each month. All are welcome- invite a friend! We hope to see 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, facilitates this group. Please reach out to him if you have questions.

Website Revamp—Pictures are needed!

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. We appreciate your submissions as we work to update and refresh our LTUMC website.

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.