



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Ascension Sunday

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
May 17, 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.***

Ascension Sunday

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE Draw Us to Thee (*1655 Hymn*)
 Setting by Michael Burkhardt
 "Draw us to Thee, for then shall we walk in Thy steps forever."

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

Because Jesus lived, died, rose and ascended,
a new world has broken into ours—

**a world grounded in hope for justice,
redemption, and healing.**

Because Jesus lived, died, rose and ascended,
a new community has been formed—

a community of love, care, welcome, and belonging.

Because Jesus lived, died, rose and ascended,
a new creation has begun—

**a restored creation in which all that is corrupted is being
renewed and all that was broken is being made whole.**

Because Jesus lived, died, rose and ascended,
God's new world has begun.

**Into this new world, we are invited to live in God's
presence and bring his light and love to all creation.**

HYMN #185 When Morning Gilds the Skies

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, we come today reminded of your greatness and glory, your sovereign power and eternal purpose expressed in Jesus Christ, our Lord, Risen and Ascended. We thank you for the wonder of Ascension, that marvelous yet mysterious moment in the life of the Apostles which left them gazing heavenwards with anxiousness yet going from that moment in joy. We thank you for the way that it brought the earthly ministry of Jesus to a fitting conclusion, signifying his oneness with you. We thank you that through his Ascension, Jesus is now set free to be Lord of all in eternal unity with you and the Spirit, with us always even to the ends of the earth. As you came in Jesus, so you showed us your eternal presence with us, a God who knows us and stays with us. May we experience your presence each day, even as you are gone from our physical sight. In Christ's glorious name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Daniel 7:9-14 *A vision of God*

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. ¹¹ I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. ¹³ As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. ¹⁴ To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Psalms 24 UMH 755 *God is Lord of all*
(Please respond with the words in bold.)

Ephesians 1:15-23 *Faith in the risen and ascended Christ*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Luke 24:44-53 *Christ's words as he returns to heaven*
(*Please stand as you are able.*)

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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.)

Almighty God, we confess that we have our eyes set in the clouds instead of on the tasks of care and stewardship you have given us. We desire heavenly treasure but we keep believing that worldly means will help us attain it. Forgive us for our short sightedness. Draw us away from the temptations to seek worldly power and measures of success, and call us to the down-to-earth message of your love, to care for the needs of the world and all of its' inhabitants. You have reminded us of your call to care for the widows and orphans, the stranger and the outcast; help us to see all those who are left out or rendered invisible by society and are in need. Help us to break down the dividing walls that we have put in place, so that we may truly be one with each other and you, as you and Christ are one. For it is in your holy name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The God of our Lord Jesus Christ blesses us by grace and calls us his own, in order that we might live the kingdom of God into the world. In the name of the reigning Christ, we are forgiven and called to new life.

In the name of the reigning Christ, we are forgiven and called. Glory to God! Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #889 Affirmation from 1 Timothy

(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 #163 Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know

OFFERTORY Salvation Has Come To Us Sigfried Karg-Elert

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

God of Glory, even as Christ ascended, you did not leave us alone. While he was blessing the disciples, you were preparing us all to carry the story forward, to be your witnesses, to live in hope and power. In this sacred act of giving, we pray that we are living this call by acknowledging that all we have is really yours. May these gifts be a blessing to others, as Christ has been to us. Clothe us with courage. Remind us that your Spirit goes with us. And send us, renewed and ready, to be your church in the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #157 Jesus Shall Reign

(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Improvisation

(Please be seated)

The organ heard today is the German Schnitger

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Mary Delaney, 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 Steve & Lori Delaney in honor of their mothers, Ginny and Mary.

Our next Fellowship Supper is Tomorrow--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 as we prepare for relaunch! 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.

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: Scott Walter 314-374-2969

Ushers: Fred Markert, Andrew Butz

Liturgist: Kim Dodson

Coffee Hour: Paula & Fred Markert

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