



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Community Worship and Communion Service  
May 3, 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.***

***5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter***

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRELUDE**            On Eagle's Wings            Setting by John Carter

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

We are invited to the water to be claimed, cleansed, and refreshed.

**May we remember who we are and to whom we always belong.**

We are invited to the table where we find nourishment and acceptance.

**May we remember who you are and that with you, we are  
always welcomed**

We are invited to walk with Christ who shows us the way.

**May we know that God has made a home for us where we  
belong and can always find rest.**

**We worship God who invites us here.**

**HYMN # 77    How Great Thou Art**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Almighty God, maker of all things, in Christ you have made  
yourself known. You have stepped out of glory to walk with us  
through the mundane and messy things of life in this world.**

**You show the way through; even more, you show us that you  
walk beside us as we make our way through with the promise  
that we have a place with you both now and always. Open our  
minds to believe. Open our hearts to trust. Open us to your  
way, your truth your life. For we seek to walk in the way you  
have shown us in Christ. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Proverbs 4:10-18** *Keep on the right path*

Hear, my child, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many.

<sup>11</sup> I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. <sup>12</sup> When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble. <sup>13</sup> Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life. <sup>14</sup> Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evildoers. <sup>15</sup> Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. <sup>16</sup> For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong; they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble. <sup>17</sup> For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. <sup>18</sup> But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

### **Psalms 119:9-32** *The blessing of God's word*

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

How can young people keep their way pure?

**By guarding it according to your word.**

With my whole heart I seek you;

**do not let me stray from your commandments.**

I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

**Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.**

With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.

**I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.**

I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

**Deal bountifully with your servant, so that I may live and observe your word. Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.**

I live as an alien in the land; do not hide your commandments from me.

**My soul is consumed with longing for your ordinances at all times.**

You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments; take away from me their scorn and contempt, for I have kept your decrees. Even though princes sit plotting against me, your servant will meditate on your statutes.

**Your decrees are my delight; they are my counselors.**

**My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to your word.**

When I told of my ways, you answered me; teach me your statutes.

**Make me understand the way of your precepts,  
and I will meditate on your wondrous works.**

My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.

Put false ways far from me, and graciously teach me your law.

**I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your ordinances before me.**

**I cling to your decrees, O Lord; let me not be put to shame. I run the way of your commandments, for you enlarge my understanding.**

## **1 Peter 2:2-10** *Christ is our cornerstone*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," <sup>8</sup> and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## **John 14:1-14** *If you have seen Jesus, you have seen God* *(Please stand as you are able.)*

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." <sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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.)*

**Mighty and merciful God, we want to be brave. We want to be steadfast and sure, confident and committed to what we say we believe. But in the face of trouble, we too often find ourselves anxious and afraid. We stutter and stumble, forgetting that you are by our side. O God, forgive us for our forgetfulness. Lift us up when we fall down. Protect us from our own doubts and fears. Remind us that you are near. Shine your face upon us with mercy and grace, that we might find the courage and strength to be faithful, loving and righteous, to shine your light in the midst of darkness. Be our strong foundation, so that we may grow up as your household, your family, and your people of justice, love, and mercy. In Christ, our hope, we pray. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Christ came to show us the way.

God's love shown to us in Christ makes abundant life possible and accessible. In Christ, we are shown that we have a home with God.

**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! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **HOMILY**

### **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM UMH 39**

*Louise Perry Davis*

### **HYMN #611 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **OFFERTORY**

Hymn of Promise

Setting by 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**

**Living God, you make a way for us. Your offer to us is not just to believe in heaven, but to live the kingdom life here and now. Through Jesus, you call us to a life of deeper trust, wider welcome, and greater works of grace. As we bring our gifts, we step into that life, choosing generosity over fear and hope over judgment. Use these offerings, and use us, to make your presence visible in our community, in our compassion, in our courage. We give, because we've heard your voice and we seek to follow in your way. Amen.**

## **HYMN #614 For the Bread Which You Have Broken**

### **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 #593 Here I Am, Lord**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL RESPONSE #393**

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me, Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

**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: Mike Taylor, Joe Haraschak

Liturgist: Beth Holimon

Coffee Hour: Jo Ditzel

*Some liturgical selections are adapted from [umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org) and *Re:worship*.*

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**PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Sally Steinmeyer, Grady Price, Marti Hughes, Leslie Brown,

Katie Monkus-daughter of Stan & Bobbie Moore,

Maud Lipscomb-mother of Elizabeth Dice

We extend our deepest Christian sympathy to the family of Marty Butz.

Cards may be sent to his wife, Tacia and children, Andrew & Luke at

P.O. Box 178, Lake Toxaway, NC 28747.

Cards may be sent to his parents, Charles & Linda Butz, at

152 Camptown Rd., Brevard, NC 28712.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today we celebrate the Baptism of Louise Perry Davis**, daughter of Mitchell and Katie Davis. Grandparents are Kellie & Drew Prusiecki and Sheilah & Tommy Davis. Great grandmother is Connie Applegate.

**In accordance with the UM Book of Discipline, our Bishop and District Superintendent announce that Rev. Marcus Dodson has been reappointed to serve Lake Toxaway UMC for another year.** This will be his 33<sup>rd</sup> year of service with Lake Toxaway UMC in coordination with his full-time role as chaplain at the local hospital and hospice.

### **Flower and Coffee Hosts are sought for the coming weeks.**

Please see the charts in the Fellowship Hallway to sign up. Or you may email Kim at [kidods2061@gmail.com](mailto:kidods2061@gmail.com) to select a date. Your gifts shared in this way are a significant contribution to our worship and fellowship. Thank you to all who volunteer!

**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 the class. 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.