



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Community Worship Service  
June 21, 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.***

***4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost***

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRELUDE**

Adagio

Bach/Marcello

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

When we feel abandoned and alone, unable to find a way out of the wilderness that surrounds us,

**We cry out to God...and God hears us.**

When we feel discouraged and defeated, unsure we will ever have what we need to survive and worried that no matter how hard we work, it will never be enough,

**We cry out to God...and God listens to us.**

When we feel lost and forgotten, unable to find the words for the grief, isolation, and despair that we feel,

**We cry out to God...and God pays attention to us.**

As we gather in this place, let us remember: none of us is on this journey alone. God knows where you are, God knows why you are hurting, and God listens to the cries of your hearts.

**May we also listen to one another as God guides us  
toward the cool, refreshing waters we need to continue  
on our journey as the family of God.**

**HYMN #66 Praise, My Soul the King of Heaven**

## OPENING PRAYER

**God of the impossible, we pray for justice, peace and reconciliation. We pray for help in seemingly hopeless situations and salvation when all seems lost. We pray for strength and courage to stand faithfully in the face of anything adverse to your hope for the world.**

**When the challenges seem too many, remind us of your resurrection power. When the task seems overwhelming, remind us of the miracle of love. When apathy threatens us, remind us of your vision of a world made whole. Help us to hope that the impossible can happen and may we live in the promise that what we do today will lead us closer to that vision. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Genesis 21:8-21** *God rescues Hagar and Ishmael*

The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. <sup>9</sup> But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. <sup>10</sup> So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac."

<sup>11</sup> The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son.

<sup>12</sup> But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. <sup>13</sup> As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring."

<sup>14</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. <sup>15</sup> When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. <sup>16</sup> Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. <sup>17</sup> And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. <sup>18</sup> Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." <sup>19</sup> Then

God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

<sup>20</sup> God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. <sup>21</sup> He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt

**Psalms 86: 1-10,16-17** *A prayer for deliverance*  
(Please respond with the words in bold)

<sup>1</sup> Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

<sup>2</sup> **Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;  
save your servant who trusts in you.**

You are my God; <sup>3</sup> be gracious to me, O Lord,  
for to you do I cry all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **Gladden the soul of your servant,  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

<sup>5</sup> For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

<sup>6</sup> **Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;  
listen to my cry of supplication.**

<sup>7</sup> In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me.

<sup>8</sup> **There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,  
nor are there any works like yours.**

<sup>9</sup> All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before  
you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

<sup>10</sup> **For you are great and do wondrous things;  
you alone are God.**

<sup>16</sup> Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your  
servant; save the child of your maidservant.

<sup>17</sup> **Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me  
may see it and be put to shame, because you, LORD,  
have helped me and comforted me.**

**Romans 6:1b-11** *Buried and raised with Christ*

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that

our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**Matthew 10:24-39** *The cost of discipleship*  
(Please stand as you are able.)

"A disciple is not *above* the teacher nor a slave *above* the master; <sup>25</sup> it is enough for the disciple to be *like* the teacher and the slave *like* the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup> "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup> What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup> Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

<sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup> "Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, <sup>36</sup> and one's foes will be members of one's own household. <sup>37</sup> "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, <sup>38</sup> and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find 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.)*

**Holy God, creator of all that is, source of grace, and giver of life: hear our prayer. There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us from one another and from you. We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow, for fear of admitting our part in the separation, for fear of being rejected when we reach out. You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, to holy unity--even as we embrace our created uniqueness--with each other and within the grace of your holy spirit. Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

In baptism, we were buried with Christ into death; and just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also are raised into a new life, freed from the bondage of sin.

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Christ, we are forgiven and freed to walk in the way of life. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **HOMILY**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH #881    The Apostles' Creed**

*(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 #528 Nearer My God to Thee**

### **OFFERTORY**

Elegy

Tansman

**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**

Gracious and loving God, you hear the cries we whisper and the cries we cannot speak. In a world still marked by fear, abandonment, and unfairness, you remain the one who listens and who hears the voices of the overlooked, the wounded, the outcast. As we bring our offerings today, open our ears as yours are open. Transform our giving today into acts of empathy and connection with those whose voices rise in need. Use these gifts to reveal your presence, to bring water into desert places, and to remind all your children that they are not alone. Shape us into people who hear because we have been heard. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

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

### **HYMN #117 O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

Morning Has Broken

Arr. by Lloyd Larson

*(Please be seated)*

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## **PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Adam Prusiecki, Richard Lehman,-brother of Beth Holimon  
Mary Delaney, Jay Buehler, Marti Hughes, Sally Steinmeyer  
Katie Monkus-daughter of Stan & Bobbie Moore  
Maud Lipscomb-mother of Elizabeth Dice  
Randall Galloway, Vandy Vanderford

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Flowers on the altar** are given by Liz & Joe Haraschak to the glory of God in honor of all fathers and father-figures in our lives and the lives of children everywhere.

**We welcome back Kathy Palmer**, one of our regular music substitutes, and thank her for sharing her gifts while Bob is away.

**We look forward to our celebration worship and lunch on Sunday, July 19th** as we consecrate our organ upgrades and celebrate the music ministry of Bob Kintner. Watch for more details in the coming month.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** meets at 8:45am 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**—If you have any photos of the church, fellowship hall, the church grounds or church events, please send the JPG photo link to Cynthia Wood at [cmwood50@gmail.com](mailto:cmwood50@gmail.com) with information if needed. 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 3:00PM**. **Note the change of time**. 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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## **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, Andrew Butz

Liturgist: Stephen Wood

Coffee Hour: Louise Miller

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