



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Fourth Sunday in Pentecost

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Sunday, June 29th

10:00 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg

RINGING OF THE BELL – *To allow all worshippers to reflect and prepare for the service, please observe silence during the prelude.*

PRELUDE - Prelude on a Franck Motif **Gordon Young**

CALL TO WORSHIP

*We will call to mind the works of the Lord,
and remember God's wonders of old.
In times of trouble, we cry out to God,
longing for our souls to be comforted.
When our spirits are weary,
we reach for God's arms.
Even when we don't feel courageous,
we need to receive God's peace.
Keeping God's deeds in mind,
we carry them in our hearts.
For God's ways are holy,
and God's grace is great.*

HYMN #92 - For the Beauty of the Earth

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

God of all life and love: we are your children, and you made us free to live in joyful relationship with you and one another. Your grace empowers us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Give us the courage to love ourselves as much as you love us and to love others with the same compassion. May our worship be a sign of Your love among us. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 - *Elijah ascends into heaven*

- 2:1 Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.
- 2:2 Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So, they went down to Bethel.
- 2:6 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So, the two of them went on.
- 2:7 Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.
- 2:8 Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.
- 2:9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit."
- 2:10 He responded, "You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not."
- 2:11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.
- 2:12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.
- 2:13 He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan.
- 2:14 He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, He said, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah? Where is he?" He struck the water again, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha crossed over.

Psalms 77:1-2, 11-20 - *You have redeemed your people (UMH Pg. 798)* **(Psalter Lesson) (Please read the bold text)**

- 77:1 I cry aloud to God, aloud that God may hear me.
- 77:2 In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord, in the night my hand is stretched out continually; my soul refuses to be comforted.**
- 77:11 I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; I will remember your wonders of old.
- 77:12 I will meditate on all your work, and muse on your mighty deeds.**
- 77:13 Your way, O God, is holy. **What god is so great as our God?**

77:14 You are the God who works wonders, you manifested your might among the peoples.

77:15 You redeemed with your arm your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

77:16 When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid, the very deeps trembled.

77:17 The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side.

77:18 The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings illumined the world; **the earth trembled and shook.**

77:19 Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters, yet your footprints were unseen.

77:20 You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Galatians 5:1, 13-25 - Love is the whole of the law (Epistle Reading)

5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

5:13 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another.

5:14 For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

5:15 If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

5:16 Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh.

5:17 For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want.

5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

5:19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery,

5:20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions,

5:21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

5:22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,

5:23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

5:24 And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Luke 9:51-62 - Jesus says, Follow me (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

- 9:51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.
- 9:52 And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival,
- 9:53 but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem.
- 9:54 When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"
- 9:55 But he turned and rebuked them.
- 9:56 Then they went on to another village.
- 9:57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."
- 9:58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."
- 9:59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."
- 9:60 And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."
- 9:61 Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home."
- 9:62 And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL OFFERING – LORD GOD OF ABRAHAM (ELIJAH) FELIX MENDELSSOHN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

Loving God, you give us freedom. In fact, in you, we live in perfect freedom. Fear tries to bind us. Idolatry comes chasing after us. Divisive arguments try to trap us in corners and keep us locked away from one another. These are not the freedoms you have in mind for your children, loving God. We confess, we have submitted to them in the past, but no more. Inspire us to live in the freedom you have given us for love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. You set us free. Give us the courage to enjoy it. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved children of God: hear and believe the good news, for freedom Christ has set us free to live anew.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen!

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #887 (Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 37-39)

Leader:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation or distress,

or persecution or famine,

or nakedness or peril or sword?

People:

No,

In all things we are more than conquerors

Through the One who loved us.

We are sure that neither

death nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor things present, nor things to come,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor anything else in all creation,

will be able to separate us from the love of God

in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thanks be to God! Amen

GLORIA PATRI (UMH #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 # 500 - Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

OFFERING

<https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches>

OFFERTORY - Come To Me Dan Forrest

DOXOLOGY #95 - Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

(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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy Father, who calls us to true freedom, we offer these gifts as signs of our commitment to live by the Spirit's leading. May our generosity reflect your love that is joyful, peaceful, patient, and kind. Through your grace, may we sow seeds of compassion, nurturing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives and the world. Guide us to use our freedom not for ourselves but for service, so that we may build communities of faith and hope. With thankful hearts, we dedicate ourselves to your transforming work. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

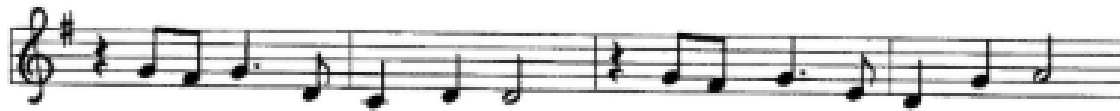
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN - Here I Am, Lord (located on the next page)

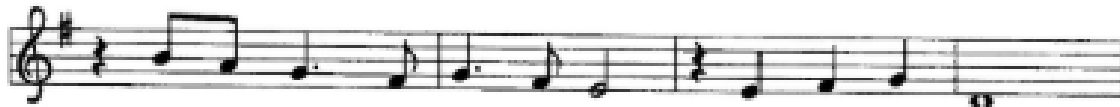
Note: The first verse will be sung as a vocal solo.

POSTLUDE - Improvisation on Here I Am

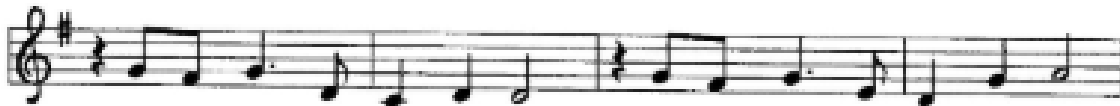
Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946
 Music: Daniel L. Schutte
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HERE I AM, LORD
 7 7 7 4 6 and refrain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by the Piggott/Edwards wedding.

Soloist - Vocalist Bart Gilleland

Vocalist Bart Gilleland is well known to this congregation as over the years he has shared his musical gifts. With many credits as an opera and oratorio soloist, he is now a section leader, choral assistant and cantor at First UMC in Brevard.

30 Year Anniversary Luncheon Celebration for Rev. Dodson

Please join us today after the service for lunch and to celebrate Rev. Dodson's 30 years of service to Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church in the Dice Hall.

Summer Bible Study

The new summer Bible Study group meets on Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM in the Minnich Conference room. This is a come as you can Bible Study and a study guide will be provided. It is led by Don Henderson. Please reach out to him if you have questions at bacpac@comporium.net

Flowers on the Altar & Coffee Hour Sign-Ups

While signing up to host a coffee hour, please consider signing up for flowers on the altar. Please let Saunders know by Wednesday at 5:00 PM on how you want it to read in the bulletin.

The Prayer Ministry

Everyone is welcome to join the Prayer Ministry on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the church. Please e-mail prayer requests to LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

AA Meetings Thursday Nights

The weekly AA meeting is every Thursday 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions. We pray for Don Scholl, Lysa Riggs' husband as he recovers from his cancer treatments. We also pray for Chip Dixon, the Guffeys and the Baileys.

Please pray for those having or had a surgery, acute illness or injury and their recovery.

We continue to pray for those who have recently lost a family member. We pray for the family of Jackie Haraschak as she passed away last week. She was Joe Haraschak's sister-in-law. Joe & Liz Haraschak's address is: 996 Cold Mountain Rd., Lake Toxaway, NC 28747.

Please continue to pray for our student scholars, our local students, teachers and staff over the summer months.

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, marcus61dodson@gmail.com

Organist/Music Director: Bob Kintner

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh, 469-569-2314, administrator@laketoxawayumc.org
Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434 and Maria Buehler: 828-553-2128
Audio/Visual & Livestream Chair: Joe Haraschak: 813-918-1916
Liturgist: Stephanie Taylor