



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Community Worship and Communion Service  
June 7, 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.***

***2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost***

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRELUDE**      Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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

God calls us to go into the unknown,  
trusting that God's promises are true.

**Whether we are certain or full of doubts,  
God blesses us with faith to move forward.**

God sends us into the world to journey by faith,  
believing that God's blessings are greater than our imagination.

**Whether the path is straight or winding, God blesses us  
with hope in a future in which God goes with us.**

God gathers us here with trusted companions, those who also follow  
God's call, even when it doesn't make sense to the world around us.

**Whether we journey with friends or feel all alone,  
God blesses us, that we may be a blessing to all we  
encounter.**

As we gather to worship, may we remember that we are God's  
people, blessed by God to be a blessing to our world that is hurting  
and in great need of good news.

**God, form us today as a family of faith,  
that your blessings might flow out of us and into our world,  
drawing all people into your promise of abundant life.**

**HYMN #89 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

## OPENING PRAYER

God of all Time, late in life and long before you changed his name, you asked Abram to leave his home and journey into unknown territory with a promise of abundant blessing. And now, O God, you ask the same faith of us: faith to find our place alongside the sojourner and stranger; faith to go into uncharted territory; faith to willingly and generously share the gifts and resources with which we are blessed without judgment or skepticism. Teach us to be children of Abram, sharers of the blessings we enjoy: blessings of plenty shared with those who have need, blessings of healing shared with those who are sick and wounded, blessings of joy shared with those who celebrate and of tears shared with those who grieve, blessings of friendship shared with those who are excluded, and support with those who fight injustice. We are blessed. May our faith and trust in you, help to bring your promises into being in our world. Help us learn this day what it means to be a blessing. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Genesis 12:1-9** *Blessed to be a blessing*

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

**Psalm 33 UHM 767** *Finding joy in the Lord*  
(Please respond with the words in bold.)

**Romans 4:13-25** *Promises of God come through faith*

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

<sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

<sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So shall your descendants be."

<sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>2</sup>Therefore "it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**Matthew 9:9-13.18-26** *Jesus heals the sick and sinners*  
(Please stand as you are able.)

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup>And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup>But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

<sup>18</sup> While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." <sup>19</sup> And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. <sup>20</sup> Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, <sup>21</sup> for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." <sup>22</sup> Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. <sup>23</sup> When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, <sup>24</sup> he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup> But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. <sup>26</sup> And the report of this spread through all of that district.

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, you have set before us the path, but we have wandered off in our own direction. Sometimes we are like toddlers, and we hear Your call and come back. Other times, we are children testing boundaries, ignoring your call until fear finally makes us look back. Sometimes, we are full of youthful rebellion, demanding to be cut loose and set free, not knowing how much we still need to seek your wisdom and guidance. But now, too often we think we are grown adults who have figured it all out and know our own way, only to stumble and stray far from your leading. Remind us, O God, that we are always your children, that we are never fully grown up in your presence, that we always have much to learn. Help us to seek you every day, acknowledging that we need your wisdom and guidance. Help us to return to the path and walk with you. In the name of Christ, 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 have light for our path and a hand always ready to save.

**In the name of Christ, we are forgiven, blessed and empowered to go out into the world and be a blessing to this world!**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## HOMILY

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**OFFERTORY** Morning Has Broken *(Cat Stephens inspired)*

## 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 God, you spoke to Abram and set him on a journey, not with full clarity, but with full trust. You promised blessing—and with it, purpose. We come now as your people, also journeying by faith, offering these gifts not for our own honor or glory, but so that your promise might be fulfilled through us: the promise to be a blessing to the world. Use these offerings to build relationships, to mend the broken, and to draw all families of the earth toward your heart. May our giving reflect our trust, and may our trust lead us to go where you send, step by step, into your future. Amen.**

## HYMN #632 Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

## 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 #261 Lord of the Dance**

*(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 UMH #68 When in Our Music God Is Glorified**

*(Please be seated. We invite the congregation to join our soloists on stanza 4.)*

## **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

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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: Scott Walter 314-374-2969

Ushers: Fred Markert, Lysa Riggs

Liturgist: Brian Singleton

Coffee Hour: Liz Haraschak

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**We welcome Jonas and Kayleigh McCanless as our guest musicians in worship today.** Jonas and Kayleigh met at Brevard College while studying music and psychology. During that time, they participated in a variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles, including the choir at St. Philip's Episcopal Church. They are currently staff musicians at St. Philips, and were married at the same church after graduating in 2024. Jonas has just finished his second year of teaching string music at Rosman Middle and High School. Kayleigh and Jonas teach after school string music programs in Transylvania County through the organization Mountain School of Strings.

**Our next Administrative Council Meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 19 at 10:00am.** All council members are encouraged to attend as we make decisions about upcoming business and ministries. Church members are welcome to be present as non-voting observers.

**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.