



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
8th Sunday after Pentecost

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
July 19, 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.***

8th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

The Peace of Christ

Clif Cason

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

We worship the God who inhabits our world
and who dwells in the midst of our lives.

We need not look up to find God,
**we need only to look around: within ourselves, within our
community, into the eyes of another.**

We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God,
**we need only listen to the music of this world, the words of
children, the questions of the curious, the rhythms of our days.**
We worship the God who inhabits our world
and who dwells in the midst of our lives.

HYMN #62 All Creatures of Our God and King

OPENING PRAYER

**God of Grace, you know us better than we know ourselves.
You know our thoughts, our weaknesses, our motivations,
our sins--and you love us still. Grant us faith to believe that
such love is possible. Remove from our minds every thought
which keeps us from you. Break down the walls of doubt,
push aside the pride of self-righteousness, and help us to
trust you anew. For you know us, and you love us still.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 28:10-19a *God's covenant is reaffirmed with Jacob*

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it! ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." ¹⁸ So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24 **UMH 854** *Known by God* (Please respond with the words in bold)

Romans 8:12-25 *Children of God are led by the Spirit*

So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set

free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 *Parable of the wheat and the weeds*
(Please stand as you are able.)

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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.)

Merciful God, you plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun. We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be. It is not ours to decide the value of those growing next to us. When we deprive others of the resources on which we depend, forgive us. When we move to uproot those whom we believe do not belong, forgive us. When we label others as good or bad, rather than accept all for who they are, forgive us. When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat, forgive us. O God, you know each of us inside and out. You search us out and lay your hand upon us. So we pray that you will help us to reach out to the lonely and the outcast, the uprooted and rejected, and to grow the good in ourselves, as we seek it in others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

It is God who has made you and it is God, whose love is exemplified in Christ, who redeems you. Sin is cast away and life is renewed.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #883 The United Church of Canada

(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 #152 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

OFFERTORY

Toccata in D minor

J. S. Bach

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

Compassionate Creator, you formed us from the dust of the earth and breathed into us life and purpose. As we return these gifts in worship of you, we offer more than resources; we offer our hope. Let these gifts, given in trust, be signs of our partnership in the renewal of all creation. Awaken in us a holy longing, as deep as the groaning of the earth itself, for justice, healing, and new life. May our giving reflect our role as stewards of your redeeming work, until all the world rejoices in the glory of your hope. We make our offering with joy, in the name of Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

CONSECRATION OF THE ORGAN

We present the organ upgrades to be consecrated to the glory of God and for the service of this congregation as an instrument of worship.

**It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High.**

We declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness at night.

**For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work;
at the works of your hands, we sing for joy.**

Let us pray:

Eternal God, whom generations have worshiped through the gift of music, accept our praise of you expressed through this instrument, which we consecrate in your name and to your glory. Grant that its music may be a blessing to all who worship here. May the music we offer be so joined to your holy Word that your glory may surround and empower us for the service to which we are called, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #68 When in Our Music God is Glorified

(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated)

Fugue in D minor

J.S. Bach

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Mary Delaney, Jay Buehler, Carole Guffey, Sally Steinmeyer, Bobbie Moore
Maud Lipscomb-mother of Elizabeth Dice, Randall Galloway

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: Joe Haraschak 813-918-1916

Usher: Lysa Riggs

Liturgist: Kim Dodson

Coffee Hour: Susan & Frank Stark

Some liturgical selections are adapted from umcdiscipleship.org and re:Worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers on the altar are given by Les and Penny Rue to the glory of God and in celebration of the music ministry of Bob Kintner.

Please join us after worship for a luncheon as we celebrate the consecration of our organ upgrades and celebrate the music ministry of Bob Kintner.

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, facilitates this group. Please reach out to him if you have questions.

Website Revamp—Photos of the church, activities, and ministries are requested. Please send the JPG photo link to Cynthia Wood at cmwood50@gmail.com. We appreciate your submissions as we continue our work to update and refresh our LTUMC website.

The Prayer Ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 3:00pm. 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 4-6 PM.