



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church

9th Sunday after Pentecost

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Community Worship Service

July 26, 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.***

9th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

Bob Chilcott

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

Come, bless the Lord with me,

**for the Lord is compassionate and merciful,
filled with endless love.**

He forgives our sins, and heals the sickness inside us;

he surrounds us with love and mercy

and fills our lives with good things!

Let us worship God together!

HYMN #103 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, your extravagant love has called us together. Long before we knew you, you already knew us, and chose us to be your own—sisters and brothers in our Lord Jesus Christ. What amazing love you have shown us! And so we come before you with praise and thanksgiving, offering you the worship of our hearts and lives, and opening ourselves to the prompting and leading of your Holy Spirit. May the time we spend here in worship bring honor and glory to your name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 29:15-28 *Leah and Rachel*

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?"

¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹ Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her.

²⁴ (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵ When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" ²⁶ Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." ²⁸ Jacob did so and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Psalms 105:1-11 **UMH 828** *Give thanks to the Lord* (Please respond with the words in bold)

Romans 8:26-39 *God is for us*

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.

³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else?

³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 *Parables of the kingdom*

(Please stand as you are able.)

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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.)

Lord God, we remember with gratitude those people who generously sowed the seeds of faith in our lives. And we recognize how you have blessed our lives with the gift of the Holy Spirit so that our faith has miraculously and mysteriously grown. We confess the times we fail to involve ourselves in planting seeds of faith in the lives of others; the times when our personal agendas become more important than yours; the times when we have denied others the opportunity to expand their faith through our lack of interest or involvement; the times when our lives become so entangled with the values of the world that we forget what you have said and done and promised. Holy God, we know that when we become disconnected from you, our lives become parched and unfruitful and our faith becomes stunted and dry. Bless and renew our lives, we pray, so that we remain connected to you at all times and in all places, strengthening our faith to expand and, growing strongly and vigorously, to bear the fruit of your mercy, your love, your undying life. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Receive this good news: There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, for the power of the Spirit has freed us from the power of sin that leads to death.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Glory 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 #129 Give to the Winds Thy Fears

OFFERTORY How Can I Keep from Singing arr. Alan Bullard

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

Steadfast God, you search our hearts and know our needs even when we struggle to find the words. In your mercy, you strengthen us in our weakness and bind us together in love that cannot be broken. As we bring these gifts today, may they bear witness to your enduring promise: that nothing—not hardship, nor fear, nor even death itself—can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus. Bless these offerings, that they may bring hope to the weary, peace to the troubled, and joy to the hearts of your people. Through Christ, our Redeemer and Companion, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN #580 Lead On, O King Eternal

(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Improvisation

(Please be seated)

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Mary Delaney, Jay Buehler, Carole Guffey, Sally Steinmeyer,
Bobbie Moore, Randall Galloway, Ed Byrd

We extend our Christian sympathy to Elizabeth & Kevin Dice
on the death of Elizabeth’s mother, Maud Lipscomb, on July 19.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers on the altar are given by Randy & Susie Rush to the glory of God in memory of their son, Tyler Rush.

We welcome Olivia Hoyt as our vocalist in today's service.

Olivia is from Iowa and a student at Brevard College majoring in Music Education with a minor in Theatre. She is also a dance instructor. This is her second year to sing in our worship service.

The Prayer Ministry will begin meeting weekly this Sunday at 11:30 in the Minnich conference room.

Anyone is invited to join us on any given week as we lift up the prayer concerns of our community. Prayer requests may be mailed to

LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

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—Last call! 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.

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.

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: Mike Taylor

Liturgist: Brian Singleton

Coffee Hour: Lysa Riggs

Some liturgical selections are adapted from umcdiscipleship.org.