



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
6th Sunday after Pentecost

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship and Communion Service
July 5, 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.***

6th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE I Will Arise arr. Farrell and Shelley Smith

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

Come, all that are weary from carrying heavy burdens.

In Jesus, find help and rest.

Come, take what Jesus has to offer: love, forgiveness, and grace.

In Christ, find peace for your body and mind.

Come, sit for a while, and be refreshed.

**In God's Spirit, find respite and replenishment
for continuing the journey.**

Come, let us worship our God.

Let us follow our Savior, who leads us into life.

HYMN #698 God of the Ages

OPENING PRAYER

Ever-Present God, we lean on your presence with us. In times of weakness and need, yours is the strength by which we carry on, the shoulder upon which we rest our head. When our load is heavy and too much to bear, yours are the arms stretched out to help us and it is your grace on which we depend. In times of weariness and despair, we hear your voice calling us to seek you and the rest and help you offer. This is divine grace and the path that leads to wholeness of body, mind, and spirit, the path that leads to you. We offer our praise for your presence and seek your guidance as you meet us now in this time of worship. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 *Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah*

So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵ The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶ And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷ My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I live, ³⁸ but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴² "I came today to the spring and said, 'O Lord, God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! ⁴³ I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' ⁴⁴ and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.' ⁴⁵ "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷ Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸ Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹ Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁸ And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." ⁵⁹ So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. ⁶⁰ And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes."

⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man, and the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

⁶² Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb. ⁶³ Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field, and, looking up, he saw camels coming. ⁶⁴ And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel ⁶⁵ and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into his

mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Psalm 145:8-13 UMH 857 *God of compassion*

(Please respond with the words in bold.)

Romans 7:15-25a *The inner conflict of sin*

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 *The yoke of discipleship*

(Please stand as you are able.)

"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷ 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' ¹⁸ "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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, we come before you this day confessing that we don't understand our own actions. There are things we want to do, but we don't do them. Instead, we find ourselves doing the very things we hate. We need you, Lord. The harmful behaviors we tried to put down, we keep picking back up, and our souls are hurting. The chance we had to fix a broken relationship came, but anger rose up again, keeping us from reaching out to the very people we said we loved. We need you, Lord. The opportunities we have been praying for came, but fear, lack of confidence and lack of motivation drove them away. Lord, the good we want to do, we don't do; and the evil we hate doing, we just keep doing. What messed-up souls we are. Rescue us from works that lead to death; save us from self-destructive behaviors. We submit our lives into your hands. Help us to hold our hearts and minds in the keeping of your Spirit. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus says to each of us, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

In Christ, we are forgiven. The burden of sin is lifted and we can rest in knowing that we are not alone in our journey. Thanks be to God!

HOMILY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

STATEMENT OF FAITH UMH 881 The Apostle's 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.

OFFERTORY

Lord God of Abraham

Felix Mendelssohn

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 Redeemer, you know us completely—our good intentions, our wavering will, our stumbling steps. Like Paul, we confess the war within us: we long to do what is right, yet too often fall short. Still, you meet us not with condemnation, but with mercy and grace. So, we bring these offerings, not to earn your favor, but as signs of our gratitude for a Savior who rescues us from sin's grip. Use these gifts, and use us, to offer hope where there is despair, light where there is shadow, and love where there is brokenness. We give because you gave first—and because your Spirit empowers us to live not by our strength, but by your grace. In Christ's name, we pray, Amen.

HYMN Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

Texr: Sylvia Dansan/Tune: STUTTGART
adapt.and harm.by William Henry Havergal

1. Come to Me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler;
2. Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y;
3. Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles;
4. Rest in Me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler;

Come to Me with your dis - tress; Come to Me, you
Do not fear, my bur - den's light; Do not fear the
Take my yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I
Rest in Me and do not fear. Rest in Me, my

heav - y bur - dened; Come to Me and find your rest.
path be - fore you; Do not run from Me in fright.
am be - side you; Take and learn hu - mil - i - ty.
heart is gen - tle; Rest and cast a - way your care.

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 #437 This is My Song

(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 Improvisation

(Please be seated.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Bart Gilleland as our guest musician in worship. He is an accomplished baritone vocalist with performance credits from around the world. He has also been a music educator and choral conductor and has served as section leader, soloist, or cantor for numerous congregations, currently serving as cantor for Brevard's Jewish community. He was educated at Baylor University completing his master's and doctoral studies at The Ohio State University. He is also a swim coach, husband, father, and dog-dad. We are pleased to have him join us today.

Memorial Prayer Garden Preview Presentation—Next Sunday, July 12 during coffee hour after church. The memorial garden is funded and plans are well underway. Come learn more about the plans and see drawings. We are excited to see this project come to fruition.

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. Please RSVP at mldkjd@comporium.net or on the sign-up sheet in FH so we can plan for our food responsibly.

Coffee hour hosts needed through the summer! Please see the posters in the FH hallway to sign up. Your gifts shared in this way are appreciated by all as we fellowship together after church.

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 8:45am on Sundays. All are welcome! This is a 'come as you can' Bible Study and a study guide is provided.

Website Revamp—Photos of the church, activities, and ministries are requested. Send JPG photo links to Cynthia Wood at cmwood50@gmail.com. We appreciate your submissions as we work to update 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.

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.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Mary Delaney, Jay Buehler, Sally Steinmeyer, Bobbie Moore,
Maud Lipscomb, Randall Galloway, Vandy Vanderford

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

Ushers: Lysa Riggs, Joe Haraschak

Liturgist: Scott Walter

Coffee Hour: Nancee Salyer & Scott Walter

Liturgical selections are partially adapted from umcdiscipleship.org and re:worship.