



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
14th Sunday after Pentecost

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
August 30, 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.***

14th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Prelude in G minor

Robert Vandall

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

The Lord is here! This place is holy!

We are standing on holy ground.

You call us by name and invite us to come to you.

**We answer, "Here I am," and come to stand
on the ground of your presence.**

May we remember that all ground is holy ground,
**for you are, in all times and places,
calling us into your presence.**

The Lord is here!

We are standing on holy ground.

HYMN #158

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, you call us to turn away from our own petty concerns and to see you in the midst of our otherwise ordinary days. You call us to let go of our self-interest and to take up our cross, to find our lives by giving them up to your greater purpose. We come before you this morning with open hearts and open hands, eager to hear your Word, and eager to know your will. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, move within us and among us as we worship. May we see your presence; may we hear your call, may our minds and hearts be opened and so convicted that we may go from this holy place back out into the world, to live and work as your faithful disciples. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 3:1-15 *Holy Ground*

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." ¹³ But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

Psalms 105:1-7a, 26-27, 42-45 *Praise God in history*
(Please respond with the words in bold)

- ¹ O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- ² **Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.**
- ³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- ⁴ **Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.**
- ⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,
- ⁶ **O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob,
his chosen ones.** ⁷ **He is the Lord our God;**
- ²⁶ He sent his servant Moses and Aaron, whom he had chosen.
- ²⁷ **They performed his signs among them
and miracles in the land of Ham.**
- ⁴² For he remembered his holy promise and Abraham, his servant.
- ⁴³ **So he brought his people out with joy,
his chosen ones with singing.**
- ⁴⁴ He gave them the lands of the nations,
and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,
- ⁴⁵ **that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws.
Praise the Lord!**

Romans 12:9-21 *Overcome evil with good*

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21-28 *Take up your cross and follow*
(Please stand as you are able.)

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.

²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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.)

Redeeming God, out of the flames of your creation, your voice calls to us, marking us as your own. Just as you called Moses so long ago, so you call each one of us now to speak and act on your behalf in our world today. Forgive us when we are hesitant to follow, when we question your call, make excuses for our abilities, complain about our lack of time, or hoard our resources. Give us courage to step out in faith, to follow where you lead without hesitation or fear, trusting that your presence goes with us, and that you will equip us with all that we need when we need it. O God, like Peter, we want to be known as followers of Jesus, but we do not always want to follow Jesus. We don't want to listen when the conversation turns to the difficulty of the task. We cling tightly to our comfortable lives and grasp at worldly rewards. Holy and loving God, forgive all our thoughts and actions that would seek to protect us from the path to which you call us. For we are weak and fearful. But you are strong and faithful. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Loving Lord, in your forgiveness you offer again your invitation to know your love, to be loved, and to respond to your call. In hearing your voice may we know that we are made whole by your redemption and that you will sustain us on whatever journey to which you call us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and are offered the opportunity to walk with you. Thanks be to God! Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH UMH 884 Korean Methodist Church

(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 #338 Where He Leads Me

OFFERTORY Prelude in B minor, Op. 28, No. 6 Chopin

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

**Holy God, you call ordinary people from unexpected places
and send them into hard and holy work. As you met Moses in
the fire that did not consume, and as you met Peter on the
road of costly discipleship, meet us now in these gifts we
bring. Shape us by your presence, and not by fear; mold us
by service, and not by power; mark us by love that risks itself
for the sake of others. Receive our offering as a sign that we
trust you to be with us as we earnestly seek to follow Christ,
even when the way is demanding. Use what we give to bring
freedom, healing, and hope to us and to all the world. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #593

Here I Am, Lord

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated)

Prelude in A-flat Major

Robert Vandall

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Carl Shealey, Jay Buehler, Carole Guffey, Sally Steinmeyer,
Randall Galloway, Ed Byrd, Laura Livingston, Gary Landrum

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

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

Organist: Bob Kintner: 828-329-2457

Pianist: Kathy Palmer

Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434, Maria Buehler: 828-553-2128

Audio/Visual & Livestream: Joe Haraschak 813-918-1916

Usher: Mike Taylor

Liturgist: Cynthia Wood

Coffee Hour: Quint & Kim Jardine

Liturgical selections are adapted from umcdiscipleship, ministry matters, and re-worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the altar are given by Kellie & Drew Prusiecki in loving memory of Kellie's father Malcolm Applegate and Drew's parents Walter and Lillian Prusiecki.

Would you like to become a lay reader? Our current schedule of readers will be ending in mid-October. A new schedule will be made to carry us through the winter until next March/Easter. Please contact Kim Dodson at kidods2061@gmail.com if you would like to be included on this schedule, including dates you are likely NOT available. It is a gift to hear a variety of voices in worship and we appreciate those who share in the leadership of worship in this way.

Coffee Hour Host Needed next Sunday! Please check the charts in Fellowship Hall for open dates this fall for both Coffee Hour hosts and flowers. These gifts of hospitality are appreciated by all!

Name Tags--If any church attendees need a name tag, please contact Fred Markert at 828-553-3303 or let him know when you see him.

Scholarship Ministry--Through its mission committee, the Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church is proud to support twenty-four higher education students seeking degrees and/or certifications, dedicating more than \$55,000.00 in 2026/2027 outreach dollars to this vital mission. Our supportive congregation and the Scholarship Team are true blessings. Thank you all.

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.

The Prayer Ministry meets every Sunday after church 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.

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.