



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Proper 20, Sunday, September 21st

<p>10:00 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg</p>
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RINGING OF THE BELL – *To allow all worshippers to reflect and prepare for the service, please observe silence during the prelude.*

PRELUDE - Plein Jeu a la Couperin

Gordon Young

CALL TO WORSHIP

When we are surrounded on every side, wondering which way is up and which way is down...

Help us, God, for the glory of your name.

When we question which way to go and how to follow God's path for us...

Help us, God, for the glory of your name.

When we find our rest in God and long for others to know the sweet peace of God's embrace...

Help us, God, for the glory of your name.

Today, as we gather for worship, may we come ready to listen and discern God's help that meets us right where we are.

Help us, God, to receive your help and to extend your help to our neighbors, all for the glory of your name.

HYMN #358 - Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

***Great Healer, be our balm of Gilead,
for we ache to be made whole.***

***Come to us in times of trial
and heal our sin-sick souls.***

***Amid those who prey on your little ones,
help us live faithfully as children of light.***

***May we be found faithful in a little,
that you may entrust us with much. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 - *Jeremiah laments over Judah*

- 8:18 My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick.
- 8:19 Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people from far and wide in the land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?")
- 8:20 "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."
- 8:21 For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken, I mourn, and horror has seized me.
- 8:22 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?
- 9:1 O that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

Psalms 79:1-9 - *Deliver us and forgive our sins (Psalter Lesson)* *(Please read the bold text)*

- 79:1 O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.
- 79:2 They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the air for food, the flesh of your faithful to the wild animals of the earth.
- 79:3 They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them.**
- 79:4 We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us.
- 79:5 How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealous wrath burn like fire?**
- 79:6 Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you and on the kingdoms that do not call on your name.
- 79:7 For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation.**
- 79:8 Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.
- 79:9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins, for your name's sake.**

1 Timothy 2:1-7 - Make thanksgivings (Epistle Reading)

- 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone,
2:2 for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.
2:3 This is right and acceptable before God our Savior,
2:4 who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
2:5 For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human,
2:6 who gave himself a ransom for all--this was attested at the right time.
2:7 For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

Luke 16:1-13 - Serving God or wealth (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

- 16:1 Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property.
16:2 So, he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.'
16:3 Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg.
16:4 I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.'
16:5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'
16:6 He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.'
16:7 Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.'
16:8 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.
16:9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.
16:10 "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.

- 16:11 If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?
- 16:12 And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?
- 16:13 No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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, forgive us for saying that you are not enough. Though you give us shelter, food, clothing, and all that we need, we are not satisfied. We spurn your fatherly care like a petulant and ungrateful child. We take all that you give, but we shun all that you are. We accept your gifts but reject You. Like the people of Israel who requested an earthly king to be your stand-in and replacement, we ask for others to lead us. We allow our culture to nourish us, our politicians to govern us, and our currency to comfort us. You, alone, have we rejected and for that we humble our hearts before you in repentance. Forgive us for not recognizing you for who you are, not only the giver of all good gifts, but goodness itself, deserving of our worship and allegiance. We pray in the good name of Christ, Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH # 883 (United Church of Canada)

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

***who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.***

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

***to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.***

***In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.***

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN #375 - There is a Balm in Gilead

OFFERTORY – The Peace of Christ Clif Cason

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" - Colossians 3:15a

OFFERING

<https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches>

DOXOLOGY #94 - Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

(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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Unshakable and merciful God, you meet us in the ruins just as surely as in times of rejoicing. When all feels lost, you are not. When we stumble for answers, you remain our refuge. Receive these gifts, given not from abundance alone but from hearts that still dare to trust. Let them be signs of your presence in broken places, tools of healing, hope, and grace in a hurting world. Help us live our praise, even in lament, as your people who believe in your goodness—still. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #438 - Forth in Thy Name, O Lord

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Improvisation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Don and Gerrie McSwain to glorify God and in memory of Pastor Sabrina Tu, who faithfully and joyfully built churches and disciplined followers of Christ

Thank You Bob Kintner and an Anonymous Donor

The organ has been tuned along with the software needed to upgrade it. We also have a new acoustic piano in the sanctuary. This is all due to Bob Kintner's input and oversight with the help of an anonymous donor. What a blessing you both are!

John Rinker Memorial Video – September 28th at 2:00 PM

Please join us in celebrating the life of John Rinker in watching his memorial service on Sunday, September 28th at 2:00 PM in the Dice Hall. Please RSVP by September 18th to the Rinker Foundation office at 561-471-8359.

Volunteers needed for LTUMC Offertory Collection Process

- 1. Collect Donations at the end of Sunday service.*
- 2. Verify cash donations at church with co-signer before leaving church.*
- 3. Complete bank Deposit Ticket and LTUMC checklist form.*
- 4. Scan Ticket/form and donated checks. Email to Accountant and Treasurer.*
- 5. Deposit all donations w/Deposit Ticket at Wells Fargo Bank (Brevard or Cashiers).*

For questions please reach out to John Lefler, LTUMC treasurer at jdlefler013@gmail.com

Can You Help? The Outreach Committee Volunteers Needed

The Outreach Committee is looking for members to help plan future events like potlucks at the church. If you are willing to help out, please contact Mandy Stahl at LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

Administrative Council Meeting

The last Administrative Council meeting for 2025 will be Friday, October 24th. The meeting will be at 10:00 AM in the Minnich conference room.

Bible Study

The Bible Study meets on Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM in the Minnich Conference room. All are welcome! This is a come as you can Bible Study and a study guide is provided. It is led by Don Henderson. Please reach out to him if you have questions at bacpac@comporium.net

Our Daily Bread Devotionals

The next quarter of Our Daily Bread devotionals are located at both entrances of the sanctuary and in the Dice Hall. Please help yourself.

Student Scholar Bookmarks

We have our 2025-2026 student scholar prayer bookmarks available at both entrances of the church. Our scholars appreciate your prayers and support.

The Prayer Ministry

They meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the church. Please e-mail prayer requests to LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

AA Meetings Thursday Nights

The weekly AA meeting is every Thursday at 4:45 PM in the Dice Hall. To honor anonymity please do not go to the Parish building from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions. We especially pray for Chip Dixon, Bob Palmer, Don Scholl, Doug & Sally Bailey.

Please pray for those having or had a surgery, acute illness or injury and their recovery.

Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the passing of a loved one.

Please continue to pray for our student scholars, our local students, teachers and staff for the new academic year.

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

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

Organist: Bob Kintner: 828-329-2457

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh: 469-569-2314, administrator@laketoxawayumc.org

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

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

Liturgist: Brian Singleton