



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
January 26th, 2025

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Third Sunday after the Epiphany, January 26th

10:00 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg

RINGING OF THE BELL – *Please observe silence as we prepare for the service.*

PRELUDE

Prelude on "My Lord, What A Morning" Setting by Charles Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please stand as you are able*)

Day pours forth speech and night declares knowledge.

What voices speak without words or speech?

The heavens are telling the glory of God.

We listen but do not understand.

The Law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.

Who will teach us, that our hearts may rejoice?

Pray in the Spirit and you will perceive.

HYMN #101

From All That Dwell Below the Skies
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

We thank you, O God, for calling us into your church to be your people. "We have gathered, God of grace and wisdom, because we have heard your call. You have reached out to us in Jesus Christ; you have touched us with your Spirit, and we have turned toward you, seeking to love as we have been loved. We call upon your holy name: empower us to worship and serve you, walking gently on this earth, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 - Ezra reads the law

- 8:1 all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel.
- 8:2 Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month.
- 8:3 He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.
- 8:5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up.
- 8:6 Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.
- 8:8 So, they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.
- 8:9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.
- 8:10 Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Psalms 19 - The commandments give light to the eyes (Psalter Lesson) **(Pg. 750 UMH) (Please read the bold text)**

- 19:1 The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
- 19:2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**
- 19:3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
- 19:4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world.** In them God has set a tent for the sun,

- 19:5 which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and runs its course with joy like a strong man.
- 19:6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hid from its heat.**
- 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; **the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;**
- 19:8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; **the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;**
- 19:9 the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever; **the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.**
- 19:10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; **sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**
- 19:11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
- 19:12 But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults.**
- 19:13 Also keep your servant also from the insolent; let them have dominion over me! **Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.**
- 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a - You are the body of Christ (Epistle Reading)

- 12:12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.
- 12:13 For in the one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
- 12:14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.
- 12:15 If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.
- 12:16 And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.
- 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?
- 12:18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.
- 12:19 If all were a single member, where would the body be?

- 12:20 As it is, there are many members yet one body.
- 12:21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."
- 12:22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,
- 12:23 and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect,
- 12:24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member,
- 12:25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.
- 12:26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.
- 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.
- 12:28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.
- 12:29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work power deeds?
- 12:30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?
- 12:31a But strive for the greater gifts.

Luke 4:14-21 - Jesus reads the prophet Isaiah (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

- 4:14 Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region.
- 4:15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.
- 4:16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,
- 4:17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:
- 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recover of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed,

4:19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

4:20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

4:21 Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Please be seated)*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

***Merciful God, as we seek to know your ways,
may we be more ready to receive the gifts of others
than to trumpet the gifts we have received.***

We confess our sins against You and others.

Lay your call to Christian unity on our hearts,

as we listen to your precepts

and seek to live them each day.

As the heavens proclaim your praise,

and the day and the night reveal your truth,

open our hearts to those who need our care.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is given to you.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH *(New Zealand Affirmation)*

(Please stand as able)

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You created our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us.

You are God.

***You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.***

You came to us before we came to you.

***You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,***

who lived and died and rose again.

***You are with us now.
You are God.***

***You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.***

You are our One God. We worship you. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI (UMH #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 #144

This Is My Father's World
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Andante George Frederic Handel/arr. Hal Hopson

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***

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*Please continue standing*)

***God of our ancestors, Caretaker of our future,
thank you for your faithful love.
May the gifts we bring before you this day
honor the many ways you bless this church.
And may our offering reflect our commitment
to lead lives of love, as we continue Jesus' mission
to bring good news to the poor,
release to the captives, sight to the blind,
and freedom to the oppressed.
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Please be seated*)

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 #561 *(Please stand as you are able)*

Jesus, United by Thy Grace
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *(Please be seated)*

How Good, Lord, to Be Here J. S. Bach/setting by Mark Sedio

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

*The flowers on the altar for January, February and March are from **Paula and Fred Markert and Jim and Beth Holimon in memory of their mothers.***

Soup Supper

Our Prayer Ministry is sponsoring a Soup Supper on Wednesday, January 29th at 6:00 PM in the Dice Hall. The soup will be provided. Please feel free to bring a salad, bread, or dessert. Please email Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org if you plan come. Please do not let RSVPing deter you from coming.

Administrative Council Meeting

The first Administrative Council for 2025 will be on Friday, January 31, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the Minnich conference room. Please reach out to Scott Walter with questions.

Flowers & Coffee Hour Sign-Up Calendars

*The sign-up calendars are located in the Parish Hall. **For Coffee Hour, please reach out to Nancee Salyer at nsalyer331@aol.com and for Flowers please e-mail Beth Holimon at roxy1011@gmail.com and for flower wording for the bulletin please reach out to Saunders before 5:00 PM the Tuesday prior.***

Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Ministry meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the church. If you have a prayer request and cannot make it in person, please e-mail it to LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com

AA Meetings Thursday Nights

The weekly AA meeting is every Thursday at 4:45 PM in the Dice Hall. In an effort to honor anonymity, please do not go to the **Parish building from 4:15 PM – 6:00 PM on Thursdays.**

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions. Please continue to pray for Thomas Blackstock as he is on a new chemo treatment and loves cards; they brighten his days. His address is:

Thomas Blackstock, 28 Hidden Valley Ln. #58, Sapphire, NC 28774.

Please pray for those having or had a surgery and their recovery.

Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the recent passing of a loved one. We pray especially for the Saul family as Connie and Robin were killed in a one car accident on 1/21/25.

Please continue to pray for our student scholars, our local students, teachers and staff.

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

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

Pianist/Organist: Charlotte Gilmore

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

Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434 & Scott Walter: 314-374-2969

Livestream Chair: Joe Haraschak: 813-918-1916

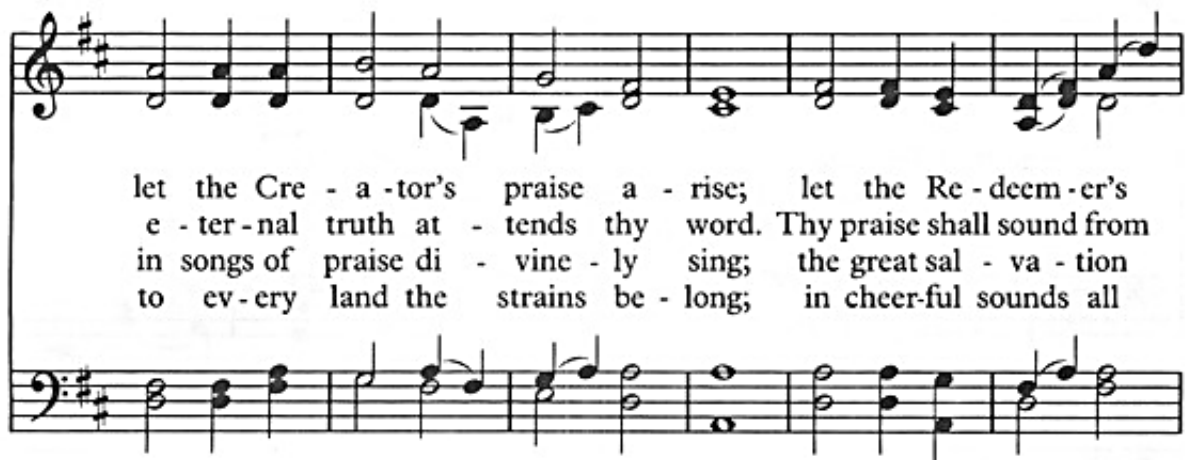
Liturgist: Lysa Riggs

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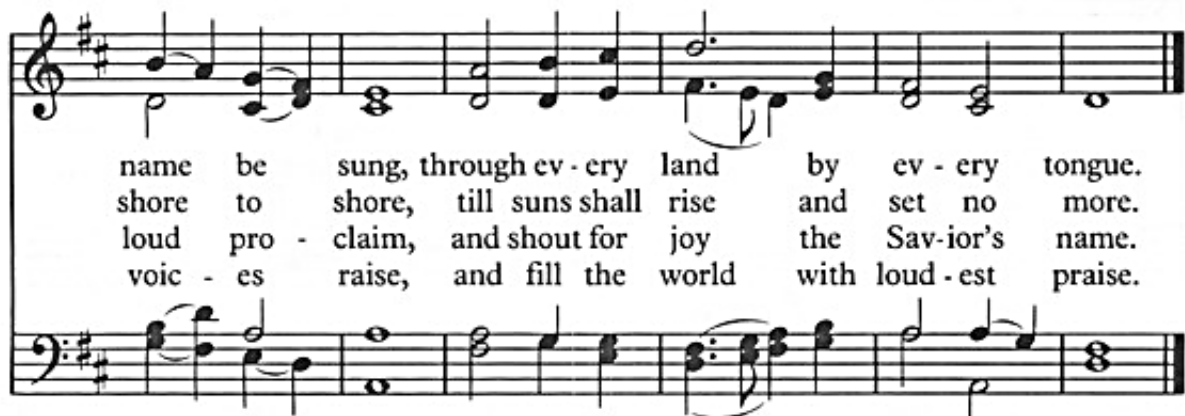
From All That Dwell Below the Skies 101



1. From all that dwell be - low the skies,
 2. E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord;
 3. Your loft - y themes, ye mor - tals, bring,
 4. In ev - ery land be - gin the song;



let the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise; let the Re - deem - er's
 e - ter - nal truth at - tends thy word. Thy praise shall sound from
 in songs of praise di - vine - ly sing; the great sal - va - tion
 to ev - ery land the strains be - long; in cheer - ful sounds all



name be sung, through ev - ery land by ev - ery tongue.
 shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.
 loud pro - claim, and shout for joy the Sav - ior's name.
 voic - es raise, and fill the world with loud - est praise.

WORDS: Sts. 1-2, Isaac Watts; sts. 3-4, anon., ca. 1781 (Ps. 117)
 MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793

DUKE STREET
 LM

144 This Is My Father's World

1. This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-tening ears all
 2. This is my Fa-ther's world, the birds their car-ols raise, the
 3. This is my Fa-ther's world. O let me ne'er for - get that

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world: I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world: he shines in all that's fair; in the
 This is my Fa-ther's world: why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
 rust - ling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev - ery - where.
 Lord is King; let the heav - ens ring! God reigns; let the earth be glad!

WORDS: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901
 MUSIC: Trad. English melody; adapt. by Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

TERRA BEATA
 SMD

561 Jesus, United by Thy Grace

1. Je - sus, u - nit - ed by thy grace
 2. Help us to help each oth - er, Lord,
 3. Up un - to thee, our liv - ing Head,
 4. Touched by the lode - stone of thy love,
 5. To thee, in - sep - a - rably joined,
 6. This is the bond of per - fect - ness,

and each to each en - deared, with con - fi - dence we
 each oth - er's cross to bear; let all their friend - ly
 let us in all things grow; till thou hast made us
 let all our hearts a - gree, and ev - er toward each
 let all our spir - its cleave; O may we all the
 thy spot - less char - i - ty; O let us, still we

seek thy face and know our prayer is heard.
 aid af - ford, and feel each oth - er's care.
 free in - deed and spot - less here be - low.
 oth - er move, and ev - er move toward thee.
 lov - ing mind that was in thee re - ceive.
 pray, pos - sess the mind that was in thee.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1742
 MUSIC: John B. Dykes, 1866

ST. AGNES
 CM