



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Epiphany of the Lord Sunday, January 5th, 2025*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service & Communion
Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 5th**

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

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

An Epiphany Suite - Part I "Prelude" Arrangement of WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET DER
MORGENSTERN, Setting by Charles Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, we enter the new year as we ended the last: gathered together for worship!

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from deep in the past: "Arise, shine; for your light has come."

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

The magi followed a star to find a small child who is the Light of the world.

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light.

So, let us receive the call of Isaiah and follow the example of the magi as we begin this new year turning our faces to God whose glory shows up among us as a vulnerable child, a poor carpenter, and a foot-washing servant who is the salvation of the world.

We gather to seek, find, and follow the Light today and every day. Amen.

HYMN #254

We Three Kings

Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OPENING PRAYER

***Gracious God, we come into your presence with joy and praise,
grateful for the gift of Christ Jesus in our lives.***

***As we celebrate this gift in our service of worship,
fill our hearts with joy and our spirits with the gift of your Holy Spirit. With
joy and gratitude, we pray. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6 - Nations come to the light

- 60:1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- 60:2 For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
- 60:3 Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- 60:4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
- 60:5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- 60:6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 - All shall bow down (Psalter Lesson) (Pg. 795 UMH)

(Please read the bold text)

- 72:1 Give the king your justice, O God, **and your righteousness to a king's son.**
- 72:2 May he judge your people with righteousness, **and your poor with justice!**
- 72:3 Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- 72:4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor!**
- 72:5 May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- 72:6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!**
- 72:7 In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
- 72:10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
- 72:11 May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!**

72:12 For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

72:13 **He has pity on the weak and the needy,** and saves the lives of the needy.

72:14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.

Ephesians 3:1-12 - The gospel's promise for all (Epistle Reading)

3:1 This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles,

3:2 for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you

3:3 and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,

3:4 a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

3:5 In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:

3:6 that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

3:7 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.

3:8 Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ

3:9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,

3:10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

3:11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

3:12 in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Matthew 2:1-12 - Christ revealed to the nations (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

2:1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem,

2:2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east, and have come to pay him homage."

- 2:3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him,
2:4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
2:5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:
2:6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"
2:7 Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.
2:8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."
2:9 When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was.
2:10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.
2:11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
2:12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #881 (*The Apostles' Creed*) (Please stand as you are able)

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;***

***And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,***

***the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

THE 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please be seated)*

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

***Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another,
and pray that you will fill us with your light,
that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name,
without counting the cost. In the name of Christ,
the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.***

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's light is present in this world.

Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness.

Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

***God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it.
God's grace is in the world, and our missteps will not overcome it.
We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.***

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

An Epiphany Suite - Part II "Meditation" Arrangement of WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET DER
MORGENSTERN, Setting by Charles Callahan

DOXOLOGY #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious Lord, whose light guides our steps, we bring these gifts in humble adoration. May they be used to spread your truth and love to all nations. As we journey into this new year, let our hearts remain focused on your presence and our hands open to your service. In the name of Christ, our guiding star, we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION #247

○ Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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, and concludes:...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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY

Brightest and Best (MORNING STAR)

Setting by Robert Hobby

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 #251

Go Tell It On The Mountain
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed with permission)

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL 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. Amen.

POSTLUDE (*Please be seated*)

As With Gladness Men Of Old (DIX) Setting by Robert Hobby

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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***

Flowers & Coffee Hour Sign-Ups

*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.*

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.***

Sharing House Staff Retreat – Wednesday, January 8th

*The Sharing House will be using the Dice Hall and kitchen **Wednesday, January 8th from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM** for their staff retreat. It is the same day as our Prayer Ministry in the Sanctuary. Please do not use the Fellowship Hall during this time.*

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

We have a special prayer request from Amanda Martin. "It is with a heavy heart that I request prayer for Noah and his friends. Two of the victims in the New Orleans attack were his friends and senior classmates.

One classmate, Kareem Badawi, passed away. The other, Parker Vidrine, is on life support but stable. Noah has been in school with both since kindergarten, Episcopal is a very small school and they were all close.

Kareem was Noah's classmate and friend, but William was also close to him as they played football together. Kareem was an AP scholar and attended the University of Alabama. You may have already seen his photo on the news.

Please add the families of Kareem Badawi, Parker Vidrine (who will hopefully make a full recovery from his injuries which are significant as he was hit directly by the truck), and all the classmates of Episcopal High School of Baton Rouge class of 2024 to the prayer list if you can. Many of Noah's friends were eye witnesses to this horror and are not okay. They are too young for this, only 18 and 19-year-olds.

I thank God Noah had a quiet new year's with me in Lake Tox, and did not go home to be with his former classmates in New Orleans."

An update on Parker Vidrine. He successfully had his spleen removed and is on life support. They were able to wake him up and had small communication with him. Parker does not remember anything about the night. They are hope to remove him off of life support and out of ICU next week.

Noah flew back to Baton Rouge, LA on Thursday to attend a memorial service for Kareem and candlelight vigil for Parker at Episcopal.

Amanda thanks everyone and our Prayer Ministry for praying for Kareem and his family, Parker and his family, Noah & William and all their classmates impacted by this tragedy.

If you wish to reach out to Amanda and Noah here are their contact information:

Amanda Martin, (225) 241-5843

Noah Vincent (225) 999-2665 | NVincent@uark.edu

6232 Windrush Hollow

Baton Rouge LA 70808

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions. We pray for Thomas Blackstock, Doug Bailey, the Guffeys and Judy Lefler.

Please pray for those having or had a surgery and their recovery. We pray for Kayla, the granddaughter and Rory, the newborn great grandson of John & Char Holbrook.

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

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 Leader: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Joe Haraschak 813-918-1916

Liturgist: Beth Holimon

Hymns are located on the next few pages and used with permission via One License #737113-A

We Three Kings

Em Em d⁷ Em E7 em

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we
 2. Born a King in Beth - le - hem's plain, good I bring to
 3. Frank - in - cerse to of - fer him a - life; in - cense owns a
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a - life of
 5. Gu - rious now he - hold him a - rise; King and God and

tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain.
 crown him a - gain, King for ev - er, cease ing nev - er.
 De - i - ty night; prayer and pray - ing, voice rais - ing,
 gath - er - ing gloom; sor - row - ing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing,
 sac - ri - fice: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

ENCLOSURE 1000001
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 J. H. W. & J. H. W. & J. H. W. & J. H. W. & J. H. W.

We Three Kings

Am F#m/F# B⁷ F# Refrain D⁷ G

fa - low - ing you - ner star,
 o - ver us all to reign,
 wor - ship - ing God on high, O star of
 sealed in the stone - cold tomb,
 sounds through the earth and skies.

won - der, star of light, star with ray - al beau - ty bright, west - ward

lead - ing, still pre - ced - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

247 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

1. O Morning Star, how clear and bright,
your beam shines forth in truth and light!

My Sovereign meek and lowly!

O Root of Jesse, Promised One,
my God and Ruler, you have won
my heart to serve you solely!

You are holy,
great and glorious, all-victorious,
Rich in blessing,
rule and might o'er all possessing.

2. Come heavenly Brightness, Light divine,
and deep within my heart now shine,

there make yourself an altar!

Fill me with joy and strength to be
your member, joined eternally
in love that cannot falter;

Longing for you
does possess me; turn and bless me;

Here in sadness
eye and heart long for your gladness.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

251

Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo, a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born,

Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text: African-American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work II, 1873-1925, verses, alt.
 Tune: African-American spiritual; setting: Hugh Porter, 1897-1960
 Text and music: public domain

GO, TELL IT
 76 76 WITH REFRAIN
 LR 2720; LR 40911

393

Spirit of the Living God

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

WORDS: Daniel Iverson, 1926; adapt. (Acts 11:15)
 MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

LIVING GOD
 75.75.875

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