

*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 1st, 2024*

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service & Communion
First Sunday of Advent, December 1st

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

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying Johann Gottfried Walther

CALL TO WORSHIP

The days are shorter, and darkness comes early to our lives.

Lord, hear our prayers through the darkness.

People of faith, prepare for the coming reign of Christ!

***As we gather to pray and sing and listen,
a spirit of anticipation and hope fills us.***

*The days are surely coming, says Our God,
when justice and righteousness will prevail.*

***May our worship illuminate our hearts and minds,
freeing us to respond joyfully and filled with hope
to God's call in the days to come.***

HYMN #196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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

THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader 1: *In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out:*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Reader 2: *In the midst of our encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come" (Mark 13:35).*

Congregation: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of our hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

(Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.)

OPENING PRAYER

Holy Source of life and hope, as we come together this day, open our ears to hear, open our eyes to see, and open our hearts to love, that we may come to know your ways and follow your paths.

Help us grow in love for one another, and for all creation, as we prepare for the coming of the one who calls us to turn from our false gods to you, Holy One, the true source of our salvation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 33:14-16 - A righteous branch springs from David

33:14 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

33:15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

33:16 In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Psalms 25:1-10 - Your paths are love and faithfulness (Pg. 756 UMH)

(Psalter Lesson) (Please read the bold text)

25:1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

25:2 O my God, in you I trust; not let me be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

25:3 Let none that wait for you be put to shame; **let them be ashamed who are clothed with treachery.**

25:4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; **teach me your paths.**

25:5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, **for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.**

25:6 Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

25:7 Remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

25:8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way,

25:9 and leads the humble in what is right, and teaches them their way.

25:10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and testimonies.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 - Strengthen hearts of holiness (Epistle Reading)

3:9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?

3:10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

3:11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

3:12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

3:13 And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Luke 21:25-36 - Watch for the coming of the Son of Man (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

21:25 "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

21:26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

21:27 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

21:28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

21:29 Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees;

21:30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

21:31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

21:32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

21:33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

21:34 "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly,
21:35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.
21:36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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)

***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

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Voluntary on "Vom Himmel Hoch"
Setting by Gordon Young

DOXOLOGY #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, in this season of anticipation, we offer our gifts with hopeful hearts. As we prepare for the fullness of your kingdom, may these offerings be a sign of our readiness and desire to live attentively. Use them to bring justice, righteousness, and joy to our world. Surprise us with your presence and help us to look up, to pay attention, and to embrace the hope you bring. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION #229

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
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:

Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

Richard Warner

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 #203

Hail To The Lord's Anointed

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)

Variations on "Puer Nobis Nascitur"

M. Praetorius/arr. H. Hopson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Sing-a-long & Parish Dinner – December 4th 6:00 PM

*Please join us on **December 4th at 6:00 PM in the Dice Hall.** A meal of lasagna and salad will be provided by Osteria. Feel free to bring your family and a dessert. **Please RSVP to Saunders by Noon, Monday, December 2nd at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org.***

Memorial Services

Robert Patterson on Friday, Dec. 6th at 10:00. The Pattersons lived in Burlingame.

Andy Harvill on Saturday, January 18 at 2:00 PM.

Our Daily Bread Devotionals

The next quarter: December – February of Our Daily Bread devotionals are available. They are located at both entrances of the sanctuary.

Year-End Gifts

*If you are planning on making a year-end gift, please ensure to use our mailing address:
LTUMC, P.O. Box 83, Lake Toxaway, NC 28747.*

Please email Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org if your winter address has changed to ensure your 2024 giving statement gets to you for your taxes. Giving statements will be mailed in the early part of 2025. If you have stock you want to exercise, please reach out to John Lefler at jdlefler013@gmail.com.

Prayer Ministry

They meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the church. 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. **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. We pray for Thomas Blackstock for his last treatment later this month.

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.

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

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

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

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

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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 196

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
 2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,
 yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
 now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
 spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744
 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

HYFRYDOL
 87.87 D

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

229

Unison

1. In-fant ho - ly, in-fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle
 2. Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing

stall; ox-en low-ing, lit-tle know-ing, Christ the babe is Lord of
 new saw the glo-ry, heard the sto-ry, tid-ings of a gos-pel

all. Swift are wing-ing an-gels sing-ing, no-els ring-ing, tid-ings
 true. Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the

Interlude, Ending

bring-ing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 mor-row: Christ the babe was born for you.

WORDS: Polish carol; trans. by Edith M. G. Reed, 1925 (Lk. 2:6-20)

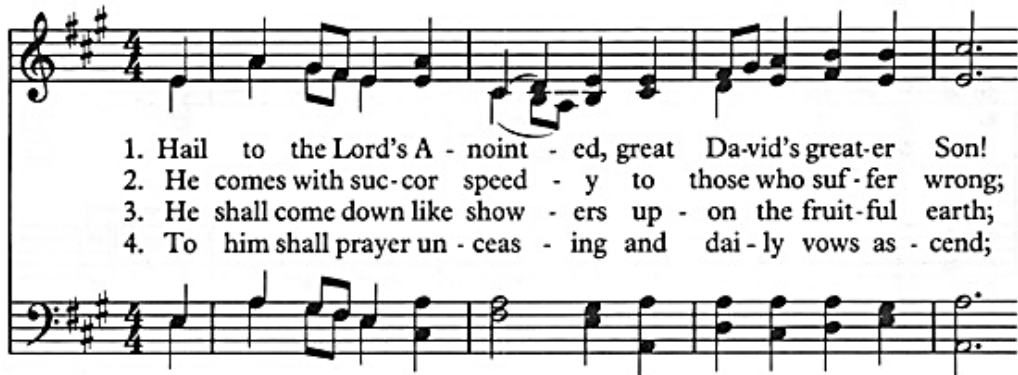
MUSIC: Polish carol; arr. by Edith M. G. Reed, 1926; harm. by Austin C. Lovelace, 1964

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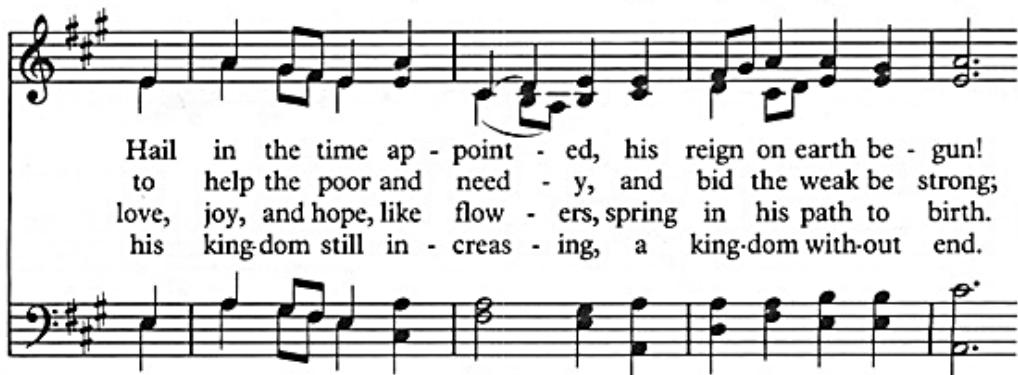
Harm. © 1965 Abingdon Press

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

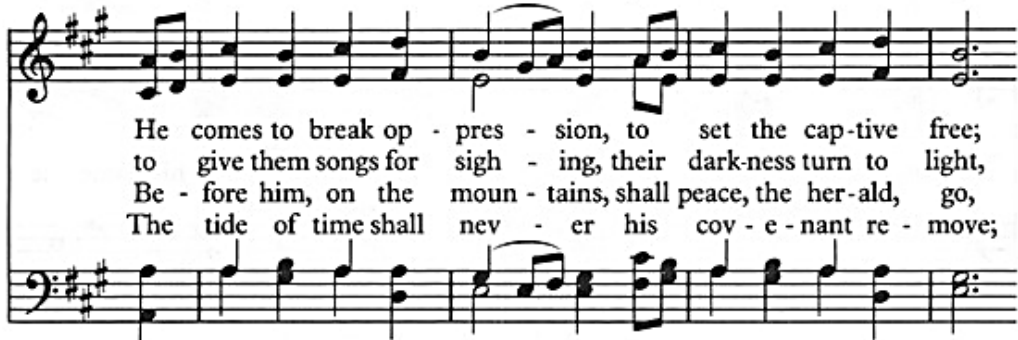
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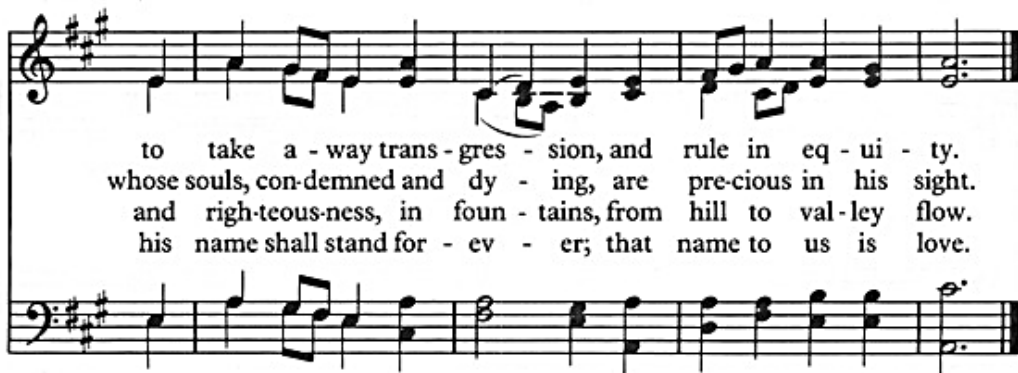
1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da-vid's great-er Son!
 2. He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong;
 3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;



Hail in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.
 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
 Be - fore him, on the moun - tains, shall peace, the her - ald, go,
 The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight.
 and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
 his name shall stand for - ev - er; that name to us is love.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1821 (Ps. 72)
 MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle*, 1784, alt;
 adapt. and harm. by W. H. Monk, 1868

ELLACOMBE
 76.76 D

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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