



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Community Worship Service**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22nd**

**10:00 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S\\_Cfg1sWCg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg)

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

**PRELUDE**

What Child is This?

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

*L: Look, the time is getting ripe for the tree. The flowers have bloomed.*

***P: God's promises are being fulfilled in our midst.***

*L: From the beginning we thought there was no hope.*

***P: But little leaves made their way to the light - as we make our way to God's light.***

*L: Then the buds showed themselves - as we take our journey toward God.*

***P: Now the branch is in flower - as we are called to be fruitful with God's promise for us.***

*L: Praise be to God.*

***P: Hallelujah! AMEN.***

**HYMN #234**

O Come All Ye Faithful

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

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

***Reader 1:*** Today we light four candles- the first Candle is called HOPE and it is a reminder that God's promises are true.

***Reader 2:*** The second Candle is called PEACE, God's gentle loving peace for our lives.

*Reader 1:* The third Candle is called JOY, because of God's absolute presence in our lives.

***Reader 2:*** The fourth Candle is called LOVE, because of God's great love for us.

***All:*** Come, all is ready. Let the light of these candles, called HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE, bring brightness to your spirits.

*(The first, second, third, and fourth Advent Candles are lighted)*

**OPENING PRAYER** *(Please be seated)*

***God of the impossible and unlikely, God of pregnant old women and virgins, you turn our conventional world upside down, where the hungry are fed, and arrogant rich are turned away. Instill in us unthinkable marvels. Make us pregnant with wonder through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.***

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Micah 5:2-5a - From Bethlehem comes a ruler**

5:2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

5:3 Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

5:4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth,

5:5 and he shall be the one of peace.

**Luke 1:46b-55 - My spirit rejoices in God (Psalter Lesson)**

*(Please read the bold text)*

1:46b "My soul magnifies the Lord,

**1:47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

1:48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

**1:49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;**

1:50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

**1:51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

1:52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;

**1:53 he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.**

1:54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

**1:55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**

**Hebrews 10:5-10 - *I have come to do your will (Epistle Reading)***

- 10:5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;
- 10:6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.
- 10:7 Then I said, 'See, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."
- 10:8 When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law),
- 10:9 then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.
- 10:10 And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**Luke 1:39-45, 46-55 - *Blessed are you among women (Gospel)***

*(Please stand as you are able)*

- 1:39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,
- 1:40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
- 1:41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
- 1:42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
- 1:43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?
- 1:44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.
- 1:45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."
- 1:46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
- 1:47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
- 1:48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
- 1:49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;
- 1:50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
- 1:51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 1:52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

1:53 he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.  
1:54 He has come to the aid his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
1:55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

*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.)*

***Holy God, you promised to do great things for us, yet we do not trust you. You extend your mercy to us, yet we do not trust you.***

***You lift up the humble, you fill the hungry with good things, and yet we still do not trust you. Forgive us, and help us to trust in the promises you have given us.***

***In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.***

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*The ancient promises of God are fulfilled.*

*God does not forget us.*

*God's mercy extends from generation to generation.*

*Let our souls rejoice in God!*

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

**HOMILY**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH #887** *(Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 37-39 - Please stand as able)*

*Leader:*

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*

*Shall tribulation or distress,*

*or persecution or famine,*

*or nakedness or peril or sword?*

***People:***

***No,***

***In all things we are more than conquerors***

***Through the One who loved us.***

***We are sure that neither***

***death nor life,***

***nor angels, nor principalities,***

***nor things present, nor things to come,***

***nor powers, nor height, nor depth,***

***nor anything else in all creation,***

***will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Thanks be to God! 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 #206**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

**OFFERING**

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

**OFFERTORY**

Of the Father's Love Begotten

**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 grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to your call. As Mary responded with faith, we too say, "Here we are, let it be to us." Use these offerings to further your kingdom on earth. Empower us to be bearers of Christ's presence, bringing hope and love to our community. May our giving reflect the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, and bring light and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' 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 #220 (Please stand as you are able)**

Angels from the Realms of Glory  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

## **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE** *(Please be seated)*

O Come, All Ye Faithful arr. Cindy Berry

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Flowers on the Altar**

*The flowers on the altar are given by Scott Walter and Nancee Salyer in celebration of this Christmas season. The flowers are prayerfully dedicated to their daughters Kate, Abbey, and Lisa and their cherished grandsons, Connor and Colin. May the season's joy and blessings fill our hearts with peace and love.*

### **Christmas Eve Service 12-24-24**

*Our candlelight Communion service will be on Christmas Eve at 7:00 PM*

### **Thank you**

*Thank you to Toxaway Falls Garden Club for purchasing the Christmas wreaths for the Narthex doors.*

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:jdlefler013@gmail.com).*

## **PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY**

*Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions. Especially for Thomas Blackstock.*

*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. Especially for the Patterson family.*

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

## **STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS**

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, [marcus61dodson@gmail.com](mailto:marcus61dodson@gmail.com)

Pianist/Organist: Kathy Palmer

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh, 469-569-2314, [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto: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: Lysa Riggs

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

234 O Come, All Ye Faithful

G G/B G D/F# G D/F# G C G/D D Em

1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-umphant, O  
 1. A-des-te, fi-de-les, lae-ti tri-umphan-tes; ve-  
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E-ter-nal,  
 3. Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion; O  
 \*4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cra-dle,

Em C#°/E D A D Bm D/F# G D/A A7 D D

come ye, O come ye, to Beth-le-hem.  
 ni-te, ve-ni-te in Beth-le-hem.  
 lo, he shuns not the Vir-gin's womb;  
 sing, all ye cit-i-zens of heaven a-bove!  
 leav-ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;

234 O Come, All Ye Faithful

G/B Am G Am7 G D/F# G Em C D

Come and be-hold him, born the King of an-gels;  
 Na-tum vi-de-te Re-gem an-ge-lor-um.  
 Son of the Fa-ther, be-got-ten, not cre-at-ed;  
 Glo-ry to God, all glo-ry in the high-est;  
 we too will thith-er bend our joy-ful foot-steps;

Refrain  
 N.C. G D G D G G D G C G/D D

O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him,  
 Ve-ni-te a-do-re-mus, ve-ni-te a-do-re-mus,

G Am G D/F# A7/E D D/C G/B C G/D D7 G G

O come, let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord.  
 ve-ni-te a-do-re-mus, Do-mi-num.

United Methodist Hymnal 234  
 WORDS: John F. Wade, ca. 1740; trans. by Frederick C. Gahleitner, 1961, and others  
 MUSIC: ADRIEN FRIEDLÉ, for J. John F. Wade, ca. 1740; harm. from Collections of Monette or Antiphoni, 1792

234 O Come, All Ye Faithful

\*5. Child, for us sinners  
 poor and in the manger,  
 we would embrace thee  
 with love and awe.  
 Who would not love thee,  
 loving us so dearly?  
 Refrain

\*\*6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
 born this happy morning,  
 Jesus, to thee be  
 all glory given.  
 Word of the Father,  
 now in flesh appearing:  
 Refrain



Hymn #206 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

*1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.*

*Refrain:*

*In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*2 I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]*

*3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]*

# 220 Angels from the Realms of Glory

1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2. Shep - herds, in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions  
 4. Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;  
 hope and fear; sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

*Refrain*

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: Come and wor - ship,  
 ye have seen his na - tal star:  
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1816 (Lk. 2:8-20; Mt. 2:1-12; Mal. 3:1)  
 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867

REGENT SQUARE  
 87.87.87