



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
First Sunday after Christmas December 29th, 2024*

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
First Sunday after Christmas, December 29th

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 in A-flat by Robert Vandall

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

Children of God, Jesus Christ is born!

God has come to make a home among us!

Yet the story is not over. After birth comes the ordinary and mundane growing, maturing, and discovering, even for the Christ Child.

In the ordinary and mundane, God has come to make a home among us.

And sometimes, in the midst of the everyday, something surprising happens, and we discover anew just what God is up to in our midst.

In the surprising and spectacular, God has come to make a home among us.

Children of God, let us worship the God who dwells with us in all things and all seasons.

We come to make our home with God who makes a home among us. Amen.

HYMN #224

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

***Loving God, may we be found and may we find a place called home,
a place where faith holds us and grace renews us,
where forgiveness longs for us to be who you will us to be.***

***May we find a place called home where we are accepted as we are
where we are taken in and loved unconditionally, a place called home,
where we belong and our souls fit,***

***and our questions are allowed and our anger is heard,
and our needs are recognized***

and our pain is held and our names are known.

And may be that place, O God,

***this community this group of travelers and doubters and companions on the
way, this home where your place is our place,
and place isn't a building but a way of being together
in relationship held together by love.***

Loving God, Homecoming God

***may we make this a home to all who still yet seek
a place of grace-filled sanctuary and gracious welcome
So be it! Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 - Samuel grew in favor with all

- 2:18 Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod.
- 2:19 His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.
- 2:20 Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the loan that she made to the LORD," and then they would return to their home.
- 2:26 Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

Psalm 148 - God's splendor is over earth and heaven (Psalter Lesson) (Pg. 861 UMH) (Please read the bold text)

- 148:1 *Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!*
- 148:2 Praise the LORD, all his angels; praise the LORD, all his hosts!**
- 148:3 *Praise the LORD, sun and moon; praise the LORD, all you shining stars!*
- 148:4 Praise the LORD, highest heavens, and all waters above the heavens!**
- 148:5 *Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded and they were created.*
- 148:6 who established them forever and ever; and fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**
- 148:7 *Praise the LORD from the earth, sea monsters and all deeps,*
- 148:8 fire and hail, snow and smoke, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!**
- 148:9 *Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!*
- 148:10 Beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**
- 148:11 *Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!*
- 148:12 Young men and maidens together, old men and children!**
- 148:13 *Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name alone is exalted; whose glory is above earth and heaven.*

148:14 *God has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful ones, for the people of Israel who are near their God. Praise the LORD!*

Colossians 3:12-17 - Clothe yourselves in love (Epistle Reading)

- 3:12 Therefor, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
- 3:13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
- 3:14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
- 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.
- 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.
- 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 2:41-52 - Jesus increased in favor with all (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

- 2:41 Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover.
- 2:42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival.
- 2:43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this.
- 2:44 Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.
- 2:45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.
- 2:46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.
- 2:47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.
- 2:48 When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you."
- 2:49 He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"
- 2:50 But they did not understand what he said to them.

2:51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.

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.)

Most Loving God,

***because you knew how twisted
and corrupted our humanity had become,
you sent us your Holy Son—***

***Because you have stood in our shoes
and understand how difficult it is to live
by the rule of law in an often cold,
unfeeling, and ruthless world—***

***Because you have given us a gracious spirit,
forgiving those who sin against us,
and you call us to a ministry of reconciliation
in a fractured world—***

We confess our sins to you and seek your forgiveness.

We proclaim him Jesus, our Savior,

for he will save our world from its many sins. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*God of Christmas, God of unspeakable grace,
forgive and renew us all, that our lives may declare
the wonders of that Holy Love that has called us out of darkness
into glorious Light.*

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #881 *(The Apostles' Creed - Please stand as 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.***

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 #238

Angels We Have Heard on High
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Away in a Manger

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)

Lord of Light and Love, we offer these gifts with hearts transformed by the miracle of your son's birth. As the shepherds returned with joy and praise, may these offerings spread your joy and love. Use them to bless those in need, to bring hope and peace, and to further your kingdom here on earth. In this season of Advent, may we continue to glorify and praise you in all we do. 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 #245 (Please stand as you are able)

The First Noel

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please be seated)

Carol of the Bells arr. John S. Dixon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Have you recently moved?

If you moved during 2024 and your winter address has changed, please provide your new address to Saunders by e-mail at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org. This will help with getting your giving statement for 2024. The statements will be mailed to you in early 2025.

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 and the Guffeys.

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, our local students, teachers and staff.

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

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

Pianist/Organist: Kathy Palmer

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: Mandy Stahl

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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice 224

1., 2., 3. Good Christian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and

voice; give ye heed to what we say: News, news!
 voice; now ye hear of end - less bliss: News, news!
 voice; now ye need not fear the grave: News, news!

Jc - sus Christ is born to - day! Ox and ass be -
 Je - sus Christ was born for this! He hath o - pened
 Jē - sus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and

fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now,
 heav - en's door, and ye are blest for - ev - er - more,
 calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day, Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

WORDS: 14th cent. Latin; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1855
 MUSIC: German melody; harm. by Gary Alan Smith, 1988

IN DULCI JUBILO
 66.727.78.55

238 Angels We Have Heard on High

1. An-gels we have heard on high sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep-herds, why this ju-bi-lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?
 3. Come to Beth-le-hem and see Christ whose birth the an-gels sing;
 4. See him in a man-ger laid, whom the choirs of an-gels praise;

and the moun-tains in re-ply ech-o-ing their joy-ous strains.
 What the glad-some tid-ings be which in-spire your heav-en-ly song?
 come, a-dore on bend-ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
 Ma-ry, Jo-seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a,

in ex-cel-sis De-ol Glo - - -

ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-ol

WORDS: Trad. French carol; trans. *Crown of Jesus*, 1862, alt. (Lk. 2:6-21)
 MUSIC: French carol melody; arr. by Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937;
 harm. by Austin C. Lovelace, 1964
 Harp. © 1964 Abingdon Press

GLORIA
 77.77 with Refrain

The First Noel

245

1. The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the
 3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -
 5. Then en - tered in those Wise Men three, full rev - erent -

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay
 east, be - yond them far; and to the earth it
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was
 hem it took its rest; and there it did both
 ly up - on the knee, and of - fered there, in

keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 his pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

WORDS: Trad. English carol (Lk. 2:8-14; Mt. 2:1-12)
 MUSIC: Trad. English carol; harm. from *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

THE FIRST NOEL
 Irr. with Refrain