



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
February 16th, 2025

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 16th

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

I Lay My Sins on Jesus Arr. by Howard Helvey

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

Jesus declared, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."

May we learn to depend on God's abundant provision as we worship today.

Jesus declared, "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled."

May we learn to follow Christ's call to provide for the hungry as we worship today.

Jesus declared, "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."

May we learn to pay attention to those who suffer and mourn and to extend God's comfort and hope to those who need it as we worship today.

Jesus declared, "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man."

May our worship teach us to rejoice in this day and every day as we live out the good news in our families, neighborhoods, community, and world!

HYMN #733

Marching to Zion

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

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

***God of blessings and woes,
bless us this day with lives filled with love, caring, generosity, and deep,
abiding hope.***

***We pray that your kingdom will dwell among all people, and that we may be
instruments of your love
and your grace.***

***Open our hearts with the joy
of healing a world filled with brokenness
and pain.***

***In the name of the one
who taught us the ways of light and love,
be in our worship and in our very lives. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 17:5-10 - Those who trust the Lord are like trees

- 17:5 Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.
- 17:6 They shall be like a shrub in the desert and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.
- 17:7 Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.
- 17:8 They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.
- 17:9 The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse-- who can understand it?
- 17:10 I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Psalms 1 - The way of the righteous (Psalter Lesson) (Pg. 738 UMH)

(Please read the bold text)

- 1:1 Blessed are those who do not walk in the counsel of the wicked; **or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of scoffers;**
- 1:2 but their delight is in the law of the Lord, **and on God's law they meditate day and night.**
- 1:3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, that yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. **In all that they do, they prosper.**
- 1:4 The wicked are not so but are like chaff which the wind drives away.
- 1:5 Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment; nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;**
- 1:6 for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, **but the way of the wicked will perish.**

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 - Christ has been raised (Epistle Reading)

- 15:12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?
- 15:13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised,
- 15:14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain.

- 15:15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ--whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.
- 15:16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised.
- 15:17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins.
- 15:18 Then those also who have died in Christ have perished.
- 15:19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.
- 15:20 But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Luke 6:17-26 - Blessings on the poor, woes on the rich (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

- 6:17 He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.
- 6:18 They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.
- 6:19 And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.
- 6:20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.
- 6:21 "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.
- 6:22 "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.
- 6:23 Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.
- 6:24 "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.
- 6:25 "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.
- 6:26 "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets."

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.)*

***Gentle Guide, Loving Guardian Father,
heal our foolish ways.
We long to forsake the advice of the wicked
and the slow seduction of sinful paths,
but our speech and actions often belie us.
We yearn to be like trees planted beside living waters,
bearing the fruit of righteousness in due season,
but the seat of scoffers calls to us
and the temptation to return evil for evil
withers our souls like shrubs in the desert.
Our hearts seek the ways of your Spirit
and the waters of life,
but our footsteps lead us into arid, desert sands.
This is not your hope and plan for us.
Forgive us.
Turn us again to the healing you so freely offer,
and mend the brokenness in our lives
and in our world. Amen.***

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*God looks at us in our brokenness,
and offers blessings to all who turn to the Lord.
With the assurance of God's faithful love,
choose this day to be people of blessing.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.*

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #883 *(United Church of Canada)*
(Please stand as able)

***We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
 who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
 to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the church:
 to celebrate God's presence,
 to love and serve others,***

*to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.*

*In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.*

We are not alone.

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 #337

Only Trust Him

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Elegy by Alexander Tasman

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*)

Gracious God, who blesses us in our brokenness and rejoices with us in our joy, we bring these gifts as an offering of hope and love. May they be used to heal the hurting, feed the hungry, and welcome the weary. Help us to be a community that reflects your kingdom, where all find acceptance and grace. 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 #467 (Please stand as you are able)

Trust and Obey

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please be seated)

Psalm and Alleluia by Robert Glenn Palmer

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.***

Fellowship Dinner

*There will be a fellowship dinner on **Wednesday, February. 26 at 6 PM.** This will be an **Italian night with the main dishes provided by The Prayer Ministry Group.** If you would like to bring something, we would invite you to consider bringing salad, bread or dessert. **Please communicate by email to Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayunc.org by Monday, February 24 at noon if you plan to attend so there can be adequate food prepared.** We are inviting you to consider asking a neighbor or friend to come with you. If you know someone who is a part of our fellowship who has not attended church recently, call them and offer to pick them up. We also plan to have an "icebreaker" again as a way of getting to know each other better.*

Administrative Council Meeting

*The first Administrative Council for 2025 will be on **Friday, February 28, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the Minnich conference room.** Please reach out to **Scott Walter** with questions.*

Spring Bible Study

*The **Spring Bible Study** will begin on **Sunday, March 9th at 8:45 AM** in the **Bill Minnich Conference room.** This is a come as you can Bible Study and a study guide will be provided. **It will be led by Don Henderson.** Please reach out to him if you have questions at bacpac@comporium.net. The study guides are in the Bill Minnich conference room.*

Model Cars for Thomas Blackstock

*Model cars are available for you to take home as a reminder to be in prayer for Thomas Blackstock daily in his cancer journey. When he and his family return to Charlotte for the month of the treatment and T cell infusion, we are asking you to mail the cars with a note to Thomas. We will provide the address as the date gets closer. **Please reach out to Many Stahl or Jo Ditzel for details** about mailing the cars, so we spread them out over the month he will be in Charlotte. 10 Cars were taken home on Sunday, February 9. We hope to get 10 more family units to pick up a car. **Thank you in advance for participating in this wonderful prayer outreach!***

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. There were some complications after his T cell harvest. He remains hospitalized with a plan for a new chemo therapy to start as there was a discovery of lymphoma in the brain. We are praying for a positive response to the new chemo so Thomas can receive the T cells when they are ready in March. Please pray for Kay and Tom and their health and stamina as they support Thomas through this process. He loves cards; they brighten his days. His address is: Thomas Blackstock, 28 Hidden 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.

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: Scott Walter

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

Marching to Zion

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
 2. Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
 3. The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets
 4. Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - ery tear be dry;

join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
 but chil - dren of the heav - en - ly King, but chil - dren of the
 be - fore we reach the heav - en - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
 we're march - ing through Em - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Em -

sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and
 heav - en - ly King may speak their joys a - broad, may
 heav - en - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or
 man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to

thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur -
 speak their joys a - broad, may speak their
 walk the gold - en streets, to walk the
 fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er

Only Trust Him

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1. Come, ev - ery soul by sin op - pressed, there's
 2. For Je - sus shed his pre - cious blood rich
 3. Yes, Je - sus is the truth, the way that
 4. Come then and join this ho - ly band, and

mer - cy with the Lord; and he will sure - ly
 bless - ings to be - stow; plunge now in - to the
 leads you in - to rest; be - lieve in him with -
 on to glo - ry go, to dwell in that ce -

give you rest, by trust - ing in his Word.
 crim - son flood that wash - es bright as snow.
 out de - lay, and you are ful - ly blest.
 les - tial land where joys im - mor - tal flow.

Refrain

On - ly trust him, on - ly trust him, on - ly trust him now.

He will save you, he will save you, he will save you now.

WORDS: John H. Stockton, 1874
 MUSIC: John H. Stockton, 1869

STOCKTON
 CM with Refrain

Trust and Obey

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,
 2. Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share,
 3. But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of his love
 4. Then in fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at his feet,

what a glo - ry he sheds on our way!
 but our toil he doth rich - ly re - pay;
 un - til all on the al - tar we lay;
 or we'll walk by his side in the way;

While we do his good will, he a - bides with us still,
 not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
 for the fa - vor he shows, for the joy he be - stows,
 what he says we will do, where he sends we will go;

and with all who will trust and o - bey.
 but is blest if we trust and o - bey.
 are for them who will trust and o - bey.
 nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.

WORDS: John H. Sammis, 1887 (1 Jn 1:7)
 MUSIC: Daniel B. Towner, 1887

TRUST AND OBEY
 669 D with Refrain