



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany February 2nd, 2025*

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service & Communion
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 2nd

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

Morning Has Broken - Gaelic Melody arr. by Lloyd Larson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, we come to worship today with expectations: how we expect to feel, what we expect to experience, songs we expect to sing, or prayers we expect to pray. We find comfort in the familiar.

We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.

Sometimes what feels familiar grows stale. We stop noticing the power of our prayers. We hear but don't listen to the Word. We sing without letting the music seep into our hearts. Yet, God is still here, moving and working among us.

We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.

We may meet God in a familiar voice speaking a hard word, in a song we love that pierces our hearts, in a prayer that we receive in a new way. Because God is here, moving and working among us.

We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.

Children of God, come! Let us worship, ready to embrace God's Word already at work among us, even when we are challenged to recognize God in the familiar and unfamiliar alike.

We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here. Thank be to God! Amen.

HYMN #117

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

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

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we come to you with day, seeking your guidance and strength. You have called us to ministries for which we feel inadequate. Help us to understand that it is your love that will support and sustain our efforts. Give us the courage to place our trust in your abiding presence. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 1:4-10 - A prophet to the nations

- 1:4 Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
- 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
- 1:6 Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."
- 1:7 But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.
- 1:8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD."
- 1:9 Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth.
- 1:10 See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Psalms 71:1-6 - You have been my strength (Psalter Lesson) (Pg. 794 UMH)

(Please read the bold text)

- 71:1 In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame!
- 71:2 In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me!**
- 71:3 Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.
- 71:4 Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.**
- 71:5 For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.
- 71:6 Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.**

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 - Without love, a noisy gong (Epistle Reading)

- 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
- 13:2 And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.
- 13:3 If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.
- 13:4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant
- 13:5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs;
- 13:6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.
- 13:7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- 13:8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.
- 13:9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part,
- 13:10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.
- 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.
- 13:12 For now, we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.
- 13:13 And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Luke 4:21-30 - The prophet Jesus not accepted (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

- 4:21 Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."
- 4:22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"
- 4:23 He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'"
- 4:24 And he said, "Truly I tell you; no prophet is accepted in his hometown.

- 4:25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land,
- 4:26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.
- 4:27 There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."
- 4:28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.
- 4:29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff.
- 4:30 But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder - Spiritual arr. by Cindy Berry

DOXOLOGY #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Compassionate God, who sees beyond our boundaries and loves without limit, we bring these offerings with grateful hearts. Use them to proclaim your good news, heal the broken, and extend your love to all, especially those we struggle to accept. Transform our gifts into a beacon of hope and inclusion that reflects the boundless love of Christ in every corner of our community. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION #618

Let Us Break Bread Together
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 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 #133

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
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*)

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing - Carl Glaser, setting by John Carter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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*

2024 Giving Tax Statements

The 2024 Giving Tax Statements have been mailed. Please watch your mail and if you have not received it, please reach out to Saunders at adminstrator@laketoxawayumc.org. She will ask our CPA for a PDF of it and then email you a copy of it.

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 as he is on a new chemo treatment and 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. Connie and Robin were killed in a one car accident on 1/21/25. We pray especially for the Saul family: Bryan, their son and daughter-in-law, Kendra, and their two grandsons Cadan and Fynnian.

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 Leader: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434 & Scott Walter: 314-374-2969

Audio/Visual for 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

117 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne, still may we dwell se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges, in thy sight, are like an eve - ning gone;
 5. Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, bears all who breathe a - way;
 6. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come;

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!
 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing, thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night, be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 they fly for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the open - ing day.
 be thou our guide while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 90)

MUSIC: Attr. to William Croft, 1708; harm. by W. H. Monk, 1861

ST. ANNE

CM

618 Let Us Break Bread Together

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees, (on our knees)
 (2. Let us) drink wine to - geth - er on our knees, (on our knees)
 (3. Let us) praise God to - geth - er on our knees, (on our knees)

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees. (on our knees)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me) 2. Let us
 3. Let us

me) 4. Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees, (on our knees)

let us praise God to - gether on our knees. (on our knees)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the ris-ing sun,

O Lord, have mercy if you please. (if you please)

Fine

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual; MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual, adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986.
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Leaning on the Everlasting Arms 133

1. What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev - er -
 2. O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev - er -
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last - ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last - ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing,
 Lean-ing on Je - sus,

lean - ing,
 lean-ing on Je - sus, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean -
 ing, lean - ing,

Je - sus, lean-ing on Je - sus, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

WORDS: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887 (Dt. 33:27)
 MUSIC: Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

SHOWALTER
 10 9.10 9 with Refrain

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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