



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Community Worship Service**  
**Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany, February 23rd**

**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**

Were You There? Arr. Cindy Berry

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

*Take delight in the Lord and receive the desires of your heart.*

***We will bring a generosity of spirit  
and sing the harmony of mercy.***

*The meek shall inherit the land and rejoice in God's love.*

***We praise the Lord of mercy,  
pouring it out for all.***

*Do good and trust the Lord.*

*Love first; forgive first; give first.*

***We come to worship, to heed the Word,  
and to grow in faith and love.***

**HYMN #102**

Now Thank We All Our God

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

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

***Holy Jesus,***

***You call us into a life that others have told us is easy, but it is not.***

***You challenge us to forgive, to love our enemies,  
to bless those who curse us.***

***We want the easy way,  
but You have given us the hard path.***

***Grant us the patience and endurance to journey with You,  
to allow ourselves at times to stumble,***

***to live into the hard way so that we might fully experience***

***Your love, grace, and peace in this world,***

***by becoming a people full of love and grace and forgiving others.***

***In Your name, we pray. Amen.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Genesis 45:3-11, 15 - Joseph forgives his brothers**

- 45:3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.
- 45:4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.
- 45:5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.
- 45:6 For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.
- 45:7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors.
- 45:8 So, it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.
- 45:9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay.
- 45:10 You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.
- 45:11 I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.'
- 45:15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

### **Psalms 37:1-11 - The lowly shall possess the land (Psalter Lesson)** ***(Pg. 772 UMH) (Please read the bold text)***

- 37:1 Do not be angry because of the wicked, do not be envious of wrongdoers!
- 37:2 For they will fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.**
- 37:3 Trust in the LORD and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
- 37:4 Take delight in the LORD, who will give you the desires of your heart.**
- 37:5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in God, who will act.
- 37:6 bringing forth your vindication as the light, and your right as the noonday.

**37:7 Be still and wait patiently before the LORD; do not be angry because of those who prosper in their way, because of those who carry out evil devices!**

37:8 Refrain from anger and forsake wrath! Do not be angry; it leads only to evil.

**37:9 For the wicked shall be cut off; but those who wait for the LORD shall possess the land.**

37:10 Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look at their place, they will not be there.

**37:11 But the meek shall possess the land, and delight in abundant prosperity.**

**1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 - The mystery of the resurrection (Epistle Reading)**

15:35 But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?"

15:36 Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

15:37 And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

15:38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen and to each kind of seed its own body.

15:42 So, it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

15:43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.

15:44 It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

15:45 Thus, it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

15:46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the physical and then the spiritual.

15:47 The first man was from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven.

15:48 As was one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as is one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven.

15:49 Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven.

15:50 What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

**Luke 6:27-38 - Love your enemies (Gospel)**

***(Please stand as you are able)***

- 6:27 "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you;
- 6:28 bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you.
- 6:29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.
- 6:30 Give to everyone who ask of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again.
- 6:31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.
- 6:32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.
- 6:33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.
- 6:34 If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.
- 6:35 Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.
- 6:36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
- 6:37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven;
- 6:38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

*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.)*

***Lord God, we come to you as imperfect creatures.  
Like Joseph's brothers, we're afraid of the past  
and are wary of the future.***

***Yet, we yearn to feel your warm embrace.  
We long to touch your love and forgiveness,  
despite our shortcomings.***

***Ease our journey toward mercy,  
as we grow in faith and love.  
Help us bless those who curse us  
and to pray for those who mistreat us.  
This is your direction for our lives  
and we will follow as we are able.  
Grant us your forgiveness as we confess our sins. Amen.***

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*God's love and mercy are freely available to all.  
When we trust and delight in God's mercy,  
we are better able to show this mercy  
to those around us.  
Because God can do this, you can do it.  
We can do it together!*

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

### **HOMILY**

#### **STATEMENT OF FAITH ##889 (1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1:15; 3:16)**

***(Please stand as able)***

**Leader:**

*There is one God  
and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus,  
who came as a ransom for all,  
to whom we testify.*

**People:**

***This saying is sure***

***and worthy of full acceptance:***

***That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners,  
and was manifested in the flesh,  
vindicated in the Spirit,  
seen by angels,  
proclaimed among the nations,  
believed in throughout the world,  
taken up in glory.***

***Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel. 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 #390**

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

**OFFERING**

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

**OFFERTORY**

Just as I Am Arr. Larry Shackley

**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)*

*Merciful God, who calls us to love beyond measure, we offer these gifts as a sign of our commitment to your teachings. Help us love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and bless those who curse us. May our offerings bring healing and hope, reflecting your boundless grace in our community. 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 #156** *(Please stand as you are able)*

I Love to Tell the Story  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

**BENEDICTION**

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

Lord, I Want to be a Christian Arr. Cindy Berry

## **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 put cheese (dairy products) and nuts on the side due to allergies. Please communicate by email to Saunders at [administrator@laketoxawayunc.org](mailto: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.

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

**The Ash Wednesday Service will be on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.**

### **Spring Bible Study**

The **Spring Bible Study** will begin on **Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:bacpac@comporium.net).

### **LTUMC Name Tags**

We are ordering name tags. If you need one, please email Saunders at [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org). They are magnet backs unless you need a pin back. Please specify which type you need.

### **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. Their email is: [LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com](mailto:LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com). 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](mailto:nsalyer331@aol.com) and for Flowers please e-mail Beth Holimon at [roxy1011@gmail.com](mailto: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 as he is on a new chemo treatment in Charlotte 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.**

**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](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

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**

## 102 Now Thank We All Our God

1. Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voic - es,  
 2. O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,  
 3. All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en;

who won-droustings has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;  
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;  
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en;

who from our moth - ers' arms has blessed us on our way  
 and keep us still in grace, and guide us when per - plexed;  
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore;

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
 and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

WORDS: Martin Rinkart, 1663; trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1858  
 (Sir. 50:22-24)

MUSIC: Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

NUN DANKET  
 67.67.66.66

# Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive 390

1. "For - give our sins as we for - give," you  
 2. How can your par - don reach and bless the  
 3. In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the  
 4. Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls, and

taught us, Lord, to pray; but you a - lone can  
 un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and  
 truth we dim - ly knew: what triv - ial debts are  
 bid re - sent - ment cease; then, bound to all in

grant us grace to live the words we say.  
 will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
 owed to us, how great our debt to you!  
 bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

WORDS: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1966 (Mt. 6:12)

MUSIC: *Supplement to Kentucky Harmony*, 1820; harm. by Gerald H. Knight, 1980

DETROIT  
CM

Words © 1969, 1983 Rosamond Herklots, by permission of Oxford University Press; harm. © 1980 Hope Publishing Company

156 I Love to Tell the Story

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a -  
 2. I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it  
 3. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re -  
 4. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it

bove, of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his  
 seems than all the gold - en fan - cies of all our gold - en  
 peat what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly  
 best seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the

love. I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis  
 dreams. I love to tell the sto - ry, it did so much for  
 sweet. I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er  
 rest. And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new

true; it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
 me; and that is just the rea - son I tell it now to thee.  
 heard the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.  
 song, 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in glo - ry,

WORDS: Katherine Hankey, ca. 1868  
 MUSIC: William G. Fischer, 1869

HANKEY  
 76.76 D with Refrain

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.