



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
March 9th, 2025

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
First Sunday in Lent, March 9th

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

It Is Well with My Soul (VILLE DU HAVRE) Bliss/arr. Raney

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

On this first Sunday in Lent, we join Jesus in the wilderness, a place of wild and dangerous things, of testing and temptation away from the security of home.

God, rescue us in the wilderness!

Once again, we watch and listen as Satan throws out temptation upon temptation, and we find our security in Jesus, who does not waver from the truth.

God, rescue us within the wilderness!

Once again, we face our own frailty and realize that the wilderness is not nearly as dangerous as our choices to prioritize selfish gain and hoarding of power.

God, rescue us through the wilderness!

Once again, we call upon God in the wildernesses of our lives, and we trust God's faithful reply:

Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN #66

Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

God, you are our refuge.

***You are the shore in sight,
you are hands that reach out,
you are the ground on which to rest.***

God, you are our strength.

***You are the life we long for,
you are the refusal to give up,
you are the keys of home we carry with us.***

God, you are our help in time of trouble.

***We call on you from the ruins and the rubble,
We call on you from the wildness and the deep,
We call on you to meet us in this place! Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 - Saved from Egypt

- 26:1 "When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it,
- 26:2 you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.
- 26:3 You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.'
- 26:4 When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God,
- 26:5 you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.
- 26:6 When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us,
- 26:7 we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.
- 26:8 The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders;
- 26:9 and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.
- 26:10 So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God.
- 26:11 Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16 - God shall keep you (Psalter Lesson) ***(UMH Pg. 810) (Please read the bold text)***

- 91:1 Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
- 91:2 will say to the Lord, **"My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."**
- 91:9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your habitation,
- 91:10 no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.**
- 91:11 For God will give his angels charge over you to guard you in all your ways.
- 91:12 They will bear you up on their hands lest you dash your foot against a stone.**
- 91:13 You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.**

91:14 Because they cleave to me in love, I will deliver them; **I will protect them, because they know my name.**

91:15 When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.

91:16 I will satisfy them with long life, and show them my salvation.

Romans 10:8b-13 - You will be saved (Epistle Reading)

10:8b "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim),

10:9 because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10:10 For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation.

10:11 The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame."

10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.

10:13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Luke 4:1-13 - The temptation of Jesus (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

4:1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,

4:2 where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.

4:3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread."

4:4 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

4:5 Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

4:6 And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please.

4:7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."

4:8 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

- 4:9 Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,
- 4:10 for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'
- 4:11 and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"
- 4:12 Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
- 4:13 When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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.)

Jesus,

We confess that when we read about your temptations, we excuse ourselves. After all, we reason, we are not you. Of course, you passed the test, we say. You're God, right? But we mere mortals have no expectation that we can withstand evil like you did. But we are reminded that you are not only Savior; you are example. You faced the temptation to prove yourself, to be spectacular, and to have consuming power. And you walked away, resisting. Forgive us when we have not resisted; when we have yielded to temptation. Forgive us for loving power and prestige more than God. Help us to choose a life rooted in God's word and grace. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God will provide for your needs. Place your trust in God. You are not alone. God is with you always. The world cannot offer to you such abiding riches as the presence of God. Amen.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #882 (Apostles' Creed, Ecumenical Version)

(Please stand as able)

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe 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, died, and was buried;***

***he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living 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 #377

It Is Well with My Soul
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

What Wondrous Love Is This (WONDROUS LOVE) Walker/arr. Cherwien

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)

Faithful God, who journeys with us through the wilderness of our lives, as we offer these gifts, we remember your sustaining presence. In this period of spiritual renewal, strengthen us to resist temptation and guide us to live in community with love and grace. May these offerings be signs of hope and acts of compassion that reflect the love you have shown us in Christ. Empower us to rise together, supporting one another on this journey of faith and transformation. In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, 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 #269 (Please stand as you are able)

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please be seated)

Andantino in E-flat Major Walczynski

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.***

Spring Bible Study

*The **Spring Bible Study** is **Sunday mornings, 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.*

LTUMC Name Tags

We are ordering name tags. If you need one, please email Saunders at 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. 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. Thomas has not been responsive to traditional treatments for his cancer. The cancer has ravaged his body and left him bed ridden. He is currently waiting for his successfully harvested T-cells to be manufactured into Car-T cells which should be complete by the end of March. At that time, the cells will be infused back into his body where they will fight the cancer much more aggressively. The biggest challenge for Thomas and his medical team right now is to keep him stable until his Car-T cells are ready. Thomas loves cards as they brighten his days. His address is: Thomas Blackstock, 208 Hidden Ln. #58, Sapphire, NC 28774. Please also pray for Tom and Kay as they support Thomas.

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: Charlotte Gilmore

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: Beth Holimon

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

66 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to the throne thy
 2. Praise the Lord for grace and fa - vor to all peo - ple
 3. Fa - ther - like, God tends and spares us; well our fee - ble
 4. An - gels in the heights, a - dor - ing, you be - hold God

trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; praise God, still the same as ev - er,
 frame God knows; moth - er - like, God gent - ly bears us,
 face to face; saints tri - um - phant, now a - dor - ing,

ev - er - more God's prais - es sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!
 gath - ered in from ev - ery race. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious now God's faith - ful - ness.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet God's mer - cy flows.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

WORDS: Henry F. Lyte, 1834 (Ps. 103)
 MUSIC: John Goss, 1869

LAUDA ANIMA
 87.87.87

Alt. tune: REGENT SQUARE

It Is Well with My Soul

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way,
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come,
 3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought!
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,

when sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my
 let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ has re -
 My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the
 the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall re -

lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is
 gard - ed my help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own
 cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the
 sound, and the Lord shall de - scend, e - ven so, it is

Refrain

well with my soul.
 blood for my soul. It is well with my soul,
 Lord, O my soul!
 well with my soul. It is well with my soul,

it is well, it is well with my soul.

WORDS: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873
 MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss, 1876

VILLE DU HAVRE
 11 8.11 9 with Refrain

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days 269

1. Lord, who through-out these for-ty days for
 2. As thou with Sa-tan didst con-tend, and
 3. As thou didst hun-ger bear, and thirst, so
 4. And through these days of pen-i-tence, and
 5. A-bide with us, that so, this life of

us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to
 didst the vic-tory win, O give us strength in
 teach us, gra-cious Lord, to die to self, and
 through thy pas-sion-tide, yea, ev-er-more in
 suf-fering o-ver past, an Eas-ter of un-

mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.
 thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.
 chief-ly live by thy most ho-ly word.
 life and death, Je-sus, with us a-bide.
 end-ing joy we may at-tain at last.

WORDS: Claudia F. Hernaman, 1873 (Mt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13)
 MUSIC: USA folk melody; arr. by Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938;
 harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988

LAND OF REST
 CM

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