



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, April 6th, 2025

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service & Communion
Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 6th

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

Sinfonia from Partita #2 by JS Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship, remembering God's goodness that has carried us and sustained us to this present moment.

We remember the days when God covered us in love and filled us with joy.

We come to worship, weary from stress, heavy with grief, and wondering when relief will come.

We long for the days God covered us in love and filled us with joy.

We come to worship to remember and remind one another that God's love has never left us, and God's joy cannot be extinguished.

God, restore us that we know your love and your joy once again.

We come to worship to remember and become the Body of Christ, a community called to restore the world around us.

God, empower us to be your restoration people who fill the world with love, laughter, and abundant life. Amen.

HYMN #117

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

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

OPENING PRAYER

***Come to this sanctuary, this house, this home, Holy Christ,
And let us receive you with lavish welcome.***

You are the Restorer of our fortunes,

The Promise of new life –

We pour out our praise to you.

Fill this room with your Spirit:

The sound of wind, the warmth of flame, the scent of perfume

And fill our hearts with your compassion,

***Not just in this time and place,
But in all times and in all places,
So that as we celebrate the great things you have done for us,
We may also embody the love you give to all. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 43:16-21 - The Lord gives water in the wilderness

- 43:16 Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,
- 43:17 who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down; they cannot rise; they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
- 43:18 Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.
- 43:19 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
- 43:20 The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,
- 43:21 the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

**Psalm 126 - God does great things for us (Psalter Lesson)
*(UMH Pg. 847) (Please read the bold text)***

126:1	When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
126:2	Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."
126:3	The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.
126:4	Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb!
126:5	May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!
126:6	Those who go forth weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Philippians 3:4b-14 - To know Christ and his resurrection (Epistle Reading)

- 3:4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:
- 3:5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;
- 3:6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
- 3:7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

- 3:8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ
- 3:9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.
- 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,
- 3:11 if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
- 3:12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me.
- 3:13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
- 3:14 I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

John 12:1-8 - Mary anoints Jesus for his burial (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

- 12:1 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.
- 12:2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him.
- 12:3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.
- 12:4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said,
- 12:5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?"
- 12:6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)
- 12:7 Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.
- 12:8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #882 (The Ecumenical Apostles' Creed) (Please stand as you are 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.***

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

Sonatine, 2nd mvt by Maurice Ravel

DOXOLOGY #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving God, source of all joy, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude. As Mary poured out her love for Jesus with costly perfume, so we pour out our gifts before you, seeking to honor you with all that we have. During this reflective Lenten period, may our offerings remind us of the abundance you've poured into our lives. Help us to give extravagantly, not out of duty, but from hearts filled with joy and gratitude. Bless these gifts and use them to bring your hope to the world. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION #599

Break Thou the Bread of Life
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 #374

Standing on the Promises
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*)

Simple Gifts, Variations 1 and 4 Shaker Tune Arr. by John Carter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 is led by Don Henderson. Please reach out to him if you have questions at bacpac@comporium.net.

Thomas Blackstock Memorial Service

The memorial service for Thomas Blackstock will be Saturday, April 12th at 3:00 PM.

Parish Dinner

We will be having our next parish dinner on April 23rd at 6:00 PM in the Dice Hall. It will be a Mexican themed with Cinco de Mayo approaching. Please keep nuts and cheese on the side due to food allergies.

Missions Committee Announces Emergency Grant Awarded

The Missions Committee (formerly known as the Outreach Committee) is pleased to announce that, at their March meeting, an emergency grant of \$5,000 was awarded to North Toxaway Baptist Church (NTBC) for Disaster Relief. They are performing a worthwhile service of feeding victims of the storm and volunteers helping with storm recovery. To date, they have served over 8000 meals, a worthy endeavor. NTBC is one of LTUMC's Mission partners, though this grant was in addition to the monies we have awarded them towards their great Food Pantry ministry.

No More Hymns in Bulletins & on Our Website

After April 20 (Easter Sunday), the weekly email of the bulletin will no longer include the hymn texts with music. The Church Website will not have the hymns either. If you participate at home and sing the hymns or follow in the hymnal, Pastor Marcus would like to suggest you go to www.Cokesbury.com and search for the UMC hymnal and purchase one for home use. The hymnals are available at a cost of \$28.99; there is a large print version also. There will be additional costs related to shipping and taxes. This change is prompted by a need to be in compliance with copyright laws. Pastor Marcus polled several regular on-line worshippers and learned most do not use the hymns, but we wanted to give you advance notice so you could have the hymnal to join in singing if you desire.

Are You Interested in Joining LTUMC?

*Pastor Marcus will be meeting with anyone who would like to join LTUMC. He will be meeting with you in the **Bill Minnich conference room after the 4/6 service.***

Administrative Council Meetings

*The following dates have been scheduled for the remaining Administrative Council meetings for 2025: **Friday, June 6; Friday, August 22; and Friday, October 24. The meeting times are 10:00 AM in the Bill Minnich conference room.***

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.

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 at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org before 5:00 PM the Wednesday 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 pray for those having or had a surgery, acute illness or injury and their recovery. We pray for Tacia Butz who is healing from an accident while hiking.

Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the recent passing of a loved one. We especially pray for Nancy & Don Henderson. Nancy Henderson's cousin, for whom she was guardian, died unexpectedly. His name is Mike Harrison.

Nancy & Don Henderson's address is: 12076 Rosman Hwy., Lake Toxaway, NC 28747

We pray for Tom and Kay Blackstock and Hallie, their daughter & her family as they grieve the loss of Thomas. Thomas Blackstock died 3/20/25 after his valiant fight with cancer. Kay and Tom are thankful to the entire congregation for all of your prayers and support throughout this very difficult period of time. Their address is: Tom & Kay Blackstock, 208 Hidden Ln. #58, Sapphire, NC 28774.

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: Stephanie Taylor

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

Break Thou the Bread of Life

599

1. Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
2. Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,

as thou didst break the loaves be - side the sea;
as thou didst bless the bread by Gal - i - lee;

be - yond the sa - cred page I seek thee, Lord;
then shall all bond - age cease, all fet - ters fall;

my spir - it pants for thee, O Liv - ing Word!
and I shall find my peace, my all in all.

WORDS: Mary A. Lathbury, 1877
MUSIC: William F. Sherwin, 1877

BREAD OF LIFE
64.64 D

374 Standing on the Promises

1. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ my King,
 2. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es that can - not fail,
 3. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ the Lord,
 4. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es I can - not fall,

through e - ter - nal a - ges let his prais - es ring;
 when the howl - ing storms of doubt and fear as - sail,
 bound to him e - ter - nal - ly by love's strong cord,
 lis - tening ev - ery mo - ment to the Spir - it's call,

glo - ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,
 by the liv - ing Word of God I shall pre - vail,
 o - ver - com - ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's sword,
 rest - ing in my Sav - ior as my all in all,

stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

WORDS: R. Kelso Carter, 1886 (Eph. 6:14-17)
 MUSIC: R. Kelso Carter, 1886

PROMISES
 11 11.11 9 with Refrain

Refrain

Stand - ing, stand - ing,
Stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior;

stand - ing, stand - ing,
stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,

I'm stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

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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