



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Eleventh Sunday in Pentecost

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Sunday, August 24th

10:00 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg

RINGING OF THE BELL – *To allow all worshippers to reflect and prepare for the service, please observe silence during the prelude.*

PRELUDE - Violin Sonata III Arcangelo Corelli (1653 - 1713)

Adagio, Allegro

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: With great rejoicing we come to the house of the Lord today!

P: God is our refuge and our stronghold.

L: The power and love of God flow through this gathering.

P: We place our whole trust in God's mighty compassion for us.

L: God of life, when life is broken,

P: we turn to you.

L: Loving Christ, when hearts are broken,

P: you come to us.

L: Holy Spirit, this broken world needs us;

P: flow through us to all the world.

L: Come, let us worship the Lord!

P: Let us celebrate the presence of God here in this place and in all our lives.

AMEN.

HYMN #103 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

Lord God, whose power and mercy have extended to all ends of creation, pour your love on us this day that we might be healed and be made ready to serve you by serving others in this world that you have created. In Jesus' Name, we pray. 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 - You have been my strength (Psalter Lesson) **(UMH Pg. 794) (Please read the bold text)**

- 71:1 In you, O LORD, 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 From my birth I have leaned upon you, my protector since my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.
71:7 I have been an example to many, for you are my strong refuge.
71:8 My mouth is filled with your praise and with your glory all day.
71:9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent.
71:10 For my enemies speak concerning me, those who watch for my life consult together, saying,
71:11 "God has forsaken him, for there is no deliverer."
71:12 O God, be not far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!

Hebrews 12:18-29 - Coming to the city of the living God (Epistle Reading)

- 12:18 You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest,
12:19 and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them.

- 12:20 (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.")
- 12:21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.")
- 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
- 12:23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
- 12:24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
- 12:25 See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven!
- 12:26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven."
- 12:27 This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken--that is, created things--so that what cannot be shaken may remain.
- 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe,
- 12:29 for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Luke 13:10-17 - Jesus heals on the sabbath (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

- 13:10 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.
- 13:11 And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight.
- 13:12 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment."
- 13:13 When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.
- 13:14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day."
- 13:15 But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water?
- 13:16 And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?"
- 13:17 When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
(Let us offer our silent confessions.)*

***Almighty God,
You have set before us the path
but we have wandered on our own
to try to find our way.
Sometimes we are like toddlers
and we hear Your call and come back.
Other times, we are children testing boundaries,
ignoring Your call until fear finally makes us look back.
And still other times, we are full of youthful rebellion,
demanding to be cut loose and set free,
not knowing how much we still need
to seek Your wisdom and guidance.
But most of all, too often, we think we are adults
and have figured it all out and know our own way,
only to stumble and stray so far.
Remind us, Father,
that we are always Your children,
that we are never fully grown up in Your sight,
that we always have much to learn.
Help us to seek You every day,
to acknowledge that we need Your wisdom and guidance,
and help us to return to the path and walk with You.
In the name of Christ,
who is our companion on this journey of faith, we pray. Amen.***

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear these words from the Letter to the Hebrews: This is the covenant I will establish . . . declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. Brothers and sisters, receive and trust this good news – In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH # 880 (*The Nicene Creed*)

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.***

***For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

HYMN #273 - Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY – Violin Sonata III
Adagio

Arcangelo Corelli

DOXOLOGY #94 - Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

(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

Unshakable and Holy God, we bring these gifts before you, not as mere offerings, but as acts of faith in your unshakable kingdom. Though the world around us trembles, we trust in your steadfast love, knowing that in Christ, we are welcomed, transformed, and sent forth to serve. Bless these gifts, that they may be used to build your justice and mercy, bringing hope to the broken and light to the weary. With grateful hearts, we offer ourselves alongside these gifts, that we may be signs of your grace in the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 #664 - Sent Forth by God's Blessing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Violin Sonata III

Arcangelo Corelli

Allegro Moderato

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by John and Judy Lefler to the Glory of God and in honor of their 57th wedding anniversary.

Violinist - Hunter Holbert

A warm welcome to violinist Hunter Holbert. Hunter is a Hendersonville native and has undergraduate and graduate degrees from Appalachian State University. He plays regularly with the Hendersonville Symphony, Brevard Philharmonic, and Symphony of the Mountains. Bob Kintner has known and accompanied Hunter since he was a high school student.

Administrative Council Meeting

The last Administrative Council meeting for 2025 will be Friday, October 24th. The meeting will be at 10:00 AM in the Minnich conference room.

Congratulations to Drew & Kellie Prusiecki

They welcomed their new granddaughter, Baby Louise who arrived on Monday, 8/11/25.

John Rinker Memorial Video – September 28th at 2:00 PM

Please join us in celebrating the life of John Rinker in watching his memorial service on Sunday, September 28th at 2:00 PM in the Dice Hall. Please RSVP by September 18th to the Rinker Foundation office at 561-471-8359.

Summer Bible Study

The summer Bible Study meets on Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM in the Minnich Conference room. All are welcome! This is a come as you can Bible Study and a study guide is provided. It is led by Don Henderson. Please reach out to him if you have questions at bacpac@comporium.net

Student Scholar Bookmarks

We have our 2025-2026 student scholar prayer bookmarks available at both entrances of the church. Our scholars appreciate your prayers and support.

The Prayer Ministry

They meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the church. Please e-mail prayer requests to LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

AA Meetings Thursday Nights

The weekly AA meeting is every Thursday at 4:45 PM in the Dice Hall. To honor anonymity please do not go to the Parish building from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions. We especially pray for Chip Dixon, Bob Palmer, Don Scholl, Doug & Sally Bailey.

Please pray for those having or had a surgery, acute illness or injury and their recovery.

Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the passing of a loved one. We pray for the family of Donna Parker, as she passed away 8-11-25.

Please continue to pray for our student scholars, our local students, teachers and staff for the new academic year.

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, marcus61dodson@gmail.com

Organist: Bob Kintner: 828-329-2457

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh: 469-569-2314, administrator@laketoxawayumc.org

Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434 and Maria Buehler: 828-553-2128

Audio/Visual & Livestream: Joe Haraschak: 813-918-1916

Liturgist: Cynthia Wood