



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, January 10th 2021

Dear Lake Toxaway UMC family and friends,

The church has entered a liturgical season, Epiphany, which will continue until Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Epiphany is about seeing Christ, about the manifestation of the Messiah in the person of Jesus. Certainly, the proclamation made at his baptism, the tearing open of the heavens, and the descending of the Spirit like a dove can be revelatory experiences.

We also are in the second year of the three-year cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary. Most of the Gospel readings will come from Mark, so I remind us to catch our breath because once we get going in Mark's Gospel, there is no stopping until we get to Holy Week. Mark's Gospel is a fast gallop through the story of Jesus, and the readers often find themselves panting on the roadside wondering what is going on.

This may resonate for many of us at this present time and place in history. It is easy to be distracted by reports about the pandemic and its death toll and roll out of a vaccine, the events at the Capitol this past week, and personal and family issues and needs. We wonder what is going on.

I find it helpful to remember my baptism and to be thankful at such a time as this. Because I was baptized in another Protestant tradition, I have memories of my baptism. I remember knowing the power of this sacrament and the transformative moment it was. Baptism is a moment of orientation to the new life in Christ claimed in the moment of baptism. Everything old is torn away. Baptism marks us as God's children redeemed in the extravagant grace of God in Jesus!

I easily forget my baptism and its orientation. I forget our new life claimed in that moment. I forget what I am looking for and how all I need is already present. I do not need to fear losing my grip because God's grip on me is so strong and God's mark in baptism so powerful I am secure!

I invite all of us to remember our baptism (whether by stories and pictures shared with us or personal memories). May our baptisms be a way of living that keeps our eyes open for the descending Spirit of God. May we be reminded it is a choice to embrace the possibilities in front of us instead of the doubts within us. It is an opportunity to know we are loved and claimed and whatever darkness is hiding away in our past or our hearts need not define us anymore. We are part of a family, the family of God!

We continue to live into this light with the Spirit as a constant companion. The Spirit equips us to love, forgive, serve, learn and grow. The Spirit equips us to be a part of the body of Christ. And whether we hear it or not, the word that is spoken over us is a word of affirmation and guidance! God places the light within us and pronounces it good! We are not done, not complete, not perfect, but good! We continue to live into our baptismal promises and our continuing sanctification; and it is good in God's sight.

May we continue to see God's light upon us in this time! I love you and have the great joy in serving among you. Your acts of service as the body of Christ inspire me daily and point me to the Light of Jesus!

Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Baptism of the Lord, January 10th**

9:30 A.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/P-sLDFNNBOY>

PRELUDE

Word of God, Come Down to Earth Robert J. Powell

GREETING

*Today we celebrate a special baptism;
the baptism of Jesus of Nazareth.*

God says:

*Look! See my chosen servant,
the One in whom I utterly delight;*

***I have placed my Spirit on him,
he will bring true justice to the nations.***

*When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up,
and Spirit came down like a dove;
and there was a voice from heaven saying:*

***"This is my dearly loved Son,
with whom I am delighted."***

The joy of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN #145

Morning Has Broken

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

OPENING PRAYER

***God of grace and glory,
you call us with your voice of flame
to be your people, faithful and courageous.***

***As your beloved Son
embraced his mission in the waters of baptism,
inspire us with the fire of your Spirit
to join in his transforming work.***

***We ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 1:1-5

- 1:1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,
1:2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.
1:3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
1:4 And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.
1:5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalm 29 (Please read responsively the bold text)

- 29:1 Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 29:2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.**
- 29:3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.
- 29:4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**
- 29:5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- 29:6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.**
- 29:7 The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
- 29:8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- 29:9 The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
- 29:10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**
- 29:11 May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!**

Acts 19:1-7

- 19:1 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples.
- 19:2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."
- 19:3 Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism."
- 19:4 Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus."
- 19:5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- 19:6 When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied--
- 19:7 altogether there were about twelve of them.

Mark 1:4-11 (Please stand for the Gospel reading)

- 1:4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- 1:5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
- 1:6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.
- 1:7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.
- 1:8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
- 1:9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
- 1:10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
- 1:11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

P: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

Loving Lord, we confess we have not always heeded your prophets' voices. We admit we have not acknowledged John the baptizer who proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. We acknowledge in our failure to do so we missed John's all too important declaration about the greater One who was coming. God, today we gather needing grace and the gift of forgiveness granted through your Son. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***When we confess our sins and shortcomings, God shows up and shows out!
Receive God's forgiveness. Put regret behind you and walk in the joy of the Lord!***

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH *(Alternate for Season of Epiphany)*

***We believe in God,
the creator of all things,
the giver of life and breath.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
born Emmanuel, God with us,
baptized and revealed the most beloved Son of God;
he sought to heal humanity by taking our brokenness upon himself,
suffering for us,
dying for us
and being raised from the dead for our sake
and for the sake of all the world.
We believe that he will come again.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
continually poured out refreshing our lives,
leading us into a new day,
ever birthing the church, the body of Christ in the world.***

***This Spirit is our constant companion and counselor of truth
reminding us
of the gift of faith,
the ever presence of God
and the promise of eternal life.
Thanks be to God! 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.***

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Prayer Douglas E. Wagner

DOXOLOGY

***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.
Amen.***

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of redemption and new life, we focus once more this day on the greatest gift ever given – Jesus, our Savior. As he was baptized by John in the Jordan, we were able to share in his baptism and receive the promise of sharing in Jesus' resurrection. As we leave a painful year behind and look with hope to the new year ahead, help us to live and give of ourselves as those who know every day what a great gift we have been given. May it move us to give our whole selves more freely! In the name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray! Amen.

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 #420

Breathe on Me, Breath of God
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed with permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude in F Johann Krebs

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

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

Organist: Charlie Steele: cwsorgan@comporium.net

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

Lay Leaders: Barbara Kline: 828-862-5585 and Paula Markert: 828-553-9434

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Andy Harvill

Soloist/Vocalist: Jacolyn Campbell

Liturgist: Scott Walter

Prayer Concerns of the Community

Please pray for Rev. Evelyn Owen-Patterson and her son. Evelyn is the pastor of the Selicia UMC, so we also need to pray for the congregation. They were in a bad car accident and is hospitalized with serious injuries.

Please pray for Cathie Fussell's sister, Rachel, her nephew, Chad, her cousin Roger and his wife Judy, Chad Zimmerman, Thomas Blackstock, Cathie Fussell's nephew, Jeff Tilley, Marty Young, Madison Coleman & the Jeter family and Frank Hardin.

Please continue to pray for those who have had the death of a loved one in the recent weeks and months.

Announcements

9:30 AM Virtual Services: The Worship Committee would like to remind everyone that we will continue to have 9:30 AM Virtual services until further notice. This is in order to maintain the health and safety of our congregation. Our attendance may include 12 - 15 people and still keep within our guidelines. So those of you who wish to attend please contact Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org. We look forward to seeing you.

Those who would like to participate in reading the liturgy for the week may contact Saunders at the email listed above.

Administrative Council Meeting

The Administrative Council will meet on ***Friday, February 12th at 9:00 AM***. If you are a member of the Council, you will receive a Zoom Invite. If you are not a member and would like to attend the meeting, please email Tom Blackstock or Saunders Grommesh as these meetings are open to all members, but only members have a vote if actions are required. You may e-mail Tom at Tom.Blackstock@gmail.com or Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org.

Can you be a gift to our Students Scholars? Four Student Scholars Mentors are still needed to be matched. If you can pray, text, e-mail and call lending your support to our student scholars please reach out to Cathie Fussell at linguafrog@gmail.com or 910-572-2167. Now is a perfect time to be a mentor for the start of the new year.

Morning Has Broken

145

Unison
C Am Dm G F C

1. Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en,
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

Am Em/G F Em Dm G

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
born of the one light E - den saw play!

C F C Am Dm/F

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

D7/F# C/G F G7 C

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931 (Lam. 3:22-23)
MUSIC: Trad. Gaelic melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1988

BUNESSAN
55.54 D

Words by permission of David Higham Associates, Ltd.; harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

420

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. It contains three measures of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic foundation for the vocal line.

7

that I may love the way you love, and do what you would do.
un - til my will is one with yours, to do and to en - dure.
but live with you the per - fect life for all e - ter - ni - ty.

The second system of music continues from the first. It also consists of two staves in the same key signature and time signature. The vocal line in the upper staff continues with three more measures, and the piano accompaniment in the lower staff provides support. The system concludes with a double bar line.