

Dear Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church Family,

Today we remember and celebrate mothers. A Methodist woman, Anna Jarvis, is celebrated as the one who first invited her church, St. Andrew's in Grafton, West Virginia to honor mothers in 1908 and her movement led to the celebration in the United States. This day brings a myriad of emotions, experiences, and memories that range from unbridled joy to inexpressible grief. I learned as a young pastor the importance of acknowledging the numerous persons that had conflicted feelings on this day.

I remember the aging woman who approached me after a worship service and with loving humility asked to meet with me early in the week. She wept as she told me of her great desire to have children and how God left that prayer unanswered until she discovered her ability to share love with neglected and unwanted children, yet she lived with a lifelong desire to have biological children. I remember the mother who shared a painful past of losing her two children in their childhood. I remember the man who shared how his mother abandoned him for a new life and never contacted him again. I remember the honored "Granny" that had a large family who came to worship with her every year on Mother's Day.

I know many of us want to be with our families today, yet a pandemic prevents many of us from being together. We remain isolated in our homes as we continue to follow guidelines to social distance in Phase 1 of the Governor's plan for reopening. We hear conflicted messages. We have different opinions. I remind us to remain respectful and patient as we live in this uncharted place. We will move forward and begin to plan how we will gather again in public worship. Practice Christian humility, respect, and love with each other. Pray for the those most vulnerable physically, emotionally, financially, and spiritually. I thought 9/11 might be a defining time in my ministry, but I now believe 2020 will determine whether those who come after us find that we lived faithfully in this time!

The Scripture passages for today delight me as to how the Holy Spirit speaks to our current situation. The psalmist reminds us that God is our Rock. The epistle lesson has the wonderful phrase: "living stone." The Gospel lesson is so familiar as we hear it at so many funerals, but it too has a tremendous promise of God's good provision in Christ for us in eternity while reminding us that we will do "greater works." I have found myself singing the words of the hymn, My Hope Is Built." Remember it? Let me share the refrain: "On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand." I know many of you remember it!

The church and home have been constant guiding places for me, even in times of turbulence. I pray you are experiencing God as your solid rock and fortress. I also pray for your safety and health and thank God for those of you who love me as a part of your family. May we all feel God's claim on us and know we are a part of the great family of God even in its messiness at times. Read the Biblical stories in the Old Testament of the families of faith and how God used those families to be a blessing to each other and to the greater world!

May all those who come behind us find us faithful!

In Christ and love,
Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Home Worship for Community Worship
Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 10, 2020**

PRELUDE

Prelude on "holy Manna", Robert Powell

GREETING

L: The Lord is our refuge.

P: We can find peace in God's abiding love.

L: When troubles assail us, we call upon the Lord.

P: When joys abound, we call upon the Lord.

L: Welcome this day to God's house, one of many dwellings of the Almighty One.

P: We thank you and praise God for his refuge and sanctuary. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of love, you have called us together this day. Help us to appreciate all that you have given to us, to cherish our families and our friends, to seek your hope and peace throughout all our lives. AMEN.

HYMN #101

From All That Dwell Below the Skies
(Printed w/ permission)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
(Silence may be kept)

Patient and forgiving God, we come to you this day. For many there is a celebration of Mother's Day and all that our mothers have given to us and taught us; but for some, these memories are too painful, of those who could not parent, who were afflicted. Remind us that your blessings are poured out in many ways, through many people. Give us the confident faith that reaches beyond our own lives to help others. Forgive us when we sink into our own selfishness and pettiness. For it is in those times that we turn our back on you. Bring us back to you, to the awareness of your eternal love. In Christ's Name, we pray. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ, our cornerstone and our salvation, offers to us hope and comfort. On this Mother's Day Sunday, this Festival of the Christian, help us to make our home in you. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 7:55-60

- 7:55 But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
- 7:56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"
- 7:57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.
- 7:58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.
- 7:59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
- 7:60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

- 31:1 In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.
- 31:2 **Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.**
- 31:3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
- 31:4 take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.
- 31:5 **Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.**
- 31:15 My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
- 31:16 **Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.**

1 Peter 2:2-10

- 2:2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation-
- 2:3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.
- 2:4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and
- 2:5 like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 2:6 For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."
- 2:7 To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,"
- 2:8 and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

- 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- 2:10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

John 14:1-14

- 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.
- 14:2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
- 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.
- 14:4 And you know the way to the place where I am going."
- 14:5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"
- 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- 14:7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."
- 14:8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."
- 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?
- 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.
- 14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.
- 14:12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.
- 14:13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
- 14:14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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

P: ***Thanks be to God!***

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH (United Church of Australia)

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One,
confessing him as Lord to the glory of God the Father.
In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the Church,
the Head over all things, the beginning of a new creation.
We acknowledge that we live and work
between the time of Christ's death and resurrection
and the final consummation of all things which he will bring.
We are a pilgrim people,***

*always on the way towards a promised goal;
on the way Christ feeds us with word and sacraments,
and we have the gift of the Holy Spirit
in order that we may not lose the way.
We will live and work within the faith and unity
of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
bearing witness to that unity which is both Christ's gift and his will.
We affirm that every member of the Church
is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified.
Together with all the people of God,
we will serve the world for which Christ died.
And we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.*

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>

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord, we thank you for the many gifts you have poured into our lives for those who love us and nurture us; for those who teach us to be loving people. Bless those people and bless these gifts that we may work for you, bringing healing and hope to our fractured world. 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 #529

How Firm a Foundation
(Printed w/ permission)

BENEDICTION

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. **Amen.***

POSTLUDE

We Have Heard the Joyful Sound, Robert J. Powell

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

Liturgist: Bobbi Oldenburger

Announcements

Flowers for the altar have been put on hold until further notice due to Covid-19. We appreciate those who have volunteered to provide the weekly flowers.

We have devotionals from Our Daily Bread available quarterly. We are in the last month of this quarter and the next quarter is June – August. If you are interested in a copy of Our Daily Bread for this current quarter or next quarter, please reach out to Saunders, our Church Administrator 469-569-2314 (cell), administrator@laketoxawayumc.org to request a copy.

There are two new church e-mail addresses for everyone's use.

info@laketowawayumc.org – designed for general LTUMC questions

administrator@laketoxaway.org – Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh

From All That Dwell Below the Skies 101

1. From all that dwell be - low the skies, let the Cre -
 2. E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal
 3. Your loft - y themes, ye mor - tals, bring, in songs of
 4. In ev - ery land be - gin the song; to ev - ery

a - tor's praise a - rise; let the Re - deem - er's
 truth at - tends thy word. Thy praise shall sound from
 praise di - vine - ly sing; the great sal - va - tion
 land the strains be - long; in cheer - ful sounds all

name be sung, through ev - ery land by ev - ery tongue.
 shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.
 loud pro - claim, and shout for joy the Sav - ior's name.
 voic - es raise, and fill the world with loud - est praise.

WORDS: Sts. 1-2, Isaac Watts; sts. 3-4, anon., ca. 1781 (Ps. 117)
 MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793

DUKE STREET
 LM

How Firm a Foundation

529

1. How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
 3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4. "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - ways shall lie,
 5. "The soul that on Je - sus still leans for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
 for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can he say than to you he hath said,
 I'll strength - en and help thee, and cause thee to stand
 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

WORDS: "K" in Rippon's *Selection of Hymns*, 1787 (2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5; Isa. 43:1-2)
 MUSIC: Early USA melody; harm. from *Tabor*, 1866

FOUNDATION
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