

Dear Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church Family,

This Sunday is known as The Good Shepherd Sunday and has been celebrated as a special Sunday in the Easter Season every year with the reading of several familiar Scripture passages, most specifically Psalm 23 and John 10.

I vividly remember every year, on this Sunday, one of the churches I attended while we lived in Durham and I attended seminary. This building was a beautiful Gothic structure on the edge of Duke's East Campus in an older, established neighborhood. There were beautiful stained-glass windows and the ceiling was designed as an inverted ship to remind the worshippers of the image of being in a ship that was navigating the waters of life. I learned during this time how significant architecture and design were to the formation of theology. The most substantial stained-glass window in the sanctuary was over the balcony rather than at the front or chancel area. When the congregation left the service, we would see that incredible window of Jesus holding a shepherd's staff and a lamb while leading a flock of sheep out into the field. The architect designed the window to remind the gathered community we were led from worship by the Good Shepherd. The memory of the stained-glass window continues to nurture my spiritual journey. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, leads us into worship and out to the world!

I suspect that one of the reasons Psalm 23 is so important to many of us is the reminder of the LORD is my Shepherd. I don't know about you, but that is a great reminder for me every day whether living in a time of blessing or crisis. Most of the time, we live with both crisis and blessing!

I have more good news to share! Charlie Steele has accepted the role of permanent organist. I have prayed God would lead us to the right person, and I know Charlie is the right person! I believe God's hand guided the "chance" meeting of Charlie and Ruth had on the last Friday Ruth was in town. Charlie heard some of Ruth's desires related to our present organ and has used those stops several times. Our God does provide! Charlie may have to take a brief break in July and August for a commitment to Faith Chapel in Cedar Mountain. Welcome aboard Charlie! You will hear more about his background in a separate email.

Finally, I can announce to you I have been re-appointed as pastor for the coming year. This will be my 26th year with Lake Toxaway UMC. I am thankful to the bishop and his cabinet who place such a sacred trust in me! I know God continues to hold good things in store for this faith community and is teaching us so many things during this time of social distancing. I count it all joy to be your pastor!

Faithfully,
Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Home Worship for Community Worship
Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 3, 2020**

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, J. S. Bach

GREETING

L: Come to the gate and find the Good Shepherd within.

P: We need a shepherd – round us up and bring us through your Gate, O Lord.

L: If you're hungry or thirsty, the Good Shepherd will provide for your needs.

P: That is just what we need. Our souls thirst for God's word.

L: Come, the Gate and the Shepherd await. Let us pray:

God of all the sheep, those who remain close to you and those who stray, those who are always faithful and those who are lost: be with us today! Help us take a look at our lives and our relationship to you. Bring us close, draw us in, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

HYMN

Come, Thou Almighty King
(Printed w/ permission)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient God, you know how easy it is for us to stray. We wander off so easily. Forgive us, we pray. Heal our brokenness and our fears. Remind us again that you lead us in gentle paths and by quiet waters – when the paths are stony and the waves tumultuous, help us to remember your protection and your care. Help us to extend that same love and care to others, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Just when we think we can go no further, Jesus the Good Shepherd calls to us, bringing us safely into the fold of Grace and Mercy. Rejoice! You are loved completely and forgiven! 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 2:42-47

- 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- 2:43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.
- 2:44 All who believed were together and had all things in common;
- 2:45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.
- 2:46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,
- 2:47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Psalms 23

- 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
- 23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;**
- 23:3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
- 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff-- they comfort me.**
- 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

1 Peter 2:19-25

- 2:19 For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly.
- 2:20 If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval.
- 2:21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.
- 2:22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."
- 2:23 When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.
- 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.
- 2:25 For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

John 10:1-10

- 10:1 Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.
- 10:2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.
- 10:3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
- 10:4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
- 10:5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."
- 10:6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.
- 10:7 So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.
- 10:8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.
- 10:9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

L: This is the Word of God for the people of Christ.

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

Consoling and Guiding God, we bring our offerings and our very lives to your altar this morning. Many of us come feeling like we are in the midst of a storm, with disagreement and discord buffeting us from all directions. Help us to hear your voice in the midst of this, your call to serve, and your encouragement to endure for the work of the kingdom. Lead us to the light and hope of this Easter season, so we can joyfully and faithfully serve you in the world! In the name of Jesus, our rock 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

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
(Printed w/ permission)

BENEDICTION

*People of the Road, rejoice, for God is with you. Bring God's love and peace to all whom you meet even in a time where we use new ways to engage with others. Live in peace now and forever, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! **Amen.***

POSTLUDE

Festival Praise, 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, saunderv@hotmail.com

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

Liturgist: John Lefler

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff Parish Committee

Charlie Steele has accepted the position of organist. He came to us on an interim basis and many of you have expressed how blessed we have been by his musical talent on the organ. Even with the small number of us worshipping in the sanctuary each week, our singing is good. And the beautiful music in the Prelude, Offertory, and Postlude are a powerful gift to God in worship! Charlie lives in Brevard with his wife, Patti. He has extensive training and experience on the organ; however, most importantly, Charlie has a deep spiritual commitment and passion that is evident in his life. You will receive more information about Charlie, but please welcome him to our church with notes of encouragement and appreciation.

We also can announce that Pastor Marcus has been re-appointed for another year to our congregation.

Worship Notes

We continue to follow guidelines from the governor of NC and Bishop Leeland. We likely will continue to be worshipping by virtual format through the end of May and possibly longer. We will inform you as we receive further guidance.

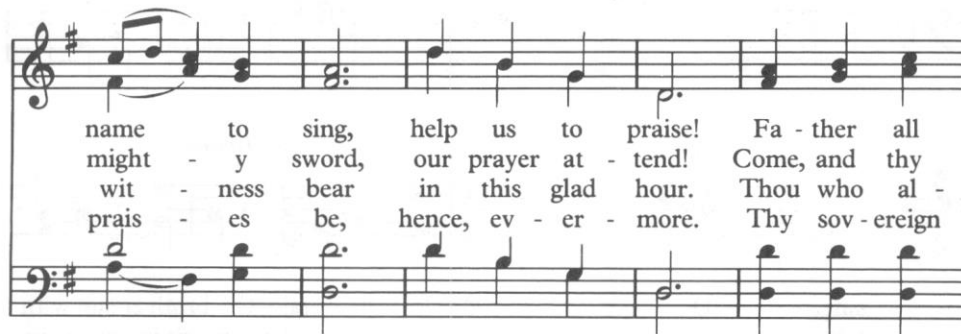
We are preparing for some of the changes that will become our “new normal” when we are able to gather again in worship. While there are many opinions and concerns, we will follow the best information provided to us from the Western North Carolina UMC Conference as it relates to best practices for worship and precautions for things that we have never had to consider. Please pray for the leadership of the Church in negotiating and planning these changes

Come, Thou Almighty King


61



1. Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy
 2. Come, thou in - car - nate Word, gird on thy
 3. Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred
 4. To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal



name to sing, help us to praise! Fa - ther all
 might - y sword, our prayer at - tend! Come, and thy
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour. Thou who al -
 prais - es be, hence, ev - er - more. Thy sov - ereign



glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;
 might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,
 maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,



come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days!
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend!
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power!
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore!

WORDS: Anon.
 MUSIC: Felice de Giardini, 1769

ITALIAN HYMN
 664.6664

Alt. tune: AMERICA

JUSTIFYING GRACE

381 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1. Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us,
2. We are thine, thou dost be - friend us,
3. Thou hast prom - ised to re - ceive us,
4. Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor,

much we need thy ten - der care; in thy pleas - ant pas - tures
be the guar - dian of our way; keep thy flock, from sin de -
poor and sin - ful though we be; thou hast mer - cy to re -
ear - ly let us do thy will; bless - ed Lord and on - ly

feed us, for our use thy folds pre - pare.
fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
lieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.
Sav - ior, with thy love our bos - oms fill.

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! Hear, O
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! We will
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast

WORDS: Attr. to Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836 (John 10:1-29)
MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1859

BRADBURY
87.87 D

ASSURANCE

The musical score is written for a two-part setting, likely for voice and piano. It is in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 4/4 time. The first system consists of two staves. The treble staff has a melody of quarter and eighth notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are printed below the staves, aligned with the notes. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics for the second system are also provided.

bought us, thine we are. Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed
 hear us when we pray. Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed
 ear - ly turn to thee. Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed
 loved us, love us still. Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed

Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 Je - sus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.
 Je - sus! We will ear - ly turn to thee.
 Je - sus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.