

Dear Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church Family,

I have been challenged as a Christian every step of the way this week! I have experienced the gamut of human emotions inside myself and from others around me. I have walked the hallways of my home and thought of ways to solve my challenges and some universal challenges. I have had a "good case of wanting to be Super-Hero." (I know this statement shocks all of you, especially my family! I also hear your thunderous laughter alongside me!)

As I write this and reflect on my week, I realize I need to relinquish myself anew to God! I need to follow Jesus; I am called to express His invitational love and grace in word, action, and deed. I want to allow the Holy Spirit to be the Comforter Jesus promised to all of His disciples.

And in the midst of my pastoral rabbit chasing... God invites me and all of you to read the lectionary texts for this Sunday! The Holy Spirit points me to specific phrases:

"And Sarah laughed to herself..."

"I love the LORD, he heard my call..."

"and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit..."

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

And I find yet another sheet of paper in my handwriting with no notation. I think it is a creed, and I have no notation as to author or church. My Google search turned up nothing. Yet, I find it speaking to me:

We believe in the tough tender, tenacious love of God. We believe in the persistent persuasive passionate proclamation of Jesus. We believe in the silent surprising work of God's Spirit. We believe that we are called to embrace the love of God, to walk the way of Jesus and to be open to the Spirit of God.

Beloved church family and community, I cannot pull all of this together; I do not have to do it by my human abilities. I am called to share it and to let the Holy Spirit minister to you as the Comforter only can. God's tender, tenacious love encircles us in all our various needs and we walk the way of Jesus and are open to the Spirit of God. Amen.

Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Home Worship for Community Worship
Second Sunday after Pentecost, June 14, 2020**
https://youtu.be/Ov_OQWmayLU

PRELUDE

Hymn, Douglas E. Wagner

GREETING

L: Raise your voices in response to God's goodness.

P: We praise you, O Lord, for all the blessings you have given us.

L: Lift your hearts in sweet surrender to God's mercy.

P: We thank you, O Lord, for hearing the prayers of our hearts.

L: God is good; Praise be to God!

P: The love and mercy of God never fails.. AMEN.

HYMN #98

To God be the Glory
(Printed w/ permission)

INVOCATION

Lord, this day we will hear of the miracles that have inspired people to be your disciples. We will hear of Sarah, who in her old age, conceived a son; we will hear of the disciples who are given the mandate to heal, to raise the dead, to proclaim the kingdom and the good news of God's redeeming love. We stand in that long line of those who are called. We are ready to work for you that this broken world may be healed. 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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)

- 18:1 The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.
- 18:2 He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground.
- 18:3 He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant.
- 18:4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.

- 18:5 Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on--since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."
- 18:6 And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes."
- 18:7 Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it.
- 18:8 Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.
- 18:9 They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent."
- 18:10 Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.
- 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.
- 18:12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?"
- 18:13 The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'"
- 18:14 Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son."
- 18:15 But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."
- 21:1 The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised.
- 21:2 Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him.
- 21:3 Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him.
- 21:4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.
- 21:5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.
- 21:6 Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me."
- 21:7 And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

- 116:1 I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
- 116:2 Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**
- 116:12 What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?
- 116:13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,**
- 116:14 I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.
- 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.**
- 116:16 O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

116:17 I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.

116:18 I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

116:19 in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

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

P: *Thanks be to God!*

Romans 5:1-8

- 5:1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
5:2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.
5:3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,
5:4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,
5:5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
5:6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
5:7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.
5:8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23) (please stand)

- 9:35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.
9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
9:37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
9:38 therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."
10:1 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.
10:2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;
10:3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;
10:4 Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.
10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans,
10:6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
10:7 As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'
10:8 Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.
10:9 Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts,
10:10 no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food.
10:11 Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave.
10:12 As you enter the house, greet it.

- 10:13 If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.
- 10:14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet you leave that house or town.
- 10:15 Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.
- 10:16 "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.
- 10:17 Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues;
- 10:18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles.
- 10:19 When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time;
- 10:20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.
- 10:21 Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death;
- 10:22 and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.
- 10:23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

Triune God,

We praise you as the God of love and life. Though Jesus prayed that we would be one, we confess that we fail to live in unity with each other and with you. We break our communion through hostile words and unkind actions. We long for your Spirit to heal us and to correct us. We long for you to help us experience communion with you and with each other as we gather around your Word. Even now, dependent on your grace, we commit ourselves to live more fully in the unity you desire. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive all our sins through Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #884 (A Statement of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church)

We believe in the one God, creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations, the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love. We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the Savior of the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength. We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every need. We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice. We believe in the church, those who are united in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service. We believe in the reign of God as the divine will realized in human society, and in the family of God, where we are all brothers and sisters. We believe in the final triumph of righteousness and in the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love arr. Robert J. Powell

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

Lord, we know that there is much work to be done; far more than we ever imagined. We ask that you bless these gifts that they be used for the work you have set before us, for we place our lives and trust in you. 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 #454

Open My Eyes that I May See
(Printed w/ permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune, Michael McCabe

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

Liturgists: Leslie and Chip Brown

Announcements

Notice of Celebration of Ministry Parade – Blue Ridge District UMC

Our United Methodist District has announced a "Drive-Through Parade" to celebrate the service of our *District Superintendent, Rev. Beth Crissman*, as she moves on to a new assignment in the United Methodist Church.

This event will be on **June 21st from 4-6PM at Covenant Community Church** (11 Rocket Drive, Asheville). In following social distancing guidelines, it will involve a drive-by, wave, and well-wishing with gratitude and blessing for Beth's service to all the churches in the district.

Questions may be directed by email to: Ashley Crowder Ashley@wellspringcongregation.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Memorial Garden: The Lake Toxaway UMC is blessed to have a beautiful memorial garden adjoining our historic sanctuary. Fred Markert (fredmarkert47@gmail.com) is looking for volunteers to serve in a pastoral care manner for services held at the garden. Please contact him for more information.

Summer Literacy Program at Brevard FUMC:

Hi! My name is Emilee Dodson and I am the enrichment coordinator for a **Summer Literacy Program** being hosted at **Brevard FUMC**. *The Summer Literacy Program was started and funded by the Duke Endowment, specifically for small, rural communities like Brevard!* We have 21 rising 1st and 2nd graders who are behind their average reading level and are coming to this program to help catch them back up to speed. We have protocols in place to keep the children distanced while still providing a meaningful program for them as well as approval from our insurance company and the Western Carolina United Methodist Conference.

The summer reading program needs **YOUR** help! We especially need:

VOLUNTEERS- Come in once from 12:30 to 3:00 or one afternoon a week for up to 6 weeks. The children are 6, 7 and 8 years old and well-behaved. We need lots of volunteers because we are keeping class sizes at 5 and socially distanced.

Can't think of what you would do? We can help you with that!

Contact Emilee Dodson (me):

-Email: ejdodson@ncsu.edu

-Phone: (828) 553-8953

Bless the children and be blessed by them at the Brevard FUMC Summer Literacy Program!

To God Be the Glory

1. To God be the glo-ry, great things he hath done! So loved he the
 2. O per - fect re-demp-tion, the pur-chase of blood, to ev-ery be-
 3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our re-

world that he gave us his Son, who yield - ed his life an a -
 liev - er the prom-ise of God; the vil - est of - fend-er who
 joic-ing thru Je - sus the Son; but pur - er, and high-er, and

tone-ment for sin, and o-pened the life-gate that all may go in.
 tru - ly be - lies, that mo-ment from Je - sus a par-don re - ceives.
 great-er will be our won-der, our trans-port, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the

Lord, praise the Lord, let the peo-ple re - joice! O come to the Fa-ther thru

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875
 MUSIC: William H. Doane, 1875

TO GOD BE THE GLORY
 11 11.11 11 with Refrain

454 Open My Eyes, That I May See

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth

hast for me; place in my hands the won-der - ful key
 send - est clear; and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
 ev - ery-where; o - pen my heart and let me pre-pare

Refrain
 that shall un-clasp and set me free.
 ev - ery-thing false will dis - ap-pear. Si-lent - ly now I
 love with thy chil - dren thus to share.

wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy will to see.

O - pen my eyes,
 O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 O - pen my heart,

WORDS: Clara H. Scott, 1895
 MUSIC: Clara H. Scott, 1895

OPEN MY EYES
 88.98 with Refrain