

Dear Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church Family,

I clip prayers, stories, poems and other items all the time. I plan and think I will scan these clippings into a folder on my computer and discard the paper, but I have a favorite Bible where many of these clippings get placed. I'm sure some of you can relate to this habit.

This week, I ran across the following prayer I used in a bulletin many years ago. The prayer was used as an offertory thanksgiving prayer. One of you also clipped this prayer and related to me it was one of your favorite prayers (I noted the individual on the back of the copy). I believe the Holy Spirit places things in our hands and hearts when needed.

This prayer seems so appropriate for this time, so I share it with you:

Living God, we give thanks for the many blessings you bestow in and on our lives in the midst of turbulent times. The greatest of these is that the risen Christ dwells in our hearts – in the innermost recesses of our lives through the power of your Spirit. His love binds us and others to you and names us as members of Your family. His love enriches and enhances our lives in ways that knowledge never could; His love enables us to accomplish far more than we could ever dream or imagine. We worship and praise You, O God, for so blessing our lives and we pray that all we do and say will bring glory to You and Christ whom we serve and in whose name we pray. Amen.

This Sunday we celebrate a doctrine that remains a mystery to me: The Trinity. We know God as one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I remember seminary classes and debates around this historic doctrine of the church. One of my professors stressed we not fall into modalism, meaning we treat each distinct person of the Godhead as separate. I remember fondly how the professor spoke with passion against using the illustration of water, ice, and mist/vapor as an example to understand this doctrine. He emphatically stated God is always the three persons in one and human illustrations failed to explain this mystery of our faith.

I, like many of you, learned to accept this doctrine by faith and not seek an argument that explained it. Faith requires a leap into something I cannot fully understand, see, or hear. When I leap, I always find God's hands ready to embrace me and love me.

May we seek to leap into the arms of our Triune God and seek His guidance and wisdom in dreaming and imagining what God wants to do in this time. What better witness can we offer to a world facing a pandemic and division? I encourage all of us to leap into the arms of the Triune God with trust God will bring healing.

I continue to seek to serve our Lord with a humble and willing heart,

Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Home Worship for Community Worship
Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2020**

<https://youtu.be/fuZB0w5wbrE>

PRELUDE

Holy, Holy, Holy, arr. Piet Post

GREETING

L: Welcome this day to a celebration of God's magnificent creation!

P: Thanks be to God the Creator who has loaned to us such a beautiful planet.

L: Welcome this day to a recognition of God's redeeming love!

P: Thanks to God the Redeemer who has given us God's only Son as our Example and Teacher, Our Savior and Redeemer!

L: Welcome this day to the joy of God's Holy Spirit of truth and power!

P: Thanks to God the Sustainer who walks with us every day, guiding and guarding our steps. AMEN.

HYMN #64

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty
(Printed w/ permission)

INVOCATION

O God, your name is veiled in mystery, yet we dare to call you Father; your Son was begotten before all ages, yet is born among us in time; your Holy Spirit fills the whole creation, yet is poured forth now into our hearts. Because you have made us and loved us and called us by name, draw us more deeply into your divine life, that we may glorify you through your Son, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. 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 1:1-2:4a

- 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.
1:6 And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."
1:7 So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.
1:8 God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.
1:9 And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.
1:10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.
1:11 Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so.
1:12 The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.
1:13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.
1:14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years,
1:15 and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so.
1:16 God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars.
1:17 God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,
1:18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.
1:19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.
1:20 And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky."
1:21 So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good.
1:22 God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."
1:23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

- 1:24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so.
- 1:25 God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.
- 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."
- 1:27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.
- 1:28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."
- 1:29 God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.
- 1:30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.
- 1:31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.
- 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude.
- 2:2 And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.
- 2:3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.
- 2:4a These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Psalm 8

- 8:1 O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.
- 8:2 Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**
- 8:3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;
- 8:4 what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**
- 8:5 Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.
- 8:6 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,**
- 8:7 all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
- 8:8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
- 8:9 O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

13:11 Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

13:12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

13:13 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Matthew 28:16-20

28:16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

28:17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

28:20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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

P: *Thanks be to God!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Triune God, You gather, protect, and care for us, your beloved, through Word and Spirit. This you have done from the beginning of the world and will do to the end. Have mercy upon us and forgive us for sinning against you. We have not loved one another as we should, we have not sown the seeds of gospel hope, we have not been present for worship. Restore us, Lord. May we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another, that we may truly share one faith, have one calling, and be of one soul and one mind For the sake of your son, 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 (Nicene Creed #880)

*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.*

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Meditation, Piet Post

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

Almighty God, we offer our gifts in gratitude this morning – not just for what you do in our lives, but for who you are in our lives. You are with us in the person of the Father, the God above us. You come to meet us as the Son, as God beside us. You empower us to do the work of kingdom-building by the Holy Spirit, God within us, providing strength and boldness that we would never find on our own. May these gifts be tools that make the transformation of the world a reality. We pray in the name of one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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 #61

Come, Thou Almighty King
(Printed w/ permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Finale and Hymn, Piet Post

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: Katherine Jeter

Announcements

The Bishop of Western North Carolina sent communication last week that United Methodist Churches in our Conference will continue to worship w/ a 10-person maximum limit and online through the end of June. The Worship Committee has been receiving information and preparing for how we carefully re-open. All of us are anxious to worship in the sanctuary again, but we also practice the Three General Rules provided by John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement in America: Rule 1) Do no harm, Rule 2) Do good, Rule 3) Stay in Love with God. Our first priority remains the wellbeing and safety of parishioners. The guidelines we will have to follow when we are able to re-open are a daunting challenge.

The Administrative Council will meet on Friday, June 12 at 9 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 as these meetings are open to all members, but only members have a vote if actions are required. You can email Tom @ tomblackstock@gmail.com.

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

64 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

WORDS: Reginald Heber, 1826 (Rev. 4:8-11)
 MUSIC: John B. Dykes, 1861

NICAEA
 11.12.12.10

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 Gardini, 1769

ITALIAN HYMN
 664.6664

Alt. tune: AMERICA