

**Dear Lake Toxaway UMC Family and Community,**

Kindness has a gentle sound; it has gracious eyes (I cannot remember from where I memorized this statement.) I often think of this fruit of the Spirit (kindness) and hear the echo of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Church at Galatia where he summarizes the fruits of the Spirit as "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Paul also said "there is no law against such things. (Galatians 5: 22-24)"

This week I have seen, felt, and heard kindness expressed. Unfortunately, I have also seen, felt and heard a lack of kindness expressed. I witnessed patience, kindness, and gentleness while also witnessing an explosion of human emotion lacking in self-control. The event happened simultaneously. My being, as a person, felt shaken to its core. I have had several conversations about this event and the work of the Holy Spirit in light of this event.

Many of you, like I, know the joy of eating the first harvest of fruit and vegetables. While most of us purchase our fruit and vegetables at markets, we remember the experience of eating the first strawberry from our grandmother's garden in the spring or the first tomato while it is still warm from the sun. I miss those seasonal experiences as we do not grow any fruit or vegetables. When someone shares fresh produce with me from their garden, I find myself transformed to the past, present, and future. I cannot do anything to cause this moment to happen; it is a gift from the transcendent work of the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel lesson has Jesus telling a parable about a farmer throwing seeds generously. Jesus interrupts the seeds as word. The lesson from Psalms speaks to this concept of word also. I am pondering and waiting for the Holy Spirit's guidance in these lessons for us to consider this week. If God is the farmer, an understanding of most Biblical scholars, then I find all manner of questions emerging. Why broadcast seeds so recklessly? I know seeds represent great value and are vital to the continuation of crops from one season to the next. If a large quantity of the seed the farmer sows ends up not producing, why do it? Because... Jesus continues to be sown all over creation bearing fruit that we could not on our own. We are blessed because Jesus will not give up on us even when everything seems like He probably should.

The work of the Holy Spirit cannot be created or generated by humans. That is the problem with our understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. I cannot make myself a person full of patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Only God through the work of the Holy Spirit does that for me. His word is the light to my path!

I invite you to consider the possibility that we are invited to broadcast God's Word freely and trust God by the power of the Holy Spirit to bring the harvest. When I find myself leaning into the power of the Holy Spirit, the fruit is sweeter than I could imagine. It has a gentle sound and gracious eyes.

And when I see you in this time of limited interaction, it is so precious! It is like the experience of the first harvest of the first season. May we all seek to linger in the blessings we are receiving rather than focus on what is absent.

I love you and continue to seek to serve you faithfully,  
Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Home Worship for Community Worship Service**  
**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 12th, 2020**

<https://youtu.be/5pKuaS0mEZ4>

*If the video or sound are not synchronized please refresh your browser or click on the Livestream link again. Should the above link not work please go to <https://www.youtube.com/> and do a search for "Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church" and look for today's service; it may not display in date order. If the Livestream is interrupted it cannot be restarted but we will have a backup of the recorded service on the LTUMC YouTube page/channel as soon as possible.*

**PRELUDE**

Prelude on "Land of Rest"    Robert Lau

**GREETING**

*L: God scatters the seeds of reconciliation and love, and waits...*

***P: So much of it lands on flat pathways or rocky roads and won't take root....***

*L: God scatters the seeds of healing and hope, and waits...*

***P: Shallowness and fear claim the seeds and they cannot live.***

*L: God scatters the seeds of redemption and peace, and waits...*

***P: These are the places of deep growth where the seed will cast down strong roots.***

*L: Welcome this day to a seed-scattering station!*

***P: May our hearts be the rich soil in which God's love takes root. AMEN.***

**HYMN #57**

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing  
(Printed w/ permission)

**INVOCATION**

***Gracious and loving God, we come to you with hearts that need to be opened to your word and your love. There is so much around us that tears at us and causes us to tremble. Keep us ever mindful of your presence and the hope that you have given us in your Son Jesus Christ.***

***Guide us, we pray, as your church, struggling to spread the good news. Keep us focused on the mission and ministry to which you have called us and lead us forward. We know, Lord, that there will often be bumps and holes in the road along the way. Save us from dwelling on them and make us secure in the task you have placed before us.***

***Lead us now, in our worship, to offer you praise and thanksgiving that is acceptable to you. Amen.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Genesis 25:19-34**

- 25:19 These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac,
- 25:20 and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean.
- 25:21 Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.
- 25:22 The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.
- 25:23 And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger."
- 25:24 When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb.
- 25:25 The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau.
- 25:26 Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.
- 25:27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents.
- 25:28 Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.
- 25:29 Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished.
- 25:30 Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.)
- 25:31 Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright."
- 25:32 Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?"
- 25:33 Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.
- 25:34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

### **Psalms 119:105-112 (Read Responsively)**

- 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- 119:106 **I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.**
- 119:107 I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word.
- 119:108 **Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances.**
- 119:109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.
- 119:110 **The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.**
- 119:111 Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.
- 119:112 **I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.**

## **Romans 8:1-11**

- 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.
- 8:3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,
- 8:4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
- 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.
- 8:6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
- 8:7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law--indeed it cannot,
- 8:8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- 8:9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
- 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
- 8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

- 13:1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.
- 13:2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.
- 13:3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow.
- 13:4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.
- 13:5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.
- 13:6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.
- 13:7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.
- 13:8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
- 13:9 Let anyone with ears listen!"
- 13:18 "Hear then the parable of the sower.
- 13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.
- 13:20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

- 13:21 yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.
- 13:22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.
- 13:23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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.)*

***Seed-scattering God, we come to you this day with so many things on our hearts and minds. Some of the events this week have been very positive and have caused us to celebrate; but we are constantly besieged by worries, doubts and fears. These negative things crowd out your word and we become like the useless soil, unable to receive and grow. Slow us down. Continue to pour your love on us because we really hunger and thirst for it. Forgive us when we allow all the negativity to drown out your word. Scatter again the seeds of peace, love, hope and joy that we may be better disciples for you in this world which is in so much pain. AMEN.***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*Here's the Good News! God is never going to stop showering us with God's love: all the time, everywhere, always for us. Hallelujah!*

***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!***

## **HOMILY**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** (Methodist Church of New Zealand)

***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, subversive work of God's Spirit. We believe that we are called to embrace the love of God, to walk in the way of Jesus and to be open to the Spirit of 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**

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling arr. Michael Burkhardt

## **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 the universe, we come to worship this morning, longing to set our minds on the Holy Spirit, to live with Christ within us. We have not always made room for Christ in the clutter of our lives. We have indulged our wants so often that too often the voice of the Spirit is drowned out. As we dedicate these gifts this morning, may it help us to live more in tune with the Spirit and to use our resources in a way that reflects Christ is Lord of all our lives. In His holy name, 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 #600**

Wonderful Words of Life  
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## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

Canticle of Praise on "Azmon" Alice Jordan

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, [marcus61dodson@gmail.com](mailto:marcus61dodson@gmail.com)

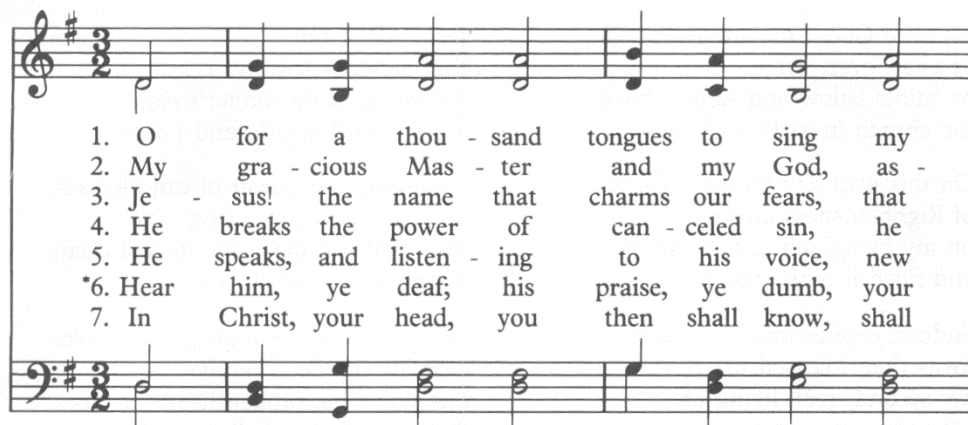
Organist: Charlie Steele: [cwsorgan@comporium.net](mailto:cwsorgan@comporium.net)

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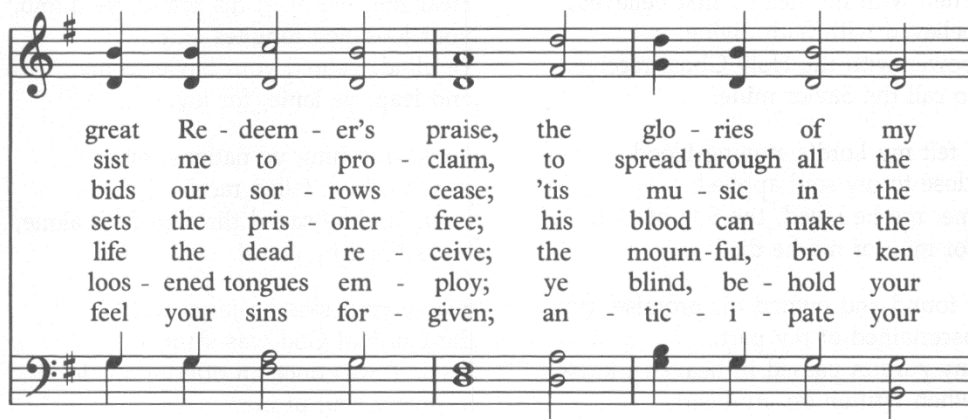
Lay Leaders: Barbara Kline: 828-862-5585 and Paula Markert: 828-553-9434

Liturgist: Rick Tranquilli

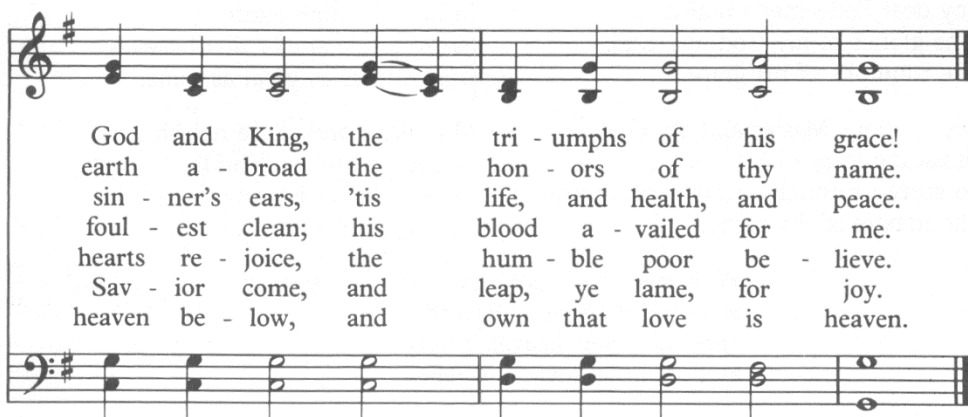
## O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing 57



1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my  
 2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -  
 3. Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, that  
 4. He breaks the power of can - celed sin, he  
 5. He speaks, and listen - ing to his voice, new  
 \*6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your  
 7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall



great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my  
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the  
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis mu - sic in the  
 sets the pris - oner free; his blood can make the  
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful, bro - ken  
 loos - ened tongues em - ploy; ye blind, be - hold your  
 feel your sins for - given; an - tic - i - pate your



God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!  
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.  
 sin - ner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.  
 foul - est clean; his blood a - vailed for me.  
 hearts re - jice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.  
 Sav - ior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.  
 heaven be - low, and own that love is heaven.

\*May be omitted

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739  
 MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON  
 CM

Alt. tune: RICHMOND

Wonderful Words of Life



1. Sing them o - ver a - gain to me, won - der - ful words of life;  
 2. Christ, the bless - ed one, gives to all won - der - ful words of life;  
 3. Sweet - ly ech - o the gos - pel call, won - der - ful words of life;



let me more of their beau - ty see, won - der - ful words of life;  
 sin - ner, list to the lov - ing call, won - der - ful words of life;  
 of - fer par - don and peace to all, won - der - ful words of life;



words of life and beau - ty teach me faith and du - ty.  
 all so free - ly giv - en, woo - ing us to heav - en.  
 Je - sus, on - ly Sav - ior, sanc - ti - fy for - ev - er.



*Refrain*



Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life.



Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life.



WORDS: Philip P. Bliss, 1874  
 MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss, 1874

WORDS OF LIFE  
 86.86.66