

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

"We are debtors." That is the opening statement for the Epistle lesson this week. We are debtors. While I am not using this text for a sermon this week, it is appropriate to highlight the Apostle Paul's statement. Paul reminds the Church in Rome that they and thus, we, are not alone. If we were fully self-sufficient, self-made, self-actualized, then we would not be in debt to anyone or anything. But Paul declares the opposite, which means on one level at least that we are in relationship. Simply by living in the world, we are in relationship. We can ignore it; we can deny it; we can feel it is not so; as we wrestle with our loneliness and boredom, but to exist is to be in relationship.

Our worship, then, ought to be a celebration of relationship: first with God; we are debtors to God, who gave us the gift of life and the gift of salvation. So, our worship has songs which give thanks to the Creator and Redeemer God. We celebrate this gift as we sing and pray, acknowledging that we belong not just to ourselves, but to God.

Second, our debt is to the community of faith. We have been sustained and strengthened by those who have gone before and those who surround us now. Here is a place for testimony, where we thank our wider community, individually and collectively, for how they have been instrumental in our lives. We have prayers where we acknowledge and say "thank you" to someone who has been a "God-send" for us in our journey of faith. I again encourage us to witness to how we have been sustained by church family and friends during the quarantine. Phone calls, notes, and sharing errands are significant in this time! It is a way of honoring one another.

It is also important to note that our debt is even larger than we might imagine. Our relationships are all inclusive in a way we often forget. Paul writes "all creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. We are woven into the very fabric of creation. We stand as a part of creation and realize our sinfulness damages not just ourselves, but all of creation, and we come before God in worship to ask God for the forgiveness that will enable us to be partners with all Christians in revealing the children of God!

I am in debt to God, to people too numerous to name. Worship invites me to remember again how significant my debt is and to remember that it is cleared by the work of Jesus in his death, burial and resurrection. Worship invites me to direct my thanksgiving and praise for my good existence to where it belongs: The Triune God. Worship reminds me to pray for those in my community who need God's special healing in body and spirit and to remember that God's healing is far more powerful than a cure.

For these reasons, we, at Lake Toxaway UMC, have worked diligently to keep the integrity of worship during this time of social isolation. It has been a joy and journey filled with challenges. It will continue to be both joy and challenge.

**Next Sunday, July 29, we will have the livestream worship at 8:30 am.** We are trying to ensure the worship is available and reliable by 11 am so some of you can worship in your homes with other people. I, as pastor, want to encourage this "house church" approach where groups gather in homes to worship together. You decide who you want to invite to your homes and how many is appropriate for your space. I hear how isolated and disconnected many of you feel spiritually in this time; I think it might be a movement of the Holy Spirit to the Church's beginning as house churches but unified as one Body. You will be able to join livestream at 830 if you desire, but we want to have sufficient time to have a reliable worship and are responding to some of the concerns about hiccups we have had along this journey.

I continue to seek to serve you with a faithful heart! I miss seeing you and gathering in one space and hearing our walls reverberate from our liturgy, prayers, and songs! I hold you regularly in my prayers!

Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Home Worship for Community Worship Service**  
**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 19th, 2020**

<https://youtu.be/hmHm5ahUChY>

*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**

Partita on "St. Denio"      Austin C. Lovelace

**GREETING**

*L: Weeds and seeds, growing together.*

***P: Each will influence the other.***

*L: What will we learn from the weeds?*

***P: Trials and tribulations, choices that have not always worked out. Weeds can teach us about perseverance — consider the tough dandelion plant pushing its way up through the pavement — for some it's just a weed, but for others there are lessons to be learned.***

*L: What will be gained from seeds?*

***P: Inside each one of us is a special person, waiting to be nurtured to wholeness. Each seed is unique; each has its own gifts to offer.***

*L: In God's garden, God's love extends to both — asking both to consider what each has to offer to a hurting world.*

***P: Lord, help us to be good seeds, bearing fruits of kindness and compassion. Keep us mindful of those for whom life has been difficult and yet they persist in trying to make each day better. Be in our hearts, O Lord, and in our lives. AMEN.***

**HYMN #384**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
(Printed w/ permission)

**INVOCATION**

***God of Jacob, who rested his head on a stone pillow and saw visions of your angels, be with us this day. Give us a vision of your presence during our strife. Give us courage and confidence you are with us, calling us to be your loving people in the world. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. AMEN.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Genesis 28:10-19a

28:10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran.

28:11 He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

28:12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

28:13 And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring;

28:14 and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.

28:15 Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

28:16 Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place--and I did not know it!"

28:17 And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

28:18 So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

28:19a He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

### Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24 (Read Responsively)

139:1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

**139:2 You know when I sit down and when I rise; you discern my thoughts from far away.**

139:3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

**139:4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.**

139:5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

**139:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

139:7 Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

**139:8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

139:9 If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

**139:10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

139:11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

**139:12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

**139:24 See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.**

### **Romans 8:12-25**

8:12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh --

8:13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

8:15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"

8:16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

8:17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

8:18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

8:19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;

8:20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

8:21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

8:22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now;

8:23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

8:24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

13:24 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;

13:25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.

13:26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

- 13:27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'
- 13:28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'
- 13:29 But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.'
- 13:30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'
- 13:36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."
- 13:37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;
- 13:38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one,
- 13:39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.
- 13:40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.
- 13:41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers,
- 13:42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- 13:43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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.)*

***Patient Lord, it is so easy for us to focus on all the things that are wrong. We spend much time and energy in anger and sorrow, leaving behind the possibilities of hope and service to you. Ease our hearts, O Lord. Forgive our willingness to get caught up in the negative. Direct our steps toward positive actions that will produce growth and peace. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*God's seeds of love have already been sown in your midst. Come and see the love of God outpoured for you. You are God's beloved ones. Come, live in the light of God. AMEN.*

*In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!*

## **HOMILY**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH** "Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 37-39"

*Pastor: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?*

*People: No! In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to 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**

Trust in the Lord      Allen Pote

## **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**

*Mighty God, our comfort, and our strength: we have been navigating through this pandemic with anxiety and isolation at times. We have lived with concern about not having enough basic necessities. Yet, we are here, offering our gifts to the work of your kingdom and reminding ourselves of the glory about to be revealed to us. Remind us we are your children, and your heirs. Remind us your plan is not bondage or decay but a love to save us and free us. In Christ's 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 #428**

For the Healing of the Nations  
(Printed w/ permission)

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

Prelude in C major J. S. Bach

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

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

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh, 469-569-2314, [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org)

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

Liturgist: Carole Guffey

## Announcements

### Welcome Soloist

We welcome today as our soloist, Jacolyn Campbell, of Brevard. Jacolyn grew up in Hawaii, where her father was professional military and her mother served as director of music at the chapel of the military base. She is a long-time member of the choir at Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church and of the Transylvania Choral Society. Jacolyn is also known for her skill at making hand crafted jewelry.

### New Service Livestream time starting, Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>:

We will have next Sunday's service at 8:30 AM for the Livestream recording. This is to be ready for some of you to host "Home Church" services in small groups of 10 or fewer during Covid-19. The Livestream is recorded and will be available for "Home Church" services at 11:00 AM. If you do not want to participate in a "Home Church" service and want to watch the Livestream, you may watch/participate at 8:30 AM. Please let Saunders know if you have any questions at [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org) or 469-569-2314.

### Administrative Council Meeting

The Administrative Council will meet on Friday, June 12 at 3:00 PM. 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 or Saunders Grommesh as these meetings are open to all members, but only members have a vote if actions are required. You can email Tom @ [tombblackstock@gmail.com](mailto:tombblackstock@gmail.com) or Saunders at [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org).

**We need YOU to please sign up for a new directory picture.** We are asking our seasonal church members to please sign up first to have their picture taken in the Fellowship Hall. We will schedule a time later this Summer/Fall for the full-time church members. Please e-mail Saunders at [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org) with 3 time slot preferences. The time and dates are:

Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00-11:00 & 1:00-3:00  
Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:00-11:00 & 1:00-3:00  
Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:00-11:00 & 1:00-3:00  
Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> 9:00-11:00 & 1:00-3:00  
Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup> 9:00-11:00 & 1:00-3:00  
Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00-11:00 & 1:00-3:00

We are scheduling in 15-minute intervals for social distancing (I.e. 9:00, 9:15, 9:30 etc.) Please wear your mask and you may remove it for the picture.



## 384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery  
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down; fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing;  
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in thee in - her - it;  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,  
 let us be. Let us see thy great sal - va - tion

all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, thou art  
 let us find that sec - ond rest. Take a - way our  
 nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be  
 per - fect - ly re - stored in thee; changed from glo - ry

all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it  
 bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of  
 al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray and  
 in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we

us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747  
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER  
 87.87 D

Alt. tune: HYFRYDOL

428 For the Healing of the Nations

1. For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with  
 2. Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your  
 3. All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the  
 4. You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing of the things that  
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred, all may come and  
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing, dog - mas that ob -  
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness bring the life of

earth af - fords; to a life of love in ac - tion help us  
 go in peace. Show us how through care and good - ness fear will  
 sure your plan. In our com - mon quest for jus - tice may we  
 Christ to mind, that by our re - sponse and ser - vice earth its

rise and pledge our word, (pledge our word) help us rise and pledge our word.  
 die and hope in - crease, (hope in - crease) fear will die and hope in - crease.  
 hal - low life's brief span, (life's brief span) may we hal - low life's brief span.  
 des - ti - ny may find, (may find) earth its des - ti - ny may find.

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1965 (Rev. 21:1-22:5)  
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA  
 87.87.87

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