



*Lake Toxarway United Methodist Church*  
*Sunday, August 16, 2020*

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

*The Scripture passages present difficult topics this week. In fact, I don't have much of an idea as to where The Holy Spirit will lead me in the homily this week. The challenge between hearing and proclaiming the prophetic nature of this week's scripture lessons and wanting to be pastoral to you in the challenges of death and illness among us tear at my heart.*

*I know many of you, like I, experienced the incredible gift of Christian hospitality from Susan Bagwell. Her faithfulness in life and in her illness have been a ministry to most of us. Her death reminds me how much we need each other and how challenging our present situation makes it for us to comfort and remind each other of God's faithful promise of eternal life and resurrection from the dead. Susan's most prominent spiritual gift, hospitality, needs to be celebrated and might point us to an understanding of how to approach the lessons in Romans and Matthew.*

*Both Paul's letter to the Romans and Matthew's Gospel present texts which are complicated and difficult to put into an easily digestible form for a comfortable Sunday morning. Yet, this is precisely why the Holy Spirit invites me to struggle with these scriptures. First, we are wrestling with the wideness of God's mercy and attempting to answer the question, "Who is included in God's saving grace?" On the other hand, we are faced with the realization that Jesus (at least in Matthew's Gospel) struggled with this issue as it related to a Canaanite woman. For these reasons, I want to highlight the lesson from Psalms: "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" And then I am connected to the powerful story of Joseph's reunion and forgiveness of his brothers after years of separation and betrayal.*

*There is a wideness in God's mercy! I know Jesus, the Redeemer of the World, came for all people, Jew and Gentile. We the church, are a unique family, and our two thousand years of history filled with divisions and exclusion sometimes betray Christ's Great Commission. The Canaanite woman boldly approached Jesus out of a need for her daughter and a deep faith in this man from Galilee of whom she had heard and believed. How precious God's mercy when we recognize its wideness even when it stretches us. I pray God raises in each of us the gift of Christian hospitality (we need it now more than ever as we live as a church family without Susan Bagwell and as we live in the present world).*

*May we take seriously the words of Jesus: "But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions... These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile (referring to Jewish Law).*

*I want to share a newer hymn which speaks to the lessons for today (I know, I rarely use a newer hymn as I like the historic ones!):*

***Draw the Circle Wide***

*Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.  
Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw  
the circle wide...*

*God the still-point of the circle  
Round you all creation turns  
Nothing lost but held forever  
In God's gracious arms.*

*Let our hearts touch far horizons  
So encompassing great and small  
Let our loving know no borders  
Faithful to God's call.*

*Let the dreams we dream be larger  
Than we've ever dreamed before  
Let the dream of Christ be in us  
Open every door!*

*I love you. I need to be with you and hug you and give and receive Christian comfort as we grieve as those who have hope. I give thanks for the ways in which you are God's hands and feet to each other and to the larger community and world! Please pray for me as I seek to remain faithful to you and with you in the blessed ministry of Christ!*

***Marcus***

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Home Worship for Community Worship Service**  
**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 16, 2020**

<https://youtu.be/rSQkmA6ukZY>

*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 (like a brown out, power outage, etc.), 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**

If You but Trust in God to Guide You    Robert J. Powell

**GREETING**

*L: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!*

***P: It is like a summer rain which restores the parched earth.***

*L: It is like a cool breeze at the shore of a lake, at the top of a mountain or through a crowded city street.*

***P: God meets us here.***

***ALL: We have gathered to worship the Maker of Our Days, the Restorer of Our Souls and the Breath of Our Lives.***

**HYMN #154**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Located on the second to last page of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

**INVOCATION**

***Holy One of Israel, covenant-keeper, you restore what is lost, heal what is wounded, and gather in those who have been rejected. Give us the faith to speak as steadfastly as did the Canaanite woman, that the outcast may be welcomed and all people may be blessed. Amen.***

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Genesis 45:1-15**

- 45:1 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So, no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.
- 45:2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.
- 45:3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.
- 45:4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.
- 45:5 And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.
- 45:6 For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.
- 45:7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.
- 45:8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.
- 45:9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.
- 45:10 You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.
- 45:11 I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.
- 45:12 And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you.
- 45:13 You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."
- 45:14 Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck.
- 45:15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

**Psalm 133** *(read responsively)*

133:1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**133:2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**

133:3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

**Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

11:1 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

11:2a God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

11:30 Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience,

11:31 so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy.

11:32 For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

**Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28** *(please stand)*

15:10 Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:

15:11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."

15:12 Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?"

15:13 He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.

15:14 Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit."

15:15 But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us."

15:16 Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding?"

15:17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?"

15:18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.

15:19 For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.

- 15:20 These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."
- 15:21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.
- 15:22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."
- 15:23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."
- 15:24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
- 15:25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."
- 15:26 He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."
- 15:27 She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."
- 15:28 Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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.)*

***God of infinite mercy and love, we come before you this day, knowing that we have not always been faithful to what you would have us do. We have too often turned our backs on those in need, choosing not to hear their cries. Forgive us, O Lord. We know that you do not want us to behave in this way. Your love and mercy, so generously showered over us, should be a beacon to guide our own actions. We make no excuses, for none would suffice. We ask your forgiveness and blessing, turning us again around and placing us on the path of compassion and peace. This prayer we offer in Jesus' name. AMEN.***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*God calls each of us by name and cries out with tears of joy as we recognize God in our admission of need.*

*Praise be to God who welcomes us as we are, challenges us to let go of our guilt and provides a way for us to walk on together.*

## **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

*As God has so richly blessed us, let us return a portion of these blessings to God, asking that these gifts may be used in service to others through the ministries and mission of this church. Let us receive our morning offering.*

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

## OFFERTORY

Prelude on "Land of Rest" Sam Batt Owens

## 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 love and mercy, we give you thanks that the compassion of Christ was challenged to move beyond the people of one community. May it be a reminder to us, his disciples, to follow this example in our living and our giving. Help us to see beyond our walls, beyond our communities, and across the divides of nation, race and creed, and to be generous as we share our blessings that have their source in you, God of us all. We pray in the name of our rock and redeemer; in Christ, 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 #368

My Hope is Built

Located on the last page of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Prelude in F Johann Krebs



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  
Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Andy Harvill  
Liturgists: Chip & Leslie Brown

## **Announcements**

### **Will you host a Home Church Service?**

If you have an interest in hosting LTUMC Home Church service of a total of 10 inside or up to 25 on a covered outside porch with 6' social distancing ability please contact Marcus at (828) 553-0282 or [marcus61@gmail.com](mailto:marcus61@gmail.com). We are having the Sunday service at 8:30 AM for the Livestream. You may host a Livestream Home Church at 8:30 or watch the recorded YouTube service at 11:00 AM or later.

### **LTUMC Prayer Requests and Mentors needed for Scholarship Recipients**

#### **We have received the following prayer requests from our scholars:**

- ... this semester is very different from what I have experienced before, and therefore has become a source of anxiety. Therefore, I would like to ask the members of LTUMC to pray for the health of all the returning students and faculty, as well as wisdom and sound judgement in our proceedings with each other. Furthermore, I would like you to pray that the churches on campus will "rise up" and help meet the needs of their members at this time.
- I have recently had a tilt table test done at the Mission Hospital in Asheville. We just got the results back, and I have indicators of postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS), but not enough for an official diagnosis. I will continue to stay on my set medications. I ask that you pray that my health condition improves over time. Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers, and let me know how I can share my story whether it be through a typed letter or video!
- I appreciate the LTUMC community for the continued prayer upon us scholarship recipients.

We also have new bookmarks that include all students' names. Please contact Saunders Grommesh at [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org) or 469-569-2314 (cell) to have a copy of the bookmark which includes a historical prayer for the students.

***We have seven new students this year and would like to match them with members of our congregation so that you might send them cards, emails, gift cards, and other. Please contact Cathie Fussell at [linguafrog@gmail.com](mailto:linguafrog@gmail.com) or 910-572-2167 to learn more about the students and how you can find the one that best suits you.***

# 154 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

1. All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
 2. Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran - somed from the fall,  
 3. Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,  
 4. Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe on this ter - res - trial ball,  
 5. Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of your God, who from his al - tar call;  
 6. O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all.  
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.  
 go spread your tro - phies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.  
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all.  
 ex - tol the Stem of Jes - se's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.  
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all.  
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.  
 Go spread your tro - phies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.  
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all.  
 Ex - tol the Stem of Jes - se's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.  
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all.

WORDS: Edward Perronet, 1779; alt. by John Rippon, 1787  
 MUSIC: Oliver Holden, 1792

CORONATION  
 CM

## My Hope Is Built

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1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than  
 2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I  
 3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup -  
 4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness. I dare not trust the  
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace. In ev - ery high and  
 port me in the whelm - ing flood. When all a - round my  
 may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righ - teous -

sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
 soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
 ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*

On Christ the sol - id rock I stand, all oth - er ground is

sink - ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

WORDS: Edward Mote, 1834  
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1863

THE SOLID ROCK  
 LM with Refrain