



Lake Towarway United Methodist Church
Sunday, August 2, 2020

Dear Lake Toxaway UMC Family and Community,

The story of the miraculous feeding of 5000 has always fascinated me. I remember Sunday School classes where this miracle was the lesson; this miracle is found in all four gospels. The account from John's gospel has a detail I remember every time this miracle comes into our lectionary readings. In John's account there was a young boy who had brought the five loaves and two pieces of fish.

I can remember teachers inviting me and the others to imagine who this young boy might have been, and I always left Sunday School with a strong belief about myself or one of my friends and our ability to have been that young boy. I remember how my teachers stressed a willing heart as important in the work of Christ.

This week, I have found myself drawn away from my childhood focus. The verse God has invited me to hear (Matthew 14:14) involves not the how but the why of the miracle. The motivation for this miracle and the healing events was the compassion of Jesus.

Jesus wanted to spend some time alone because he had heard the tragic news of John the Baptist's death. He needed some time to process his initial grief and shock, yet he recognized the needs of those around him and wanted to meet those needs.

Next week in worship and in an upcoming newsletter, our church family will have the opportunity to celebrate the serving ministries of the church. We will hear how we meet needs of people outside of this particular church. I invite us to move away from tracking how much we give (this is important) as we hear some of these stories of our church's outreach and remember God can take a little (5 loaves and 2 pieces of fish) and make a huge difference in the lives of those around us.

I find this as an opportunity to celebrate the abundance of God's grace as opposed to last week's invitation to celebrate the sufficiency of God's grace. All of us have a story/testimony about the abundance of God's grace in our lives and in the lives of those for whom we care. As we hear these stories, may we remember how lives are transformed because hunger and brokenness were healed.

*Remember the Church is not closed in this time of a pandemic; the Church is deployed! Even though we are separated in our worship and not meeting face to face, we are still the Church. **We recognize we are blessed to be a blessing!***

I continue in my desire to see you. I miss you. I seek to serve you in your pastoral needs. I pray regularly for many of you as you face loss, challenges with aging parents or children and grandchildren, serious illnesses, and day to day challenges in isolation. Please call, email, or text me with your needs. I seek to be found faithful to God in serving as your pastor.

With a servant's heart,

Marcus

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Home Worship for Community Worship Service
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, August 2nd, 2020

https://youtu.be/2-Hi_nFotFc

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

Be Thou My Vision arr. Dale Wood

GREETING

L: Even in the middle of summer, our hearts can be burdened.

P: Stress and worry do not seem to take vacations.

L: You have come to a special place where you can find relief and healing.

P: Thanks be to God for providing us with such blessings.

L: Come, prepare your hearts to receive God's gracious gift of love.

P: We open our hearts and spirits in thanksgiving to God. AMEN.

HYMN #101

From All That Dwell Below the Skies
(Printed w/ permission)

INVOCATION

Lord, we come to you this day in the midst of our summer months. For many this is a time of relaxation; but for others, the burdens, worries, and cares continue to weigh them down. Be with each of us as we open our ears to hear your words, our hearts to feel your presence, and our spirits to receive your healing touch. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 32:22-31

- 32:22 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.
- 32:23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.
- 32:24 Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.
- 32:25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.
- 32:26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."
- 32:27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."
- 32:28 Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed."
- 32:29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.
- 32:30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved."
- 32:31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Psalm 17:1-7, 15 (Read Responsively)

- 17:1 Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.
- 17:2 From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right.**
- 17:3 If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress.
- 17:4 As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.**
- 17:5 My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.
- 17:6 I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words.**
- 17:7 Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.
- 17:15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.**

Romans 9:1-5

- 9:1 I am speaking the truth in Christ--I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit--
- 9:2 I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.
- 9:3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh.
- 9:4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises;
- 9:5 to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Matthew 14:13-21

- 14:13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.
- 14:14 When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.
- 14:15 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."
- 14:16 Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."
- 14:17 They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish."
- 14:18 And he said, "Bring them here to me."
- 14:19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.
- 14:20 And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.
- 14:21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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.)

Gracious Lord, we are filled with a mixture of feelings today. Some of us are rejoicing in the wonderful time of rest and relaxation; while others continue to seek relief from the burdens and worries that they bear. All of us stand in need of your refreshing and nourishing love and forgiveness. You know how many times we have turned our backs on those in need; we have been too busy, too preoccupied with our own problems. Cause us to turn around and see instances in which we can be of help and comfort to someone else. Give us strength and courage to truly be your loving disciples in the ways in which we care for others. Forgive us when we stray from the paths of righteousness and peace. These things we offer in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rejoice! God's love is poured over you this day for healing, restoration, and hope. Feel the power of God's mercy in your life. Go into God's world knowing you are forgiven and blessed to be a blessing to others. AMEN.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. AMEN.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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

Be Thou with Me J. S. Bach

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

Gracious God, we bring our gifts to your altar, asking you to dedicate them to do the work of love and compassion in the world. We learned from Jesus, who had compassion on the crowds who gathered to hear him teach, that putting what we have in the hands of Jesus can bring abundance. Multiply these gifts with the love in which they are offered, that they might bring hope to those in need and might glorify and celebrate your love for all your children. 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 #451

Be Thou My Vision
(Printed w/ permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Festival Praise Robert J. Powell

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

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Andy Harvill

Liturgist: Bill Ogburn

Announcements

Home Church Services - When two or more are gathered...(Matthew 18:20)

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. 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.

Administrative Council Meeting

The Administrative Council will meet on **Friday, August 14th 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 may e-mail Tom at tombblackstock@gmail.com or Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org.

Outreach Volunteer Opportunities – The Haven August 14th & October 2nd weekends

Your Outreach Committee (Gerrie McSwain, Char Holbrook, Kay Blackstock, Cathie Fussell and Fred Markert) ask you give prayerful attention to feeding the hungry and homeless for those at The Haven (Matthew 25:35).

Our church feeds The Haven four times per year. The next two weekends we are signed up to serve are August 14, 2020 and October 2nd, 2020. We need volunteers to walk in Christ's footsteps.

The program is easy. We can provide the best practices for the Haven for those interested in volunteering to serve. The church can reimburse for meal costs although generally it has been absorbed by those volunteering. A letter with invoices would suffice for reimbursement. The Woods and other families have volunteered this year and we ask for two more families to provide weekend food in August and October.

Please contact Fred Markert for instructions, specific times and current meal needs at the shelter.

Fred Markert | fredmarkert47@gmail.com | 828-553-3303 (cell) | 828-862-8499 (home)

From All That Dwell Below the Skies 101

1. From all that dwell be - low the skies,
 2. E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord;
 3. Your loft - y themes, ye mor - tals, bring,
 4. In ev - ery land be - gin the song;

let the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise; let the Re - deem - er's
 e - ter - nal truth at - tends thy word. Thy praise shall sound from
 in songs of praise di - vine - ly sing; the great sal - va - tion
 to ev - ery land the strains be - long; in cheer - ful sounds all

name be sung, through ev - ery land by ev - ery tongue.
 shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.
 loud pro - claim, and shout for joy the Sav - ior's name.
 voic - es raise, and fill the world with loud - est praise.

WORDS: Sts. 1-2, Isaac Watts; sts. 3-4, anon., ca. 1781 (Ps. 117)
 MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793

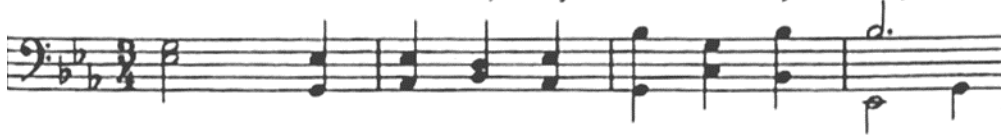
DUKE STREET
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Be Thou My Vision

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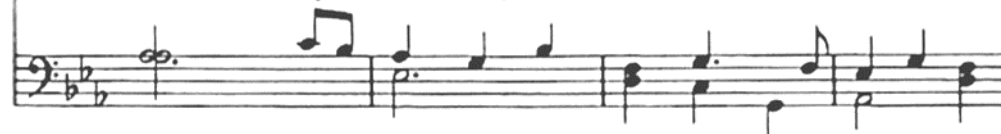
1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!



Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.



WORDS: Ancient Irish; trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.
 MUSIC: Trad. Irish melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1963

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