



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
January 14th, 2024

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 14th

9:30 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtnJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg

RINGING OF THE BELL – *Please observe silence as we prepare for the service.*

PRELUDE

Hymn Douglas E. Wagner

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please stand as you are able*)

The voice of God calls to us! Are you listening?

Speak, Lord, your servants are listening.

The hands of God beckon us! Are you paying attention?

Show us, Lord, your servants are paying attention.

The love of God asks us—are you ready to follow?

Guide us, Lord, and we, your servants, will follow.

Come, let us worship the God whose tenacious love never stops calling and beckoning and asking us to follow.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN #89

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

Awesome God, you knew us before we were born. You love us into life. Open our hearts and our spirits today to hear your Word for us. And, upon hearing the Word, may we be convinced of our call to ministry and mission through the church. Bless us with your presence and your powerful love, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Samuel 3:1-20

- 3:1 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.
- 3:2 At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room;
- 3:3 the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.
- 3:4 Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!"
- 3:5 and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So, he went and lay down.
- 3:6 The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."
- 3:7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.
- 3:8 The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.
- 3:9 Therefore, Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So, Samuel went and lay down in his place.
- 3:10 Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."
- 3:11 Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.
- 3:12 On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.
- 3:13 For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.
- 3:14 Therefore, I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."
- 3:15 Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.
- 3:16 But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am."
- 3:17 Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you."
- 3:18 So, Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."
- 3:19 As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.
- 3:20 And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 139:1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
- 139:2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; 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.**
- 139:13 For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 139:14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.**
- 139:15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
- 139:16 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.**
- 139:17 How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
- 139:18 I try to count them -- they are more than the sand; I come to the end -- I am still with you.**

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (Epistle Reading)

- 6:12 "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.
- 6:13 "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.
- 6:14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.
- 6:15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!
- 6:16 Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh."
- 6:17 But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.
- 6:18 Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself.
- 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?
- 6:20 For you were bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body.

John 1:43-51 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 1:43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."
- 1:44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.
- 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."
- 1:46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."
- 1:47 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!"
- 1:48 Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you."
- 1:49 Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"
- 1:50 Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these."
- 1:51 And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Please be seated)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

Lord, somewhere long ago, someone convinced us that we would not be good material for God to use in healing and helping ministries for this world. We don't really believe that we have anything worthwhile to offer. It is relatively easy for us to donate funds for missions and the good works of the church, but we do not see ourselves worthy of further involvement. Remind us of your forgiving love, when we stubbornly refuse to believe your claim on our lives. Open our eyes and spirits to see the gifts with which you have blessed us, and to commit those gifts to serving you by serving others. There are so many things that we can do. And everything starts with prayer. So, patient God, bear with us as we settle down to pray, asking for your wisdom in our lives. Give us courage and strength to accomplish any task that you set before us. And give us hearts of grateful love to acknowledge your presence in our lives, and live that presence with great joy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

From the very beginning, God has blessed you and planted within your spirit the words "I can do all things through God who strengthens me". Do not fear the task God sets before you. Rejoice, for God is with you every moment and God's love washes over you always, healing and nourishing your life. AMEN.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #880 (The Nicene Creed - Please stand as able)

***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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.***

***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.***

***With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.***

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.***

HYMN #399

Take My Life and Let it Be
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Meditation Robert Hubble

DOXOLOGY #95 *(Please stand as you are able)*

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(Please continue standing)*

God of all wisdom, how often have we been deaf to your voice speaking to our hearts, especially when we move in a world that needs it so desperately? The reading from 1 Samuel brings us the phrase, "The word of the Lord was rare in those days," which resonates with the relevance of the evening news. As we bring our gifts to be dedicated this morning, we pray that you might open our ears, open our hearts to hear where you call us to respond with obedience, so that we might do what you need to begin healing our world. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please be seated)*

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 #463 *(Please stand as you are able)*

Lord, Speak to Me

Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *(Please be seated)*

Trumpet Tune Robert J. Powell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by **the Holimons and Markerts to the Glory of God.**

Administrative Council Meeting

The next Administrative Council meeting will be Friday, January 19th from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at the Lake Toxaway Community Association office just before the Panthertown Café. Please reach out to Scott Walter, the Administrative Council Chair at scottnos@gmail.com.

Have you recently moved?

If you moved during 2023 and your winter address has changed, please provide your new address to Saunders by e-mail at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org. This will help with getting your giving statement for 2023. The statements will be mailed to you in early 2024.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions.

Please pray for those having or had a surgery and their recovery.

Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the recent passing of a loved one.

Please continue to pray for our student scholars, our local students, teachers and staff.

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

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 Leader: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Andy Harvill

Audio/Visual Scheduler: Fred Markert: 828-553-3303

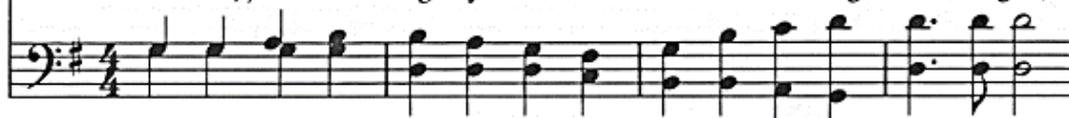
Liturgist: Beth Holimon

Hymns are located on the next few pages and used with permission via One License #737113-A

89 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



1. Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore thee, God of glo-ry, Lord of love;
2. All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re-flect thy rays,
3. Thou art giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blest,
4. Mor-tals, join the might-y cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan;



hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, open-ing to the sun a-bove.
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
 well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean depth of hap-py rest!
 love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, bind-ing all with-in its span.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way.
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flow-ery mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Thou our Fa-ther, Christ our bro-th-er, all who live in love are thine;
 Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife;



Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day!
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth-er, lift us to the joy di-vine.
 joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward, in the tri-umph song of life.



399 Take My Life, and Let It Be

1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - cra - ted,
 2. Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly,
 3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no

Lord, to thee. Take my mo - ments and my days;
 for my King. Take my lips, and let them be
 long - er mine. Take my heart, it is thine own;

let them flow in cease - less praise. Take my hands, and
 filled with mes - sag - es from thee. Take my sil - ver
 it shall be thy roy - al throne. Take my love, my

let them move at the im - pulse of thy love.
 and my gold; not a mite would I with - hold.
 Lord, I pour at thy feet its trea - sure - store.

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 Take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.
 Take my-self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

WORDS: Frances R. Havergal, 1873 (Rom. 12:1)
 MUSIC: Louis J. F. Hérold, 1839; arr. by George Kingsley, 1839

MESSIAH
 77.77 D

Lord, Speak to Me

463

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2. O strength - en me, that while I stand firm
 3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the
 4. O fill me with thy full - ness, Lord, un -
 5. O use me, Lord, use ev - en me, just

liv - ing ech - oes of thy tone; as thou hast sought, so
 on the rock, and strong in thee, I may stretch out a
 pre - cious things thou dost im - part; and wing my words, that
 til my ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and
 as thou wilt, and when, and where, un - til thy bless - ed

let me seek thine err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 lov - ing hand to wres - tlers with the trou - bled sea.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of many a heart.
 glow - ing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show.
 face I see, thy rest, thy joy, thy glo - ry share.

WORDS: Frances R. Havergal, 1872 (Rom. 14:7)
 MUSIC: Adapt. from Robert Schumann, 1839

CANONBURY
 LM