



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
January 21st, 2024

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 21st

9:30 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg

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

PRELUDE

More Love to Thee, O Christ arr. Robert J Powell

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

L: Gather this day in silence and hope

P: We wait for God's word for us.

L: Let your hearts and spirits be open.

P: God is our strength and salvation.

L: Wait patiently for the Lord.

P: With willing hearts and spirits, we wait for the Lord. AMEN.

HYMN #139

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

God of unifying grace, we come distracted by the world.

Our minds wander, and are filled with thoughts other than you.

Our hearts are confused, and we are uncertain where we belong.

Call us to follow you once more. Redeem the night and bless the day that greets us this morning.

May your relentless ways never fail as we strive to live as your beloved people. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

- 3:1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying,
3:2 "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you."
3:3 So, Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across.
3:4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"
3:5 And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.
3:10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Psalm 62:5-12 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 62:5 For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.
62:6 He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
62:7 On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.
62:8 Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah
62:9 Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.
62:10 Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.
62:11 Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,
62:12 and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 (Epistle Reading)

- 7:29 I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none,
7:30 and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions,
7:31 and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Mark 1:14-20 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 1:14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,
1:15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."
1:16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen.
1:17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."
1:18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him.
1:19 As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.
1:20 Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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.)

Holy One, what a blessing and privilege we share

here in this sacred space and among this loving community.

But, like Jonah, we sometimes are jealous of what we share here.

We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience.

Forgive us our reluctance to open our doors,

open our hearts to others; some like us, some not.

We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness

to witness to those, we have considered strangers and even enemies

for fear they just might become friends. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The one who calls us to this place calls us to reconciliation through grace.

God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit.

Know that you are forgiven and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God's love. AMEN.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #881 (The Apostle's Creed - Please stand as able)

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And 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, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

HYMN #396

O Jesus, I Have Promised
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Open My Eyes, That I May See arr. Emma Lou Diemer

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)

Generous God, we ask you to bless the gifts we give this morning. We ask that you help grow the trust in us so that we might follow without looking back and we might leave behind more of our old lives to experience more deeply new life in you. Help us to leave our nets on the shore and leave those things that seemed essential before we heard the call, so that we might travel the road you have put before us. In the name of Christ who goes before us and beside us, 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 #398 *(Please stand as you are able)*

Jesus Calls Us

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *(Please be seated)*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Johann G. Walther

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

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

Topping - Off of the new Fellowship Hall

After the **Sunday, January 28th service** we will meet in the new fellowship hall and write your favorite scripture to have the Word of God surrounding us before the dry wall goes up. For those of you away for the winter, please e-mail Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org with your scripture.

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.

Scholar Update

Chesney Perry is a sophomore at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN. The weather has been cold and snowy. She was due to get even more snow Friday night of which she is very excited. Most of her classes last week were cancelled but she was able to attend her Communications and Microbiology classes. **Chesney returned to school early over the Christmas break to take her TEAS (nursing school) entrance exam.** She did well on it and does not have to retake it. She said it was a very difficult exam and is relieved she did so well. When Chesney attended a summer LTUMC service she said she was excited to have a lot of initials behind her name. She is also interested in radiology. She is currently trying to find another location to shadow for radiology to then complete her application. Radiology has a much more extensive application process than nursing so she is nervous that it is all coming to a close so quickly. **Please remember Chesney and all of our student scholars in your prayers during this Spring semester.**

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

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

Please pray for those having or had a surgery and their recovery. Especially for Courtland, Cynthia and Stephen Wood's daughter who has an infection after a recent surgery.

Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the recent passing of a loved one. Especially for Meriam Matthews of Jack Matthews passing last week. Please continue to pray for the Barger family for the loss of their son.

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 - AV Scheduler: Fred Markert: 828-553-3303

Liturgist: Tom Blackstock

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Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 139

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - mighty, the King of cre - a -
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign -
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de - fend
 4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nour-ish thy life and re - store
 5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -
 ing bears thee on ea - gle's wings, e'er in his keep-ing main -
 thee; sure - ly his good-ness and mer-cy here dai - ly at -
 thee, fit - ting thee well for the tasks that are ev - er be -
 him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be -

va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his tem - ple draw
 tain - ing. God's care en - folds all, whose true good he up -
 tend thee. Pon - der a - new what the Al - mighty can
 fore thee. Then to thy need God as a moth - er doth
 fore him! Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a -

near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 holds. Hast thou not known his sus - tain - ing?
 do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
 speed, spread - ing the wings of grace o'er thee.
 gain; glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him.

O Jesus, I Have Promised

396

1. O Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;
 2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near;
 3. O let me hear thee speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4. O Je - sus, thou hast prom-ised to all who fol - low thee

be thou for - ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear;
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,
 my foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.
 but Je - sus, draw thou near - er, and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my Friend.

WORDS: John E. Bode, ca. 1866 (Lk. 9:57)
 MUSIC: Arthur H. Mann, 1881

ANGEL'S STORY
 76.76 D

Jesus Calls Us

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1. Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult of our
 2. As of old the a - pos - tles heard it by the
 3. Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4. In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5. Je - sus calls us! By thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to



sweet voice sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me!"
 toil and kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more!"
 cares and plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these!"
 thine o - be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.