



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Community Worship Service**  
**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany January 28th**

**9:30 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S\\_Cfg1sWCg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg)

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

**PRELUDE**

Be Thou My Vision    Dale Wood

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

*Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart in the company of the upright in the congregation.*

***Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.***

*The works of God's hands are faithful and just; all God's precepts are trustworthy.*

***They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.***

*God's works extend to you and me and the whole community as the Spirit nurtures gifts and graces in each of us.*

***Great are the works of the Lord, whose love and grace endures forever!***

*God raises up some to be prophets to help us follow God's voice, yet all are called to lead by following.*

***We affirm the gifts of those who are called to be truth-tellers in our midst, helping us all to answer the call to be truth-doers. Great are the works of the Lord! Amen.***

**HYMN #158**

Come, Christians, Join to Sing  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

**OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)**

***Holy Father, Open our hearts and spirits this day to hear the great good news of your power and presence with all your people. Fill our hearts with rejoicing as the words are proclaimed in song and story. Enliven us and remind us that you are with us, through the pillar of fire, through the magnificent words of the prophets, through the ministry and love of Jesus Christ. AMEN.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Deuteronomy 18:15-20

- 18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.
- 18:16 This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die."
- 18:17 Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said.
- 18:18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.
- 18:19 Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable.
- 18:20 But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak--that prophet shall die."

### Psalm 111 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 111:1 Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- 111:2 Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**
- 111:3 Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.
- 111:4 He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**
- 111:5 He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- 111:6 He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.**
- 111:7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.
- 111:8 They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**
- 111:9 He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.
- 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.**

### 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (Epistle Reading)

- 8:1 Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.
- 8:2 Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge;
- 8:3 but anyone who loves God is known by him.

- 8:4 Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one."
- 8:5 Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth--as in fact there are many gods and many lords--
- 8:6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.
- 8:7 It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.
- 8:8 "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.
- 8:9 But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.
- 8:10 For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols?
- 8:11 So, by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed.
- 8:12 But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.
- 8:13 Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

**Mark 1:21-28 (Please stand for the Gospel)**

- 1:21 They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.
- 1:22 They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.
- 1:23 Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit,
- 1:24 and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God."
- 1:25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!"
- 1:26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.
- 1:27 They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching--with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."
- 1:28 At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

*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.)*

***We think we know so much, O God, and with our meager knowledge we presume to judge others. We arrogantly announce our own righteousness without a compassionate thought. We proclaim your word when it suits us and often only to those with whom we want to associate. We shut others out because of our faulty judgment and our blindness. There have been so many times in which our humble help would have been a blessing to someone, but we have placed our comforts before serving others. In the competing voices of today's world, we have turned around and around, trying to find the way to live. Help us, merciful God, to again listen to you. Help us to truly open our hearts to you. Remind us again of your great love and presence in our lives. Forgive us our foolishness and our stubbornness. Create in us new spirits, filled with your love, offering peace and hope to all. In Jesus' Name we pray. AMEN.***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*Quiet your hearts, beloved of God, for God is speaking to you with love. Rest your spirits, struggling ones, for God will surround you with peace. Open your lives to God's power and presence and do not be afraid. God is with us, now and for all time. AMEN.*

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

## **HOMILY**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH #887** *(Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 37-39)*

*(Please stand as you are able)*

***Leader:***

*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.***

**HYMN #451**

Be Thou My Vision

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

**OFFERING**

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

**OFFERTORY**

Dearest Jesus We Are Here     David Cherwien

**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 justice, mercy, and compassion; we bring our tithes and offerings to your altar and pray they will be used to make your amazing love known to all. Then, most often we leave and return to our weekday lives, expecting someone else to make that happen. Remind us that your prophets, your leaders, your missionaries, were called and raised up from "among the people." Help us open our lives and our minds to the possibility that we might be the ones you would call and send. We pray this in the name of Christ, our teacher and our redeemer. 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 #127** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

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

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *(Please be seated)*

Trumpet Tune     Wayne Wold

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Flowers on the Altar**

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

### **Topping – Out Blessing of the new Fellowship Hall**

After today's 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. Thank you to all who emailed your scripture verse to us. We will ensure they are on the studs.

### **Giving Statements**

**The LTUMC Giving Statements have been mailed earlier this week.** If you have not received yours, please wait another week as the USPS seems to be slow in delivering. Please reach out to Saunders at [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org) if you have any questions.

### **Scholar Update**

**Chesney Perry is a sophomore at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN.** Chesney returned to school early over the Christmas break to take her TEAS (nursing school) entrance exam. She did well on it. 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. 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 is recovering at home. Also for Kayla, John & Char Holbrook's granddaughter who had surgery for a twisted intestine.**

**Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the recent passing of a loved one. Especially for Meriam Matthews of Jack Matthews passing recently.**

**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](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 Leader: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Andy Harvill - AV Scheduler: Fred Markert: 828-553-3303

Liturgist: Carole Guffey

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

# 158 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 3. Praise yet the Lord a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 Let prais-es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;  
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;  
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

WORDS: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843

MUSIC: Trad. melody; arr. by Benjamin Carr, 1824; harm. by Austin C. Lovelace, 1963

SPANISH HYMN

66.66 D

Harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press

## Be Thou My Vision

451

*Unison*

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

SLANE  
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Alt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press

## Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 127

1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing  
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy  
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my  
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on

power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en, feed me  
 jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer, be thou  
 Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will

till I want no more; (want no more) feed me till I want no more.  
 still my strength and shield; (strength and shield) be thou still my strength and shield.  
 ev - er give to thee; (give to thee) I will ev - er give to thee.

WORDS: William Williams, 1745; trans. from the Welsh by Peter Williams and  
 the author, 1771  
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA  
 87.87.87