



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, January 7th, 2024

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service & Communion
Epiphany of the Lord, January 7th**

**9:30 A.M. Livestream is now available via the LTUMC YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg**

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Go Tell it on the Mountain James Beery

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ's light is shining,

calling us to respond with joy.

Christ's light is shining,

calling us to worship and praise.

HYMN #245

The First Noel

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

OPENING PRAYER

***God of glory and grace, shine upon our worship
with your presence.***

Shine in our hearts with your love.

Shine in our lives with your grace,

that we may arise with confidence

and go forth to bring your justice and love to all.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6

- 60:1 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- 60:2 For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
- 60:3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

- 60:4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- 60:5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- 60:6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 72:1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.
- 72:2 May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**
- 72:3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- 72:4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**
- 72:5 May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- 72:6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.**
- 72:7 In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
- 72:10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**
- 72:11 May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.
- 72:12 For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.**
- 72:13 He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.
- 72:14 From oppression and violence, he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.**

Ephesians 3:1-12 (Epistle Reading)

- 3:1 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles--
- 3:2 for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,
- 3:3 and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,
- 3:4 a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

- 3:5 In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
- 3:6 that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
- 3:7 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.
- 3:8 Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,
- 3:9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;
- 3:10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
- 3:11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
- 3:12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Matthew 2:1-12 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 2:1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,
- 2:2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."
- 2:3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;
- 2:4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.
- 2:5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
- 2:6 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"
- 2:7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.
- 2:8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."
- 2:9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.
- 2:10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.
- 2:11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- 2:12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #881 (The Apostles' Creed)

***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.***

THE GLORIA PATRI #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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

***Merciful God, grant us the grace to behold your glory
and offer us the assurance that your loving light
will not burn us.***

***Grant us the confidence
that we too can shine your light in our world.***

***Remove the lampshades of fear and shame
that hide our light.***

***Dust off the cobwebs of doubt and despair
that shadow our light.***

Shine in and through us,

that your light may brighten our world. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Here is the mystery: Grace is ours, no matter what.

God's love is ours, no matter what.

Grace and love save us and shine in us.

*They allow us to shine as the light of the world
with the Light of the World. Amen.*

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow. Jack Jones

DOXOLOGY #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***Glorious God, bring glory to these gifts
and to the offering we share
with you and your church.***

***Bring the light of your justice and righteousness
to the dark corners of our world.***

***Bring the glory of your love and compassion
to heal our broken communities.***

***Bring the hope of generosity and gratitude
to places in need of transformation. Amen.***

HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION #249

There's a Song in the Air

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The pastor gives thanks and remembers God's acts of salvation, and concludes:...and
so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and
join their unending hymn:*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven

and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:...and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering

for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

As with Gladness

Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed with permission)

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Amen.

POSTLUDE (Please be seated)

Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow Betty Roe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Administrative Council Meeting

*The next Administrative Council meeting will be held on **Friday, 1-19-24 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM** the **Lake Toxaway Community Association meeting room - 16600 Rosman Hwy, Lake Toxaway, NC 28747.** (Just after the main gate of LT Estates and before Panthertown Café)*

*Please reach out to **Scott Walter, the new Administrative Council Chair** with **questions at scottnos@gmail.com.***

Giving Statements

If you moved and have a new winter address, please email Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org to ensure your 2023 giving statement gets to you for your taxes. Giving statements will be mailed in the early part of 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 starting the Spring semester.

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: 828-884-3548

Liturgist: Scott Walter

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

The First Noel

245

1. The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the
 3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -
 5. Then en - tered in those Wise Men three, full rev - erent -

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay
 east, be - yond them far; and to the earth it
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was
 hem it took its rest; and there it did both
 ly up - on the knee, and of - fered there, in

keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 his pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

WORDS: Trad. English carol (Lk. 2:8-14; Mt. 2:1-12)
 MUSIC: Trad. English carol; harm. from *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

THE FIRST NOEL
 Irr. with Refrain

249 There's a Song in the Air

1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
 2. There's a tu - mult of joy o'er the won - der - ful birth,
 3. In the light of that star lie the a - ges im - pearled;
 4. We re - joice in the light, and we ech - o the song

There's a moth - er's deep prayer and a ba - by's low cry!
 for the vir - gin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
 and that song from a - far has swept o - ver the world.
 that comes down through the night from the heav - en - ly throng.

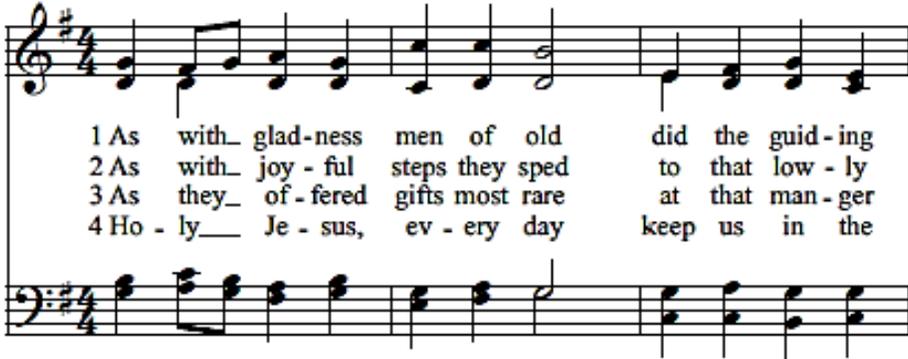
And the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,
 Ay! the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,
 Ev - ery hearth is a - flame, and the beau - ti - ful sing
 Ay! we shout to the love - ly e - van - gel they bring,

for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
 for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
 in the homes of the na - tions that Je - sus is King!
 and we greet in his cra - dle our Sav - ior and King!

WORDS: Josiah G. Holland, 1874
 MUSIC: Karl P. Harrington, 1904

CHRISTMAS SONG
 66.66.12 12

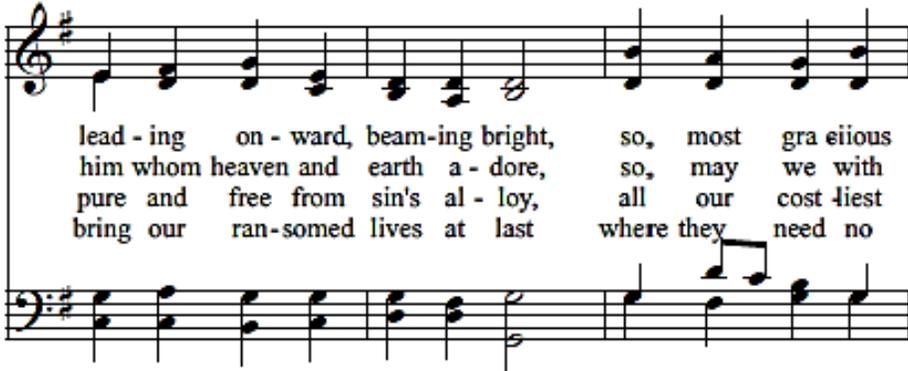
As with Gladness



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at that man-ger
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the



star be-hold; as with joy they hailed its light,
man-ger bed, there to bend the knee be-fore
rude and bare, so may we with ho-ly joy,
nar-row way; and when earth-ly things are past,



lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright, so, most gra-eious
him whom heaven and earth a-dore, so, may we with
pure and free from sin's al-loy, all our cost-liest
bring our ran-somed lives at last where they need no



Lord, may we ev-er-more your splen-dor see.
wil-ling feet e-ver seek the mer-cy seat.
treas-ures bring, Christ, to you, our heaven-ly King,
star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

393

Spirit of the Living God

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

WORDS: Daniel Iverson, 1926; adapt. (Acts 11:15)
 MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

LIVING GOD
 75.75.875

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