



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
February 11th, 2024

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Transfiguration Sunday, February 11th

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

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

PRELUDE

Partita on "Fairest Lord Jesus" Richard Peek

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

The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth (Psalm 50:1-2).

God's glory fills the earth, but sometimes we, like Elisha, do not think we are ready to encounter glory.

And yet, God's glory showed up anyway.

Sometimes we are like the disciples who witnessed Jesus' transfiguration and wanted to cling to that one glorious moment.

And yet, God called them down from the mountain.

So, we gather today, some of us feeling ready and some of us feeling wholly unprepared, yet all are called together to worship and to be led by glory out into the world.

God, may we perceive your glory all around us, pointing us in the way you would have us go. Amen.

HYMN #157

Jesus Shall Reign

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

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

Mighty God, stay with us always, not only in our worship, but as we share the risk and challenge of living our faith.

By your powerful Spirit, turn our fear to courage.

Your glory shines in the face of Christ; shine in our hearts and lives.

May your name be praise, glorious God! Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Kings 2:1-12

- 2:1 Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.
- 2:2 Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So, they went down to Bethel.
- 2:3 The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."
- 2:4 Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So, they came to Jericho.
- 2:5 The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."
- 2:6 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So, the two of them went on.
- 2:7 Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.
- 2:8 Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.
- 2:9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit."
- 2:10 He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not."
- 2:11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.
- 2:12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalm 50:1-6 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

50:1 The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

50:3 Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.

50:4 He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

50:5 "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

50:6 The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge. Selah

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (Epistle Reading)

4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

4:5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.

4:6 For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Mark 9:2-9 (Please stand for the Gospel)

9:2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,

9:3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

9:4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

9:5 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

9:6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

9:7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

9:8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

9:9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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.)*

Patient Lord, you know how accustomed we are to "magic" tricks. Our spirits and our senses get fooled easily. We would be just like the disciples, at first not believing what we were seeing and then wanting to make a monument to the event. Thank you for being so patient with us. Forgive us when we get so wrapped up in the moment that we don't take time enough to understand its significance. Help us pause, reflect, think, and thank you for the blessings of unexpected revelations. Give us wisdom and strength to be your disciples, proclaiming your transforming love to all people. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

To you the light of love and ministry has been revealed. Rejoice! You have been blessed by God to be witnesses; to proclaim God's love to all. Be at peace! 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

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Offertory on "Beach Spring" Gilbert M. Martin

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)*

Gracious God, as we remember Christ's transfiguration, we stand in awe of the glimpse of your glory revealed on the mountain. Just as Peter, James, and John witnessed the radiant presence of Christ, we, too, are transformed by your love and grace. As we offer our tithes and offerings, may these gifts reflect the warming light of your love in our lives. Just as Jesus was transfigured before them, may our hearts be transformed, and our actions reflect the love and truth Jesus embodies. Bless our giving and use it to bring your divine light to a world in need. In the name of Jesus, our Lord, 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 #189 *(Please stand as you are able)*

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *(Please be seated)*

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart Robert A. Hobby

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

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

Welcome New LTUMC Members

Please welcome Ryan and Mandy Stahl as members of LTUMC. They have transferred their membership from Lakeside UMC in Sanford, Florida to Lake Toxaway UMC. They will be full time residents in Lake Toxaway starting in April 2024.

Ash Wednesday Service

As we begin the Lenten journey this year, we will have ashes available at the Ash Wednesday service, **Wednesday, February 14th at 4:30 PM.**

Bible verses for the new Fellowship Hall

The sheetrock has not gone up yet. If you have scripture verses you want on the studs, please e-mail Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org with your full scripture.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions. We pray for Arlene Hendrix, Andy Harvill, the Butz family. Please also pray for Sherry Minnich's sister, Leigh Ashman and Leslie Brown who have recently been diagnosed with cancer.

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 pray for Barbara Kline as Jerry Kline passed away on Saturday, 2/10/24. We will let everyone know of the memorial service as they are available.

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 and Scott Walter: 314-374-2969

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

Liturgist: Beth Holimon

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Jesus Shall Reign

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1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2. To Je - sus end - less prayer be made, and end - less
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; all pris - oners
 5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom spread from
 prais - es crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap and loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men!

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 72)
 MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793

DUKE STREET
 LM

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks in upon our darkness,
splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.

Text by Carl Daw;

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Tune: Beach Spring; public domain

Fairest Lord Jesus

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, rul - er of all na - ture,
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the wood - lands,
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light,
 4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of all the na - tions!

O thou of God and man the Son,
 robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring:
 and all the twink - ling star - ry host:
 Son of God and Son of Man!

thee will I cher - ish, thee will I
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o -

hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 pur - er than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine.

United Methodist Hymnal 189

WORDS: *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677; trans. Joseph August Seiss, 1873

MUSIC (ST. ELIZABETH 568.556): *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842; arr. by Richard Storrs Willis, 1850