



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
February 25th, 2024

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Second Sunday in Lent, February 25th

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

Wondrous Love David N. Johnson

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

In promise and covenant, God calls.

In hope and trust, we respond.

In love and faithfulness, God saves.

In gratitude and joy, we come.

Let us worship and praise God's holy name.

HYMN #66

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

Ancient of days, bring your future hope into our world.

Bring your love into our lives.

Bring your presence into our midst.

***Open our hearts and minds to your message,
that we may respond with hope and trust.***

***With our ancestors of old,
may we walk in the lineage of faithful discipleship.
Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

- 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.
- 17:2 And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous."
- 17:3 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,
- 17:4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
- 17:5 No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
- 17:6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.
- 17:7 I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.
- 17:15 God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.
- 17:16 I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Psalm 22:23-31 (Psalter Lesson – Please read the bold text)

- 22:23 You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
- 22:24 For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.
- 22:25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.**
- 22:26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!
- 22:27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.**
- 22:28 For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.
- 22:29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.**
- 22:30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,
- 22:31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

Romans 4:13-25 (Epistle Reading)

- 4:13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.
- 4:14 If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.
- 4:15 For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.
- 4:16 For this reason, it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,
- 4:17 as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") --in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.
- 4:18 Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be."
- 4:19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.
- 4:20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,
- 4:21 being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.
- 4:22 Therefore, his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."
- 4:23 Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone,
- 4:24 but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,
- 4:25 who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Mark 8:31-38 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 8:31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.
- 8:32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
- 8:33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."
- 8:34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
- 8:35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

- 8:36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?
8:37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?
8:38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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 Friend, our God and Savior,

we have talked much about faith yet have been slow to take its risks,

we have lauded forgiveness yet have been miserly in giving it,

we have praised truth yet have fudged our own integrity,

we have extolled love yet have placed conditions on our loving,

we have urged hope for others yet have ourselves lived like cynics,

we have honored Christ's Cross yet have avoided our own.

Most faithful God, please deal with each according to our individual betrayals of the Gospel we espouse. By your Spirit enter the secret caverns of the soul and there, expose, judge, counsel, cleanse and reform us. Forgive us repeatedly, we pray, until forgiveness is such a part of us that it may become a way of life as we deal with those around us. In the name of Christ our Redeemer. Amen!

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ's righteousness has become our righteousness.

God's merciful love is enough to save us.

All is forgiven.

All is restored.

God's beloved are made righteous in Christ's grace.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #883 (United Church of Canada) (Please stand as you are able)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

***who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.***

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

***to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.***

***In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.***

We are not alone.

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 #297

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Wonderful Words of Life Robert J. Powell

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 Boundless Goodness: We have come to this place this day to worship you with our songs, with our words, with our gifts, and with our whole hearts. We are reminded that our discipleship decision involves more than what we bring this day to the altar; it calls us to a place where a cross that is ours alone must be picked up and carried. This, more than anything else, is why we need the community of your church. Strengthen us, we pray, not just to carry our own cross, but to help sisters and brothers carry their crosses as well. In the name of the one who bore his cross for us. 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 #438 *(Please stand as you are able)*

Forth In Thy Name, O Lord

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *(Please be seated)*

Voluntary in A minor Anonymous (18th Century)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

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

Memorial Service for Jerry Kline

Jerry Kline's memorial service will be Saturday, March 2nd at 2:00 PM. A small reception will be at Lake Toxaway Community Center in the small building after the service.

Construction Update

The upper parking lot was full of trucks this week with a lot going on. The sheetrock has been installed in the new fellowship hall, the conference room, office, kitchen and the bathrooms (3 total), interior & exterior electrical work has been done including outdoor lighting. Reminder, the old bathroom is fully functional and accessible from the new main entrance. It is the first door on the right from the main entrance.

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, Don Guffey and Steve, Joe Haraschak's brother. Please also pray for Sherry Minnich's sister, Leigh Ashman who has kidney cancer. We also pray for Leslie Brown who also has cancer. Tom Cook and Patricia Simmons have asked for prayers for Sydney Sackman, their granddaughter. She is facing a challenging situation, and prayers of wisdom and confidence for her throughout the remaining weeks of February are appreciated.

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.

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

Bill Minnich Scholar Updates:

Brennan Chapman graduates in May 2024 from Mars Hill with a nursing degree. He has also played football for Mars Hill. He has already accepted a nursing position at Mission. Brennan interned there last summer and needs two years of nursing experience before he would qualify for the traveling nurse program which is his ultimate goal.

Wyatt Owen is studying diesel engineering at AB Tech. He has 4 A's and a B. Wyatt is working almost full-time already for a company that sells and services John Deere equipment.

"Kiki" – Quiriat Reynaldo is taking classes at AB Tech three days a week and is studying for a certain exam that will put her into the full dental hygienist program.

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: Stephanie Taylor

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

66 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en, to the throne thy
 2. Praise the Lord for grace and fa - vor to all peo - ple
 3. Fa - ther - like, God tends and spares us; well our fee - ble
 4. An - gels in the heights, a - dor - ing, you be - hold God

trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; praise God, still the same as ev - er,
 frame God knows; moth - er - like, God gent - ly bears us,
 face to face; saints tri - um - phant, now a - dor - ing,

ev - er - more God's prais - es sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
 res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!
 gath - ered in from ev - ery race. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious now God's faith - ful - ness.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet God's mer - cy flows.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

WORDS: Henry F. Lyte, 1834 (Ps. 103)
 MUSIC: John Goss, 1869

LAUDA ANIMA
 87.87.87

Alt. tune: REGENT SQUARE

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

297

1. Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,
 2. Up - on that cross of Je - sus mine eye at times can see
 3. I take, O cross, thy shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land;
 the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

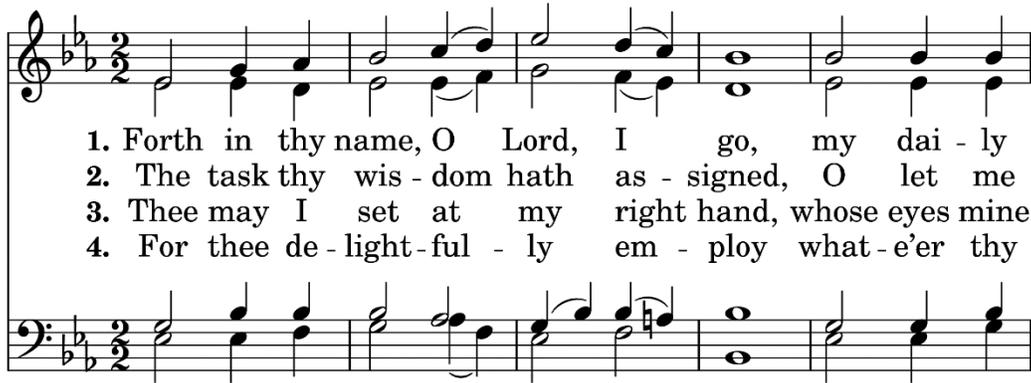
a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 and from my strick - en heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.
 the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

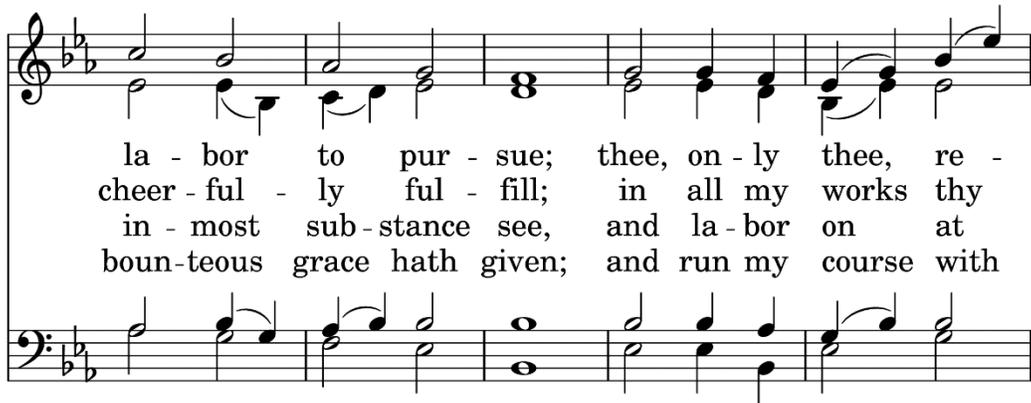
WORDS: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1872
 MUSIC: Frederick C. Maker, 1881

ST. CHRISTOPHER
 76.86.86.86

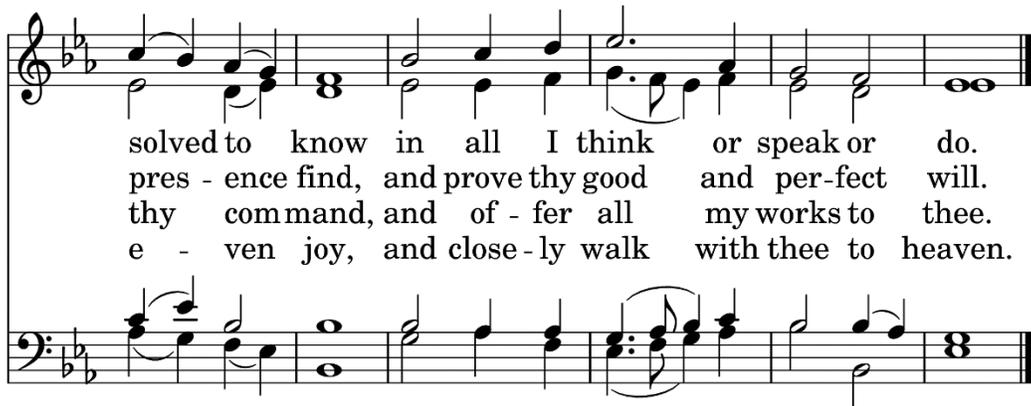
Forth in Thy Name, O Lord



1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my dai - ly
 2. The task thy wis - dom hath as - signed, O let me
 3. Thee may I set at my right hand, whose eyes mine
 4. For thee de - light - ful - ly em - ploy what - e'er thy



la - bor to pur - sue; thee, on - ly thee, re -
 cheer - ful - ly ful - fill; in all my works thy
 in - most sub - stance see, and la - bor on at
 boun - teous grace hath given; and run my course with



solved to know in all I think or speak or do.
 pres - ence find, and prove thy good and per - fect will.
 thy command, and of - fer all my works to thee.
 e - ven joy, and close - ly walk with thee to heaven.

United Methodist Hymnal 438
 WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1749
 MUSIC (DUKE STREET, LM): John Hatton, 1793