



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, February 4th, 2024

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service & Communion
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 4th

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

Seek Ye First arr. Douglas E. Wagner

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, welcome! Surely God is in this place!

We come to worship and to rest in God's presence.

Breathe deep for the goodness of God surrounds us.

The Holy One who sustains the universe is near.

When we are tired, worn down, and carrying heavy burdens, God is with us.

God strengthens us that we might help carry one another's burdens.

So, let us join together in wonder and thanksgiving for God's love that lifts us up on wings like eagles.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN #103

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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

OPENING PRAYER

O God, we are gathered here under the shelter of your wings,

nurtured by your parental love,

and encouraged, then, to fly by faith on the wind of your spirit.

You have spoken to us, saying

***"They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings as eagles."***

Teach us how to wait, then, that we may learn how to fly.

May this nest we call "family" be built with sturdy materials.

Don't let us forget, though,

***that this nest was not created as a fortress behind which to hide,
but as a perch from which to take off.***

And strengthen us with the assurance that we do not fly alone.

This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 40:21-31

- 40:21 Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- 40:22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;
- 40:23 who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
- 40:24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- 40:25 To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
- 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.
- 40:27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?
- 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.
- 40:29 He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
- 40:30 Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
- 40:31 but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 147:1 Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
- 147:2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**
- 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.
- 147:4 He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.**
- 147:5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.
- 147:6 The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.**
- 147:7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.
- 147:8 He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.**

147:9 He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.

147:10 His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

147:11 but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

147:20c Praise the LORD!

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (Epistle Reading)

9:16 If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!

9:17 For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission.

9:18 What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

9:19 For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them.

9:20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law.

9:21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law.

9:22 To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.

9:23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Mark 1:29-39 (Please stand for the Gospel)

1:29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

1:30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.

1:31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

1:32 That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.

1:33 And the whole city was gathered around the door.

1:34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

1:35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.

- 1:36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him.
1:37 When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you."
1:38 He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do."
1:39 And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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.)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and left undone. We have not loved you fully, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As the Psalmist proclaims, "If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered."

For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Prayer Douglas Wagner

DOXOLOGY #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of power and patience, we gather in worship to wait on your presence and to be filled with your power. Jesus healed with a touch and taught us that you are the source of the true healing that can make us whole. As we take time now in worship to offer our gifts to you, we pray that they might be used to bring healing: of body, of spirit, of broken relationships; healing of a world community that is deeply divided by distrust and self-interest. We pray this in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION #395

Take Time to be Holy

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 #415

Take Up Thy Cross

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)*

Postlude in Classic Style Gordon Young

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

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

Ash Wednesday Service

As we begin the Lenten journey this year, we will have ashes available at the Ash Wednesday evening service, Wednesday, February 14th. The time will be announced later.

2023 Giving Statements

The LTUMC Giving Statements have been mailed. The statements include all gifts including If you have not received yours or have an issue, please reach out to Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org.

Scholar Update: Abigail Rice

Here is an update we received this week. "I received the Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church Scholarship for the spring semester at Blue Ridge Community College. I am writing this thank you letter to show my gratitude to the church for the generous donation of \$500 to help me pay for this semester of college. I was very happy when I learned that I had received this scholarship.

I am an associate in arts major and I will receive my associate's degree at the end of this semester and I will graduate in May! After graduation, I plan on attending Western Carolina University to pursue my teaching degree. I currently work at Brevard Elementary as a teacher's assistant and I love my job! By receiving this scholarship, I am one step closer to achieving my goal of becoming a teacher one day.

By awarding me the Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church Scholarship it has helped me out tremendously with my financial situation. I will be able to focus on my schooling more now that I do not need to stress about paying for my last semester at Blue Ridge. Thank you so much for this opportunity to help me further my education."

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. Prayers of thanksgiving for a successful surgery for Kayla, John & Char Holbrook's granddaughter. We also give prayers of thanks for Courtland, Cynthia and Stephen Wood's daughter.

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.

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

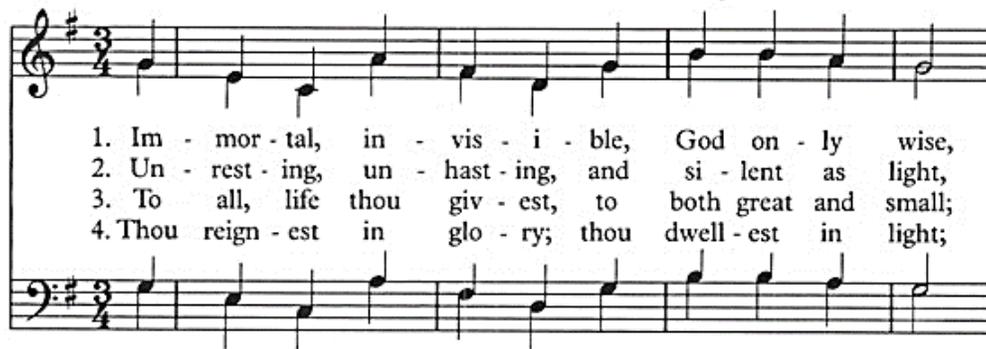
Lay Leader: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Andy Harvill: 828-884-3548

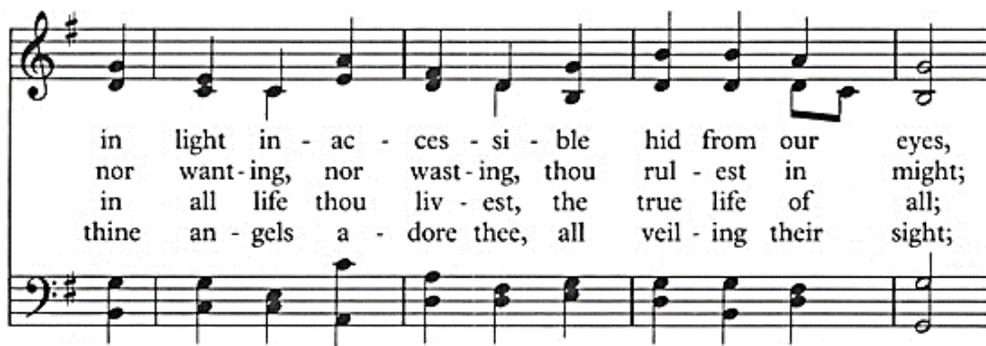
Liturgist: Scott Walter

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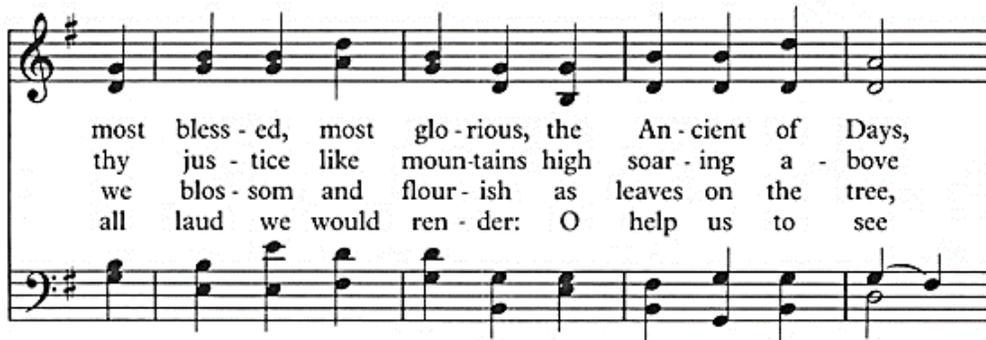
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 103



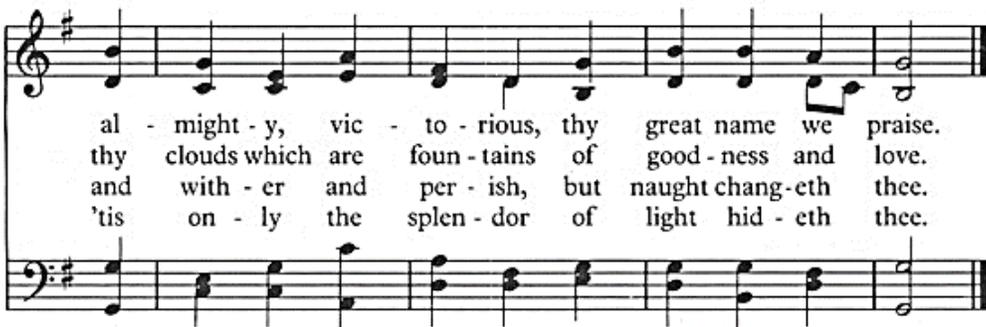
1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867 (1 Tim. 1:17)
 MUSIC: Welsh melody from *Canïadau y Cyssegr*, 1839; adapt. by John Roberts

ST. DENIO
 11 11.11 11

Take Time to Be Holy

1. Take time to be ho - ly, speak oft with thy Lord;
 2. Take time to be ho - ly, the world rush - es on;
 3. Take time to be ho - ly, let him be thy guide,
 4. Take time to be ho - ly, be calm in thy soul,

a - bide in him al - ways, and feed on his word.
 spend much time in se - cret with Je - sus a - lone.
 and run not be - fore him, what - ev - er be - tide.
 each thought and each mo - tive be - neath his con - trol.

Make friends of God's chil - dren, help those who are weak,
 By look - ing to Je - sus, like him thou shalt be;
 In joy or in sor - row, still fol - low the Lord,
 Thus led by his spir - it to foun-tains of love,

for - get - ting in noth - ing his bless - ing to seek.
 thy friends in thy con - duct his like - ness shall see.
 and, look - ing to Je - sus, still trust in his word.
 thou soon shalt be fit - ted for ser - vice a - bove.

WORDS: William D. Longstaff, ca. 1882 (1 Pet. 1:16)
 MUSIC: George C. Stebbins, 1890

HOLINESS
 65.65 D

Take Up Thy Cross

415

1. "Take up thy cross," the Sav - ior said, "if thou wouldst
 2. Take up thy cross, let not its weight fill thy weak
 3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame, nor let thy
 4. Take up thy cross and fol - low Christ, nor think till

my dis - ci - ple be; de - ny thy - self, the
 spir - it with a - larm; his strength shall bear thy
 fool - ish pride re - bel; thy Lord for thee the
 death to lay it down; for on - ly those who

world for - sake, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 spir - it up, and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.
 cross en - dured, to save thy soul from death and hell.
 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

WORDS: Charles W. Everest, 1833 (Mt. 16:24-25; Mk. 8:34-35; Lk. 9:23-24)
 MUSIC: William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

GERMANY
 LM

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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