



Lake Toxarway United Methodist Church
March 10th, 2024

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 10th

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

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

God loves us with a steadfast love.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!

God loves us so much he gave us his Son.

Let us believe and have eternal life!

God loves us with a great love, rich in mercy.

Let us have faith to receive this grace!

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

HYMN #98

To God be the Glory

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

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

God of goodness and grace,

gather us in your arms of love.

Gather us as people of your goodness and grace.

Gather us in worship and prayer,

that we may be strengthened

with faith and courage.

Gather us as those who are eager to live

and to share your goodness and grace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Numbers 21:4-9

- 21:4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way.
- 21:5 The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food."
- 21:6 Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.
- 21:7 The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So, Moses prayed for the people.
- 21:8 And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."
- 21:9 So, Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (Psalter Lesson – Please read the bold text)

- 107:1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.
- 107:2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble
- 107:3 and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**
- 107:17 Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;
- 107:18 they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.**
- 107:19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;
- 107:20 he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.**
- 107:21 Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.
- 107:22 And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.**

Ephesians 2:1-10 (Epistle Reading)

- 2:1 You were dead through the trespasses and sins
- 2:2 in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.
- 2:3 All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.
- 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us
- 2:5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved--
- 2:6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
- 2:7 so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
- 2:8 For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God--
- 2:9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast.
- 2:10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

John 3:14-21 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 3:14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
- 3:15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
- 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
- 3:17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.
- 3:18 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.
- 3:19 And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.
- 3:20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.
- 3:21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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.)

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.

We love with condition.

We judge and condemn.

We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes.

We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.

Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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 #292

What Wondrous Love is This
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

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 unwavering love, you have held nothing back in your love for us, not even your Son. How we marvel at that kind of love, and how we long to reflect a portion of that devotion back to you. As we dedicate our offerings to you, lead us away from our tendency to hold back and worry that there will not be enough. Help us to live as the people of love and abundance you have called us to be. In Christ, 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 #381 *(Please stand as you are able)*

Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead us
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *(Please be seated)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

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

Our Daily Bread

We have the new version of Our Daily Bread devotionals at both entrances of the sanctuary.

Construction Update

There has been a lot of work taking place this week. The outside of the old fellowship hall and the new fellowship buildings have been painted. The ceiling of the fellowship hall has been installed. The floors in the bathrooms have been completed.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions. We pray for Andy Harvill, Don Guffey and Steve, Joe Haraschak's brother. Please pray for Sherry Minnich's sister, Leigh Ashman who has kidney cancer. We also pray for Leslie Brown who also has 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 2/10/24. The Mullett family as Ted Mullett passed on 2/20/24, and the Hendrix family as Arlene Hendrix passed on 2/23/24.

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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98 To God Be the Glory

1. To God be the glo - ry, great things He hath done; So loved He the
 2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood, To ev - 'ry be -
 3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, And great our re -

world that He gave us His Son, Who yield - ed His life an a -
 liev - er the prom - ise of God; The vil - est of - fend - er who
 joic - ing thro' Je - sus the Son; But pur - er, and high - er, and

tone - ment for sin, And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 tru - ly be - lieves, That mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 great - er will be Our won - der, our vic - t'ry, when Je - sus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord,

praise the Lord, Let the peo - ple re - joice! O come to the Fa - ther, thro'

Je - sus the Son, And give Him the glo - ry, great things He hath done.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915
 MUSIC: William H. Doane, 1832-1915

TO GOD BE THE GLORY
 11.11.11.11. with Refrain

292 What Wondrous Love Is This

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
 2. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
 3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
 4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to
 won - drous love is this, that caused the Lord of life to
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and

bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my soul, to
 lay a - side his crown for my soul, for my soul, to
 mil - lions join the theme I will sing, I will sing; while
 through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

bear the dread - ful curse for my soul.
 lay a - side his crown for my soul.
 mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
 through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

WORDS: USA folk hymn
 MUSIC: USA folk hymn; harm. by Paul I. Christianson 1955

WONDRIOUS LOVE

381 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we
 2. We are thine, thou dost be - friend us, be the
 3. Thou hast prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and
 4. Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly

need thy ten - der care; in thy pleas - ant pas - tures
 guard - ian of our way; keep thy flock, from sin de -
 sin - ful though we be; thou hast mer - cy to re -
 let us do thy will; bless - ed Lord and on - ly

feed us, for our use thy folds pre - pare.
 fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 lieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.
 Sav - ior, with thy love our bos - oms fill.

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! Hear, O
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! We will
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast

ASSURANCE

bought us, thine we are. Bless-ed Je-sus,
 hear us when we pray. Bless-ed Je-sus,
 ear-ly turn to thee. Bless-ed Je-sus,
 loved us, love us still. Bless-ed Je-sus,

bless-ed Je-sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 bless-ed Je-sus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.
 bless-ed Je-sus! We will ear-ly turn to thee.
 bless-ed Je-sus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

ASSURANCE, *see further:*

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|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|--|
| 128 | He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought | 292 | What Wondrous Love Is This |
| 622 | There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood | 342 | Where Shall My Wondering Soul
Begin |