



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
March 17th, 2024

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 17th

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus arr. Dale Wood

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

Lenten travelers, how long have you traveled this road with your gaze pointed down at the dust and gravel and asphalt as you walk or limp or roll down the path?

Sometimes it is easier to look at the road than at the people who share the journey with us.

Lift up your heads! Look, listen, reach out a hand. Who are your neighbors on this road?

We lift our heads and look to our Savior who journeys with us and helps us notice our neighbors all around us.

This is the Lenten journey—to learn to love God and love our neighbors just as Jesus showed us.

Our journey teaches us to lose our lives to God as we find and follow Christ in our service to others.

Come, let us worship God who caravans with us on this road to the cross.

Come, let us worship! Amen.

HYMN #181

Ye Servants of God

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

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

***Our souls are troubled, Holy One,
until they find their rest in you.***

***When we live in fear of our mortality,
help us face the future unafraid.***

Write the truth of Christ's words on our hearts:

***"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it can only be a single seed.***

But if it dies, it bears much fruit."

***In our living and in our dying,
draw us together with all your people.***

***Enable us to worship together here and with Christian brothers and sisters
around the globe in this confidence.***

We pray in the holy name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 31:31-34

- 31:31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
- 31:32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt--a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.
- 31:33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- 31:34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalm 51:1-12 (Psalter Lesson – Please read the bold text)

- 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**
- 51:3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- 51:4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**
- 51:5 Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- 51:6 You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**
- 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 51:8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**
- 51:9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**
- 51:11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- 51:12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Hebrews 5:5-10 (Epistle Reading)

- 5:5 So, also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you";
- 5:6 as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."
- 5:7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.
- 5:8 Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered;
- 5:9 and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,
- 5:10 having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

John 12:20-33 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 12:20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.
- 12:21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."
- 12:22 Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.
- 12:23 Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.
- 12:24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- 12:25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.
- 12:26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.
- 12:27 "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say--' Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.
- 12:28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."
- 12:29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."
- 12:30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.
- 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.
- 12:32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."
- 12:33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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.)*

God of love that knows no boundaries: we crowd our lives with so much activity that it is hard to find time for you. We become so focused on ourselves, we can overlook those around us who are searching for hope. We fill our spiritual emptiness with junk, rather than feasting on your Word.

Abundant Mercy, forgive us. Open our eyes, that we may see your new covenant written in plain sight on our hearts. Open our hearts, that we may join you in serving the broken of the world. Open our love, so we may pour it out as abundantly and graciously as your love is given to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*The One who engraves our hearts is faithful,
remembering our sins no more.
You are loved and accepted,
for it is written within by our gracious God.*

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #880 *(The Nicene Creed)* *(Please stand as you are able)*

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.***

Through him all things were made.

***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.***

***For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.***

***On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.***

***With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.***

***We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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 #472

Near to the Heart of God
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Amazing Grace arr. Sam Batt Owens

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)

***With hearts washed clean and with spirits made new,
we celebrate the joy of your salvation, O God.
May the tithes and offerings we share this day
reflect the law of love
you have written on our hearts.
May these gifts bear the fruit of your Spirit,
and may they bless those who need it most. 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 #415 (Please stand as you are able)

Take Up Thy Cross

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (*Please be seated*)

Postlude on "Wondrous Love" David D. Dahl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar.

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

Flowers Sign-Up

We are going digital for the flowers on the altar. Please look at our LTUMC calendar on our website: <https://www.laketoxawayumc.org/index.php> to check for open Sundays. Please send an e-mail (not a text or phone call) to Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org. Be sure to include the date and what the flowers are for as it will be put in our bulletin.

Tenebrae Service & Volunteer Liturgists Needed

Our Tenebrae service will be on Maudy Thursday, 3/28 evening. The time will be announced later. We are needing 11 volunteer liturgists to read from your own Bibles. If you are interested, please contact Marcus at marcus61dodson@gmail.com

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions. We pray for Andy Harvill, 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 started treatments this past week.

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.

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: Scott Walter

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Ye Servants of God

1. Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
 2. God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save,
 3. "Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne!"
 4. Then let us a - dore and give him his right,

and pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful name;
 and still he is nigh, his pres - ence we have;
 Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son;
 all glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might;

the name all - vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol,
 the great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
 the prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 all hon - or and bless - ing with an - gels a - bove,

his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all.
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our King.
 fall down on their fac - es and wor - ship the Lamb.
 and thanks nev - er ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love.

472

Near to the Heart of God

D B⁷/D⁹ Em A A' D

1. There is a place of qui - et rest, near to the heart of God;
 2. There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God;
 3. There is a place of full re - lease, near to the heart of God;

D D B⁷/D⁹ Em A D/A A' D

a place where sin can - not mo - lest, near to the heart of God.
 a place where we our Sav - ior meet, near to the heart of God.
 a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

Refrain G G/D D D/A A' D/A A' A D

O Je - sus, blest Re - deem - er, sent from the heart of God,

G D A A' D

hold us who wait be - fore thee near to the heart of God.

United Methodist Hymnal 472

WORDS: Cleland B. McAfee, 1903

MUSIC (McAFEE, CM with Refrain): Cleland B. McAfee, 1903

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
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