



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, March 31st, 2024

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Easter Sunday, March 31st

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

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

CALL TO WORSHIP

The tomb is dark but empty

The one you are looking for has overcome the darkness

The stone has been rolled away

The one you are looking for has overcome death

The burial clothes are put aside

The one you are looking for is alive!

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed!

Let us worship our Risen Savior!

HYMN #302

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

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

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

O God of Easter joy,

we come this morning

with glad shouts of acclamation:

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed.

May this time of worship help us to truly, fully experience the Risen Christ.

May we be transformed, transformed into your "butterfly" people,

winging through the earth

with messages of beauty, hope, and life

because Jesus suffered the cross, was buried, and is resurrected; all people

are drawn and invited to experience the fullness of God's love and promise of eternal life. Alleluia! Christ is alive!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 25:6-9

- 25:6 On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
- 25:7 And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.
- 25:8 Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.
- 25:9 It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 (Psalter Lesson – Please read the bold text)

- 118:1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
- 118:2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."
- 118:14 The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.**
- 118:15 There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;
- 118:16 the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."**
- 118:17 I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.
- 118:18 The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.**
- 118:19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.
- 118:20 This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.**
- 118:21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
- 118:22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**
- 118:23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 118:24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (Epistle Reading)

- 15:1 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand,
- 15:2 through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you--unless you have come to believe in vain.
- 15:3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures,
- 15:4 and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,
- 15:5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.
- 15:6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.
- 15:7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.
- 15:8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.
- 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.
- 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them--though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.
- 15:11 Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

John 20:1-18 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 20:1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.
- 20:2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."
- 20:3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.
- 20:4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.
- 20:5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.
- 20:6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there,
- 20:7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.
- 20:8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;
- 20:9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.
- 20:10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.

- 20:11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;
- 20:12 and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet.
- 20:13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."
- 20:14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.
- 20:15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."
- 20:16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).
- 20:17 Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"
- 20:18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.

HYMN #322

Up from the Grave He Arose

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

Gracious and Patient God, we come before you with so many things which weigh us down. We would like an "easy" faith, one that doesn't cause us to look within ourselves, to identify those many ways in which we have forsaken you. But faith is never easy. It requires our very souls. Forgive us, God, for all those things which we have neglected to do that would have helped someone else to be closer to you. Heal our hearts from the wounds which have been inflicted upon us by the anger and misunderstandings which occur in relationships. Prepare our lives to be of service to you. In silence, we wait. We long for your presence and your healing touch. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

God is merciful. God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Feel the healing, loving power of God in your lives, for it is given to you through Jesus Christ. Amen.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Alleluia! Alleluia

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #881 (*The Apostle's 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.

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 #304

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Meditation on "Lift High the Cross" Charles Callahan

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Holy God, thank you for your goodness and mercy,
especially for the good news
of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

*May these offerings, and indeed our very lives, become a witness to all
people of the salvation and grace, you bring into the world. Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 #308

Thine Be the Glory

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

BENEDICTION (In unison)

*We believe in the God of Easter morning,
Who awakes us from our darkest dreams,
And leads us into the light of a new day,
Who meets our pessimism
With stunning hope
Of angelic proclamation.*

*We believe in the God of Easter Day
Who beats us to the obstacles in our lives
And empties the dark tomb for us;
Who appears in surprising ways
When we least expect it;
Walking with us
On our detours.*

*We believe in the God of Easter evening
Who breaks into our closets and prisons,
Bringing peace and crushing our fear.
I believe in the risen Lord who meets us
with wounds on his hands and feet;
Who grants us his spirit,
Sending us out
To bring Shalom to the world.
Amen.*

POSTLUDE

Hymn to Joy arr. Robert J. Powell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

*The flowers on the altar are given by **Don & Carole Guffey** in in celebration and remembrance of our risen Lord.*

Guest Musician

*We welcome **Luke Norton** as our guest trumpeter today. He is a student at Western Carolina University and his family attends here. Luke recently went to Ireland to march & play in the WCU band in Ireland.*

Construction Update

After today's Easter service, please take a self-guided tour of the existing Fellowship Hall (now a conference room, office and kitchen), and the new Fellowship Hall.

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 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. Especially for Barb Kline & family, Carol Mullett & family and the Hendrix family.

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 Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434 and Scott Walter: 314-374-2969

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

Liturgist: Scott Walter

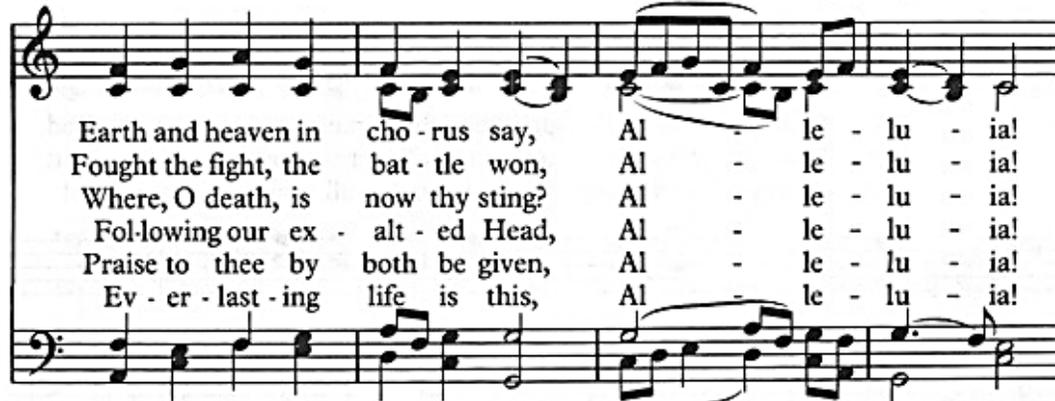
Guest Musician: Luke Norton

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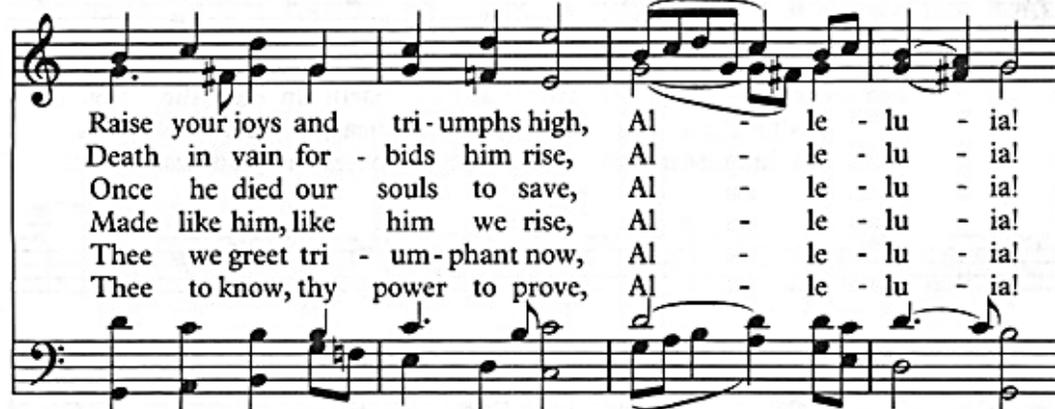
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today 302



1. Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. Lives a-gain our glo-rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!
 * 5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Al - le - lu - ia!
 * 6. King of glo-ry, soul of bliss, Al - le - lu - ia!



Earth and heaven in cho-rus say, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat-tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol-lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise to thee by both be given, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ev - er - last - ing life is this, Al - le - lu - ia!



Raise your joys and tri-umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Once he died our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like him, like him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Thee we greet tri - um - phant now, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Thee to know, thy power to prove, Al - le - lu - ia!



Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where's thy vic - tory, boast-ing grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Hail the Res - ur - rec - tion, thou, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Thus to sing, and thus to love, Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739
 MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

EASTER HYMN
 77.77 D

322 Up from the Grave He Arose

1. Low in the grave He lay, Je-sus, my Sav-ior! Wait-ing the com-ing day,
 2. Vain - ly they watch His bed, Je-sus, my Sav-ior! Vain - ly they seal the dead,
 3. Death can-not keep his prey, Je-sus, my Sav-ior! He tore the bars a - way,

Je - sus, my Lord! Up from the grave He a - rose, with a
 He a-rose,

might - y tri-umph o'er His foes; He a - rose a vic - tor from the
 He a-rose;

dark do - main, and He lives for - ev - er with His saints to reign. He a -

rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!
 He a-rose! He a-rose!

WORDS: Robert Lowry, 1874
 MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1874

CHRIST AROSE
 6.5.6.4 with refrain

Easter People, Raise Your Voices 304

1. Eas - ter peo - ple, raise your voic - es, sounds of heav - en in
 2. Fear of death can no more stop us from our press - ing
 3. Ev - ery day to us is Eas - ter, with its res - ur -

earth should ring. Christ has brought us heav - en's choic - es;
 here be - low. For our Lord em - pow - ered us to
 rec - tion song. When in trou - ble move the fast - er

heav - en - ly mu - sic, let it ring. Al - le - lu - ial
 tri - umph o - ver ev - ery foe. Al - le - lu - ial
 to our God who rights the wrong. Al - le - lu - ial

Al - le - lu - ial Eas - ter peo - ple, let us sing.
 Al - le - lu - ial On to vic - tory now we go.
 Al - le - lu - ial See the power of heav - en - ly throngs.

WORDS: William M. James, 1979
 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867

REGENT SQUARE
 87.87.87

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Thine Be the Glory

1. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering Son;
 2. Lo! Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb;
 3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life!

end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.
 lov - ing - ly he greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom.
 Life is naught with - out thee; aid us in our strife.

An - gels in bright rai - ment rolled the stone a - way,
 Let the church with glad - ness hymns of tri - umph sing,
 Make us more than con - querors, through thy death - less love;

kept the fold - ed grave - clothes where thy bod - y lay.
 for our Lord now liv - eth; death hath lost its sting.
 bring us safe through Jor - dan to thy home a - bove.

Refrain

Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering Son;

end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

WORDS: Edmond L. Budry, 1904; trans. by R. Birch Hoyle, 1923
 MUSIC: *Harmonia Sacra*, ca. 1753; arr. from G. F. Handel, 1747

JUDAS MACCABEUS
 55, 65, 65, 65

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