



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
April 28th, 2024

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Fifth Sunday after Easter, April 28th

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*)

Easter people, we have been saved by the Risen Christ, the life-giving Vine.

We abide in Love, the life-giving Vine.

We are branches of the Vine—sustained, nurtured, and pruned by Love.

We have no life apart from Love, the life-giving Vine.

When we make our home in the Vine, and the Vine makes a home in us, we bear the fruit of Love.

We produce the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine.

Easter people, how shall we bear the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine?

We will love and learn to love as we rest, play, work, and build community with God and one another. Amen.

HYMN #66

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

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

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace.

Cultivate in us a spirit of openness in this time or worship.

***Till the soil of our hearts, to dig deep into Your scriptures,
to nourish our bodies and spirits with song and praise.***

***Help us to love one another more fully, and to bear spiritual fruit,
for You are the vine, and we are the branches, and in You we live, grow, and
have the fullness of life. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 8:26-40

- 8:26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)
- 8:27 So, he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship
- 8:28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.
- 8:29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."
- 8:30 So, Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"
- 8:31 He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.
- 8:32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.
- 8:33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."
- 8:34 The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"
- 8:35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.
- 8:36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"
- 8:38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.
- 8:39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.
- 8:40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Psalm 22:25-31 (Psalter Lesson – Please read the bold text)

- 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.

1 John 4:7-21 (Epistle Reading)

- 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
- 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.
- 4:9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.
- 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
- 4:11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.
- 4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.
- 4:13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.
- 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.
- 4:15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.
- 4:16 So, we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.
- 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.
- 4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.
- 4:19 We love because he first loved us.
- 4:20 Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.
- 4:21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 15:1-8 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.
- 15:2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.
- 15:3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.
- 15:4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

- 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.
- 15:6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.
- 15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
- 15:8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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.)*

Merciful One,

***you know when we are afraid to love;
you know when we are too cowardly
to show mercy.***

Remind us again

that perfect love casts out such fears.

***Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love,
even in the face of our imperfections.***

***Imbue us with a love so strong,
with such growth toward perfection,
that we may cast aside our pride
and embrace the power of love.***

Hear our prayers and forgive us, we ask in the name of Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ is the vine. We are simply branches.

If we abide in Christ, Christ's words will abide in us.

*Ask for whatever you wish in Christ's name
and it will be granted.*

In the name of Christ,

you who seek forgiveness are forgiven!

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #889 (1 Timothy)
(Please stand as you are able)

Leader:

*There is one God
and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus,
who came as a ransom for all,
to whom we testify.*

People:

***This saying is sure
and worthy of full acceptance:
That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners,
and was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated in the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
taken up in glory.
Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel. 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 #172

My Jesus, I Love Thee
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)*

Gracious God, as we offer our gifts today, we reflect on the wisdom in the words from John's gospel. In this imagery, we recognize our role as branches, connected to you, the source of our strength and vitality. Help us stay rooted in your love, producing fruit that brings glory to your name. May these gifts signify our commitment to abide in your teachings and work joyfully in response to your love. In the name of Jesus, 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 #384 *(Please stand as you are able)*

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
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 Judy and John Lefler for the glory of God to the LTUMC congregation.

Administrative Council Meeting is May 17 at 10:00 AM in our new Conference room and will be via available Zoom.

Volunteers needed for the following dates:

May 4 at 10:00 AM - we need help unpacking items into our new space. Please bring your own gloves. Please reach out to Scott Walter with questions.

May 18 and May 25 at 10:00 AM we need volunteers to help plant shrubs, Hostas and Hydrangeas. Planting will be on the new west rock wall and railroad tie wall around the church. Please bring your own gloves and garden tools.

New Space Consecration Date & 1st Coffee Hour

We will have our first Coffee Hour in our new space on Mother's Day after the Sunday service on May 12th. We will consecrate our new space on Sunday, June 30th in the afternoon. It will be open to the public.

UMC General Conference 2024 April 23 - May 3 in Charlotte, NC

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church is a significant global gathering that convenes every four years. Please use the following links for accurate information:

www.wnccumc.org/gc2024 & [General Conference \(umc.org\)](http://umc.org)

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. This will be a first come first serve and the sign-up is starting for May as April flowers have been filled.

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 John Haraschak, Joe's twin brother who has been fighting lung cancer since 2017. He has lost part of his right lung about a year ago. Now two more tumors in right lung, lower and upper. John is getting chemo and radiation through June 30th. Please pray for Sherry Minnich's sister, Leigh Ashman and Leslie Brown who cancer.

Please pray for those having or had a surgery and their recovery. Especially for Sherry Minnich who had surgery on 4-9. Patricia Simmons who had surgery on 4-10.

Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the recent passing of a loved one. Especially for Sheila Rinker as John Rinker passed away on 4/15.

Please continue to pray for our student scholars, our local students, teachers and staff as the school year is drawing to a close.

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: Pastor Marcus Dodson

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

172

My Jesus, I Love Thee

1. My Je - sus, I love thee, I know thou art mine; for
 2. I love thee be - cause thou hast first lov - ed me, and
 3. In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light, I'll

thee all the fol - lies of sin I re - sign. My
 pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree; I
 ev - er a - dore thee in heav - en so bright; I'll

gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sav - ior art thou; if
 love thee for wear - ing the thorns on thy brow; if
 sing with the glit - ter - ing crown on my brow; if

ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
 ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
 ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

WORDS: William R. Featherstone, 1864
 MUSIC: Adoniram J. Gordon, 1876

GORDON
 11 11.11 11

384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down; fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing;
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in thee in - her - it;
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,
 let us be. Let us see thy great sal - va - tion

all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, thou art
 let us find that sec - ond rest. Take a - way our
 nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be
 per - fect - ly re - stored in thee; changed from glo - ry

all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it
 bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of
 al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray and
 in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we

us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER
 87.87 D

Alt. tune: HYFRYDOL