



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
May 12th, 2024

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Ascension of our Lord, May 12th

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

Chorale and Meditation on Crown Him with Many Crowns

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

L: Shout to the rooftops! Our Lord Jesus Christ is seated at God's right hand!

P: The same Christ who was given by God to help us learn how to live together and love each other is now seated with God!

L: Don't stand staring into the heavens! Christ's spirit is with us, in us, and through us!

P: Rejoice and dance happily! It is not time to mourn!

L: Come, join us in song, praising God with our whole lives and spirits!

P: Clap your hands! Clap your hands! Sing a new song in celebration!

L: And all the people shouted

P: AMEN!

HYMN #327

Crown Him with Many Crowns

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

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

God of incredible surprises, as we gaze into the clouds, remind us that we are standing on holy ground. Place our feet on the pathways of peace and hope. Draw our attention from the vision of the Lord rising to the heavens to be with you and help us to focus on the ministries that you would have us do. Keep us ready and willing always to serve you all our days. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 1:1-11

- 1:1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning
- 1:2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.
- 1:3 After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.
- 1:4 While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me;
- 1:5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."
- 1:6 So, when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"
- 1:7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.
- 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- 1:9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.
- 1:10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.
- 1:11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Psalm 47 (Psalter Lesson – Please read the bold text)

- 47:1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.
- 47:2 For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.
- 47:3 He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.**
- 47:4 He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah
- 47:5 God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**
- 47:6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 47:7 For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.**
- 47:8 God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.
- 47:9 The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.**

Ephesians 1:15-23 (Epistle Reading)

- 1:15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason
- 1:16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.
- 1:17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,
- 1:18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,
- 1:19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.
- 1:20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,
- 1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.
- 1:22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,
- 1:23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Luke 24:44-53 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 24:44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."
- 24:45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,
- 24:46 and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,
- 24:47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
- 24:48 You are witnesses of these things.
- 24:49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."
- 24:50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.
- 24:51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.
- 24:52 And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;
- 24:53 and they were continually in the temple blessing 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.)

Forgiving and gracious God, you have called us to be the church, to live out our Resurrection faith. You have asked us to place our trust in you and to bring to all the good news of your saving love. But we have failed to do this. We have given our faith a back seat to the troubles of the world and to the stresses in our own life. We look for the quick and easy answers. Forgive us for the smallness of our faith. You, who raised Christ from the dead, have promised to raise our spirits and bring us to new life. You have done this and yet, we remain static in our response to you. Clear our spirits of the clutter of everyday living. Help us to be open always to your word and your love. Challenge us to move in directions of peace and hope for all people. These things we pray in the name of our risen Lord. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Forgiveness and love have been poured out upon you, to offer hope to all nations. You are called and blessed to be messengers of God's good news to all people.

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 #368

My Hope is Built

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus Robert J. Powell

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)

Compassionate Father, in our communal life, may our actions, love, and giving reflect Christ's presence within us. Help us live in a way that displays Christ's life in us, showcasing love, respect, and hospitality. As we share and give, may it reflect not only on us but also glorify Jesus. Guide us in honoring one another and celebrating our commitments as part of our faith. In gratitude and abundance, we present these offerings, believing that sharing Christ is the most loving act. In the name of Jesus, our Rock and Redeemer, 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 #157 (Please stand as you are able)

Jesus Shall Reign

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *(Please be seated)*

All Hail the Power of Jesus's Name Hal H. Hopson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Bob & Lee Cowan in honor of all mothers on Mother's Day.

Scholarship Committee Meeting – Tuesday, 5/14

*The Scholarship Committee will be meeting in the new conference room on **Tuesday, May 14th from 10:00 AM – Noon.** Please see Fred Markert with any questions.*

***Administrative Council Meeting is May 17 at 10:00 AM** in our new Conference room and Zoom. See Scott Walter with questions*

***Thank You Toxaway Falls Garden Club** for an amazing donation for our new landscaping! We are extremely grateful for this and volunteers on 5/18 & 5/25.*

Planting Volunteers Needed - May 18 and May 25 at 10:00 AM

We need volunteers to help plant on the new west rock wall and railroad tie wall around the church. Please bring your own gloves and garden tools. Please reach out to Scott Walter with questions.

Flowers & Coffee Hour Sign-Ups

Please sign up on the new calendars for coffee hour and flowers on the altar. They are located in our new parish hall.

1st Coffee Hour & New Space Consecration Dates

*Our first Coffee Hour in our new parish hall is today after our service. We will consecrate our the new Fellowship Hall on Sunday, **June 30th in the afternoon.** It will be open to the public.*

LTUMC 2024 Graduates

*The Outreach/Scholarship Committee is excited to announce the 2024 college graduates and we are grateful for our LTUMC congregation for the financial support for this endeavor. We celebrate and give thanks to God for the matriculation of **Callie Owen** (Gardner Webb University), **Brennan Chapman** (Mars Hill University) and **Wyatt Owen** (A-B Technical Community College). Each graduate, in addition to the annual financial support, has benefited from a church partner who provides prayer, encouragement and, in many cases, tangible gifts. All graduates receive an inscribed bible from LTUMC.*

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions.

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 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: Joe Haraschak 813-918-1916

Liturgist: Carole Guffey

Hymns are located on the next few pages and used with permission via One License #737113-A

327 Crown Him with Many Crowns

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.
 2. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave,
 3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,

Hark! how the heav-en-ly an-them drowns all mu-sic but its own.
 and rose vic - to-rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.
 those wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau-ty glo - ri - fied.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
 His reign shall know no end, and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re-deem-er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex-tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874 (Rev. 19:12)
 MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868

DIADEMATA
 SMD

RESURRECTION AND EXALTATION, *see further:*

636 Christian People, Raise Your Song 715, 716 Rejoice, the Lord Is King

177 He Is Lord

My Hope Is Built

368

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than
 2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup -
 4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness. I dare not trust the
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace. In ev - ery high and
 port me in the whelm - ing flood. When all a - round my
 may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righ - teous -

sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

On Christ the sol - id rock I stand, all oth - er ground is

sink - ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

WORDS: Edward Mote, 1834
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1863

THE SOLID ROCK
 LM with Refrain

Jesus Shall Reign

157

1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2. To Je - sus end - less prayer be made, and end - less
3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; all pris - oners
5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom spread from
prais - es crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap and loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men!

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 72)
MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793

DUKE STREET
LM