



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Community Worship Service**  
**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Sept 29th**

**9:30 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S\\_Cfg1sWCg](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*)**

*L: Sometimes we wonder how we have gotten through some difficult situations.*

***P: God has been with us, lifting and comforting our spirits.***

*L: We struggle and worry.*

***P: God’s loving presence sustains and strengthens us.***

*L: Listen for God’s call to you.*

***P: Lord, we are listening and seeking your guidance. AMEN.***

**HYMN # 103**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

**OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)**

***Christ Jesus,  
we come into your presence  
from many different places.  
We come with songs of joy  
and shouts of gratitude.  
We come carrying heavy burdens  
and sighs of suffering.  
As you welcome us into your house,  
lift our burdens  
and receive our praise.  
Salt us with your grace  
and flavor us with your mercy.  
Bind us together,  
that we may be at peace with one another  
and be strengthened to go forth  
in service to the world.  
In your holy name, we pray. Amen.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 - Esther's intercession**

- 7:1 So, the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther.
- 7:2 On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled."
- 7:3 Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me -- that is my petition -- and the lives of my people -- that is my request.
- 7:4 For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace, but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king."
- 7:5 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?"
- 7:6 Esther said, "A foe and an enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.
- 7:9 Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very pole that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that."
- 7:10 So, they hung Haman on the pole that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.
- 9:20 Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,
- 9:21 enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year,
- 9:22 as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday, that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

### **Psalms 124 - We have escaped like a bird (Pg. 846 UMH) (Psalter Lesson)**

***(Please read the bold text)***

124:1 If it had not been the Lord who was on our side -- let Israel now say --

**124:2 if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,**

**124:3 then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;**

124:4 then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;

**124:5 then the raging waters would have gone over us.**

124:6 Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

124:7 **We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;** the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

**124:8 Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

**James 5:13-20 - Prayer and anointing in the community (Epistle Reading)**

5:13 Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.

5:14 Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.

5:15 The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

5:17 Elijah was a human like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

5:18 Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

5:19 My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another,

5:20 you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

**Mark 9:38-50 - Warnings to those who obstruct faith (Gospel)**  
***(Please stand as you are able)***

9:38 John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him because he was not following us."

9:39 But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.

9:40 Whoever is not against us is for us.

9:41 For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

9:42 "If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.

9:43 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.

9:45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.

- 9:47 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,  
9:48 where their worm never dies and the fire is never quenched.  
9:49 "For everyone will be salted with fire.  
9:50 Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

*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 unity, we do not always live as people bound together in your love.***

***Forgive us, Holy One:***

***when we do not pray for those who suffer,***

***or care for those who are sick;***

***when we forget to offer words of gratitude for the many gifts in our lives;***

***when we judge others and neglect your teaching that we are in partnership with one another;***

***when we lose the saltiness of your teachings,***

***the excitement and energy you offer us on this journey of discipleship.***

***Flavor us with your love.***

***Knead into our very being your mercy and your grace.***

***Sprinkle us with the spices of compassion and commitment.***

***Even as we are forgiven, leaven us with forgiveness for others.***

***In trust of your eternal grace and merciful forgiveness, we pray. Amen.***

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*Scripture promises:*

*"Anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven."*

*Friends, no matter how great our sins,*

*or how far we have wandered from the path,*

*the word of scripture is true.*

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

**HOMILY**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH #888 (1 Corinthians 15 1-6 and Colossians 1 12-20)**  
*(Please stand as you are able)*

*Leader:*

*This is the good news  
which we have received  
in which we stand,  
and by which we are saved:*

**People:**

***Christ died for our sins,  
was buried,  
was raised on the third day,  
and appeared first to the women,  
then to Peter and the Twelve,  
and then to many faithful witnesses.***

***We believe Jesus is the Christ,  
the Anointed One of God,  
the firstborn of all creation,  
the firstborn from the dead,  
in whom all things hold together,  
in whom the fullness of God  
was pleased to dwell  
by the power of the Spirit.***

***Christ is the head of the body, the church,  
and by the blood of the cross  
reconciles all things 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 #467**

Trust and Obey

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, we dedicate these offerings to your service, inspired by Esther's wisdom and courage. Just as she sought deliverance and found grace, may our gifts bring hope and relief to those in need. Guide us to use these resources to promote justice, mercy, and compassion in our community. May we always act with gratitude and wisdom, recognizing your providence in all we do. Bless these gifts and those who give them so that, together, we may reflect your love and grace in the world. In Christ, our savior 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 #127** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** *(Please be seated)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Guest Pianist**

*Please extend a warm welcome to Vinelle Davis, our guest pianist today. She has played for us over the years.*

### **Flowers on the Altar**

*The flowers on the altar are given by **Kim & Quint Jardine** in appreciation of Pastor Marcus Dodson.*

### **Livestream Volunteers Needed**

*We need more volunteers to help provide the livestream. It is not a hard task and you will be trained. If you are interested, please reach out to **Joe Haraschak** at [joe10066@outlook.com](mailto:joe10066@outlook.com).*

### **The Prayer Ministry**

***They meet the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at 9:30 AM in the church. Please e-mail prayer requests to [LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com](mailto:LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com)***

### **Bible Study – Sunday Mornings**

***The Bible study meets on **Sundays at 8:15 AM** in the Minnich conference room and is not consecutive; come as you can. **Don Henderson** is leading this Bible Study.***

### **Bible Study – Tuesday Afternoons Concluded & Thank You**

***The six-week Bible Study of Luke has concluded. **Thank you to Lysa Riggs** for leading this Bible Study.***

### **AA Meetings Thursday Nights**

***The weekly **AA** meeting is every **Thursday at 4:45 PM** in the **Dice Hall**. In an effort to honor anonymity please do not go to the Parish building from **4:15 PM – 6:00 PM**.***

## **PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY**

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

***We pray for **Doug & Sally Bailey, Thomas Blackstock, Char Holbrook, Jane Sheffield, and John McColskey.*****

***We pray for the **Harvill** family as **Andy** in hospice care. He is welcoming visits at the **Oaks** in **Brevard**.***

***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](mailto:marcus61dodson@gmail.com)

Organist: Charlie Steele: [cwsorgan@comporium.net](mailto:cwsorgan@comporium.net)

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh, 469-569-2314, [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto: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: Scott Walter

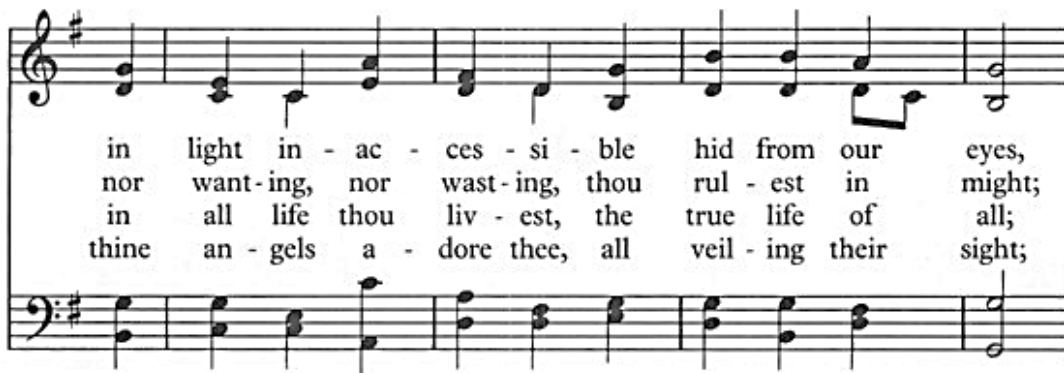
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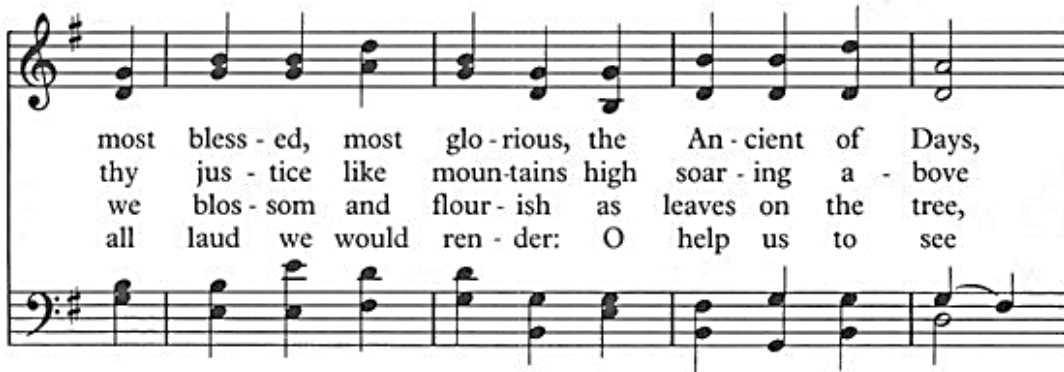
## Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 103



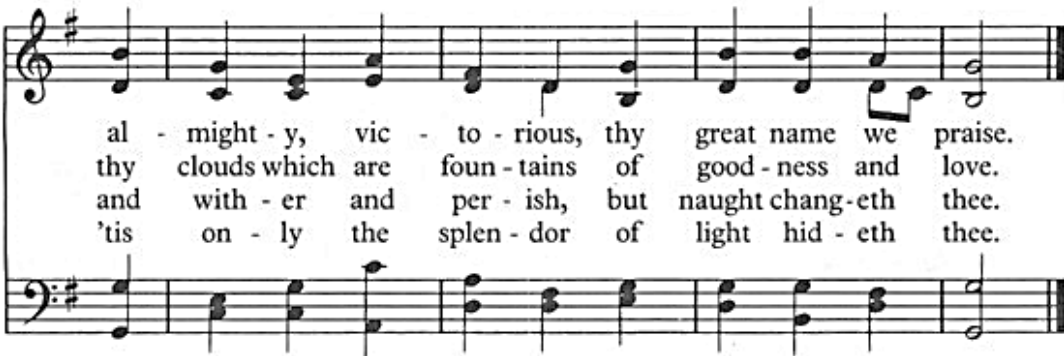
1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867 (1 Tim. 1:17)  
 MUSIC: Welsh melody from *Canaidau y Cyssegr*, 1839; adapt. by John Roberts

ST. DENIO  
 11 11.11 11

Trust and Obey

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,  
 2. Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share,  
 3. But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of his love,  
 4. Then in fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at his feet,

what a glo - ry he sheds on our way!  
 but our toil he doth rich - ly re - pay;  
 un - til all on the al - tar we lay;  
 or we'll walk by his side in the way;

While we do his good will, he a - bides with us still,  
 not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,  
 for the fa - vor he shows, for the joy he be - stows,  
 what he says we will do, where he sends we will go;

and with all who will trust and o - bey.  
 but is blest if we trust and o - bey.  
 are for them who will trust and o - bey.  
 nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.

WORDS: John H. Sammis, 1887 (1 Jn 1:7)  
 MUSIC: Daniel B. Towner, 1887

TRUST AND OBEY  
 669 D with Refrain

## Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 127

1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing  
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy  
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my  
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on

power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en, feed me  
 jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer, be thou  
 Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will

till I want no more; (want no more) feed me till I want no more.  
 still my strength and shield; (strength and shield) be thou still my strength and shield.  
 ev - er give to thee; (give to thee) I will ev - er give to thee.

WORDS: William Williams, 1745; trans. from the Welsh by Peter Williams and  
 the author, 1771  
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA  
 87.87.87