



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Community Worship Service**  
**Second Sunday in Lent, March 16th**

<p><b>10:00 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg</a></p>
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**RINGING OF THE BELL – *Please observe silence as we prepare for the service.***

**PRELUDE**

Son of God, Eternal Savior     Dutch folk tune/Setting by Michael Burkhardt

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

*Children of God, when you are surrounded on every side by shadows that frighten and voices that deride and confuse, what do you say?*

***God is our light and our salvation! Whom shall we fear?***

*When threats bombard you from every corner, stealing the security and peace you long for, what do you say?*

***God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?***

*When anxiety and loneliness overwhelm and you do not know who or what to trust any more, what do you say?*

***Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!***

*Because God knows our suffering. God makes a home among us, welcoming us to come home to God and one another.*

***Come! Let us worship God who hides us in the day of trouble and conceals us together under the cover of the tent of Love.***

**HYMN #577**

God of Grace and God of Glory  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

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

***Mighty God, we come into your presence  
from many different places and situations.  
Light our way in this time of worship.  
Calm our hearts, focus our thoughts,  
and strengthen our faith,  
as we pray and praise this day. Amen.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 - *The covenant with Abram***

- 15:1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."
- 15:2 But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"
- 15:3 And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."
- 15:4 But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."
- 15:5 He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."
- 15:6 And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.
- 15:7 Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess."
- 15:8 But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"
- 15:9 He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."
- 15:10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two.
- 15:11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.
- 15:12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.
- 15:17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.
- 15:18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates...."

**Psalm 27 - The Lord shall keep me safe (Psalter Lesson)**  
***(UMH Pg. 758) (Please read the bold text)***

- 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? **The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**
- 27:2 When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and foes shall stumble and fall.
- 27:3 Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**
- 27:4 One thing I asked of the Lord; that will I seek after: **that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in the Lord's temple.**
- 27:5 The Lord will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; will conceal me under the cover of his tent, and will set me high upon a rock.
- 27:6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies round about me; and I will offer sacrifices in the Lord's tent with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**
- 27:7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!
- 27:8 "Come," my heart said, "seek the Lord's face." Your face, O Lord, I seek.**
- 27:9 Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, for you who have been my help.
- 27:10 Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation! If my father and mother should forsake me, the Lord will take me up.**
- 27:11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
- 27:12 Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.**
- 27:13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!
- 27:14 Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord!**

**Philippians 3:17-4:1 - Our citizenship is in heaven (Epistle Reading)**

- 3:17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.
- 3:18 For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.
- 3:19 Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.
- 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3:21 He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.
- 4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

**Luke 13:31-35 - A hen gathering her brood (Gospel)**

***(Please stand as you are able)***

- 13:31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."
- 13:32 He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.
- 13:33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'
- 13:34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!
- 13:35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

*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.)*

***There is a certain winter in our spirits today, O Lord. We feel that the journey on which we have embarked will demand too much of us. There are so many other things in our lives which claim our spirits, our energy, our hopes and fears. It is easy to be like Jerusalem, turning our backs on those whom you send. The world shouts its solutions to us and then deserts us when we are in need. Forgive us for the many times in which we have strayed from your pathway of life; when we have chosen not to hear the cries of those in need; when we have belittled the gifts and skills you have given us in order to avoid serving others. Heal us, O Lord. Place us back on your path to Jerusalem, to live, for we ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*No matter how far from God our resistance takes us, God wishes to draw us back, as deliberately as a hen gathers her brood under her wings. Receive God's embrace and this good news: you are forgiven.*

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

## **HOMILY**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH #882 (Apostles' Creed, Ecumenical Version)**

*(Please stand as able)*

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe 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, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living 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 #396**

O Jesus, I Have Promised  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

## **OFFERING**

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

## **OFFERTORY**

Pastorale on "Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross" W. H. Doane/Setting by Charles Callahan

## **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)**

***Loving God, our shelter and hope, as we walk through this holy season, we come to you with hearts open to your grace. In our giving, may we reflect the love that sustains us, and may we lift one another up in times of need and vulnerability. Use these offerings to bring comfort to the weary and hope to the brokenhearted, just as you draw near to us in our struggles. Strengthen us to be a source of light and love in this world, reflecting your compassion in all we do. In Christ's name, 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 #580 (Please stand as you are able)**

Lead On, O King Eternal  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

## **BENEDICTION**

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

God of Grace and God of Glory (Cwm Rhondda) Arr. by Hal Hopson

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Flowers on the Altar**

*The flowers on the altar for January, February and March are from **Paula and Fred Markert and Jim and Beth Holimon in memory of their mothers.***

### **Spring Bible Study**

*The **Spring Bible Study** is **Sunday mornings, at 8:45 AM** in the **Bill Minnich Conference room**. This is a come as you can Bible Study and a study guide will be provided. **It will be led by Don Henderson**. Please reach out to him if you have questions at [bacpac@comporium.net](mailto:bacpac@comporium.net).*

### **LTUMC Name Tags**

*We are ordering name tags. If you need one, please email Saunders at [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org). They are magnet backs unless you need a pin back. Please specify which type you need.*

### **Flowers & Coffee Hour Sign-Up Calendars**

*The sign-up calendars are located in the Parish Hall. **For Coffee Hour, please reach out to Nancee Salyer at [nsalyer331@aol.com](mailto:nsalyer331@aol.com) and for Flowers please e-mail Beth Holimon at [roxy1011@gmail.com](mailto:roxy1011@gmail.com)** and for flower wording for the bulletin please reach out to Saunders before 5:00 PM the Tuesday prior.*

### **Prayer Ministry**

*The **Prayer Ministry** meets the **2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM** in the church. If you have a prayer request and cannot make it in person, please e-mail it to [LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com](mailto:LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com)*

### **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 on Thursdays**.*

## **PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY**

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

***Please continue to pray for Thomas Blackstock. Thomas likes cards. His address is: Thomas Blackstock, 208 Hidden Ln. #58, Sapphire, NC 28774.***

***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)

Pianist/Organist: Charlotte Gilmore

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

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

Livestream Chair: Joe Haraschak: 813-918-1916

Liturgist: Scott Walter

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

## 577 God of Grace and God of Glory

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple  
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -  
 3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to  
 4. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
 sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us;  
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
 we de - plore; let the search for thy sal - va - tion

bring her bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom,  
 free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom,  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this  
 grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these  
 grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's  
 grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

WORDS: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930  
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA  
 87.87.87

Words by permission of Elinor Fosdick Downs

CALLED TO GOD'S MISSION

hour, (of this hour) for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 days, (of these days) for the liv - ing of these days.  
 goal, (king-dom's goal) lest we miss thy king-dom's goal.  
 dore, (we a - dore) serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

## O Jesus, I Have Promised

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1. O Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;  
 2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near;  
 3. O let me hear thee speak-ing in ac - cents clear and still,  
 4. O Je - sus, thou hast prom-ised to all who fol-low thee

be thou for-ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend.  
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear;  
 a - bove the storms of pas-sion, the mur-murs of self - will.  
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser-vant be.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,  
 my foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
 And Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan-der from the path-way if thou wilt be my guide.  
 but Je - sus, draw thou near - er, and shield my soul from sin.  
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard-ian of my soul.  
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my Friend.

WORDS: John E. Bode, ca. 1866 (Lk. 9:57)  
 MUSIC: Arthur H. Mann, 1881

ANGEL'S STORY  
 76.76 D

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## Lead On, O King Eternal

*I am the LORD your God ... who directs you in the way you should go. Is. 48:17*

1. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, the day of march has come;  
 2. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
 3. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears;

hence - forth in fields of con - quest thy tents shall be our home:  
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;  
 for glad - ness breaks like morn - ing where - e'er thy face ap - pears;

through days of prep - a - ra - tion thy grace has made us strong,  
 for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums,  
 thy cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light:

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.  
 but deeds of love and mer - cy, the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.  
 the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might.