



Lake Toxarway United Methodist Church
March 30th, 2025

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 30th

10:00 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

Sinfonia from Partita #2 by JS Bach

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

Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.

Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

AMEN!

HYMN #384

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

***Artist of souls,
you sculpted a people for yourself
out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting.
Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity,
that the discipline of these forty days
may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship,
and whet our thirst for the living water you offer.
May our worship be a holy reminder of redeeming love to all
through Jesus Christ. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Joshua 5:9-12 - *Israel eats bread and grain*

- 5:9 The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.
- 5:10 While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho.
- 5:11 On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain.
- 5:12 The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalms 32 - *Mercy embraces us (Psalter Lesson)* (UMH Pg. 766) (Please read the bold text)

- 32:1 Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- 32:2 Blessed are those to whom the Lord does not hold guilty, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
- 32:3 When I did not declare my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.
- 32:4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**
- 32:5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"; then you forgave the guilt of my sin.**
- 32:6 Therefore let all who are godly offer prayer to you; **at a time of distress, the rush of great waters shall not reach them.**
- 32:7 You are a hiding place for me, you preserve me from trouble; you encompass me with deliverance.
- 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**
- 32:9 Do not be like an unruly horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle.
- 32:10 Many are the pangs of the wicked; but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**
- 32:11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, **shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 - The mystery and ministry of reconciliation (Epistle Reading)

- 5:16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way.
- 5:17 So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!
- 5:18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;
- 5:19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.
- 5:20 So, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.
- 5:21 For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 - The parable of the forgiving father (Gospel)
(Please stand as you are able)

- 15:1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.
- 15:2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."
- 15:3 So, he told them this parable:
- 15:11b "There was a man who had two sons.
- 15:12 The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So, he divided his assets between them.
- 15:13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living.
- 15:14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need.
- 15:15 So, he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.
- 15:16 He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything.
- 15:17 But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!
- 15:18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;

- 15:19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."
- 15:20 So, he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.
- 15:21 Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'
- 15:22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.
- 15:23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate,
- 15:24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.
- 15:25 "Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.
- 15:26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.
- 15:27 He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.'
- 15:28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.
- 15:29 But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.
- 15:30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!'
- 15:31 Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.
- 15:32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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.)

Beloved God, with Holy eagerness,

***You wait for our coming, with the urgency of a mother,
you long for our return.***

With the anxious heart of a father, your arms ache to hold us.

***The disappointment, the judgment, the turning away,
that's us, not you.***

***Forgive us and heal us of everything in us
that recoils from our common humanity.***

You have given us such worth;

***help us to take all creation at Your valuation
and to know ourselves, and all your children,
precious and loved.***

***We pray in a spirit of humility and in the blessed name of Jesus.
Amen.***

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Once we were "dead" to all the things that God hoped for us; but in God's love we are again brought to life. Rejoice, dear ones, 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 #378

Amazing Grace

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Sonatine, 2nd mvt by Maurice Ravel

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, our refuge and restorer, we bring these gifts as a sign of our return to you. Like the prodigal, we long to feel your embrace and live in the light of your grace. As we observe this holy time of Lent, may our offerings reflect hearts that are turning back to you. Clear the clogs in our lives that separate us from you and one another and help us see the rainbow of your promise even in our struggles. Bless these gifts and our lives so that we may share your steadfast love with the world. In Jesus' 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 #357 (Please stand as you are able)

Just As I Am

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (Please be seated)

Simple Gifts, Variations 1 and 4 Shaker Tune Arr. by John Carter

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.

Thomas Blackstock Memorial Service

The memorial service for Thomas Blackstock will be Saturday, April 12th at 3:00 PM.

Parish Dinner

We will be having our next parish dinner on **April 23rd at 6:00 PM in the Dice Hall**. It will be a Mexican themed with Cinco de Mayo approaching. Please keep nuts and cheese on the side due to food allergies.

Missions Committee Announces Emergency Grant Awarded

The Missions Committee (formerly known as the Outreach Committee) is pleased to announce that, at their March meeting, an emergency grant of \$5,000 was awarded to North Toxaway Baptist Church (NTBC) for Disaster Relief. They are performing a worthwhile service of feeding victims of the storm and volunteers helping with storm recovery. To date, they have served over 8000 meals, a worthy endeavor. NTBC is one of LTUMC's Mission partners, though this grant was in addition to the monies we have awarded them towards their great Food Pantry ministry.

No More Hymns in Bulletins & on Our Website

After April 20 (Easter Sunday), the weekly email of the bulletin will no longer include the hymn texts with music. The Church Website will not have the hymns either. If you participate at home and sing the hymns or follow in the hymnal, Pastor Marcus would like to suggest you go to www.Cokesbury.com and search for the UMC hymnal and purchase one for home use. The hymnals are available at a cost of \$28.99; there is a large print version also. There will be additional costs related to shipping and taxes. This change is prompted by a need to be in compliance with copyright laws. Pastor Marcus polled several regular on-line worshippers and learned most do not use the hymns, but we wanted to give you advance notice so you could have the hymnal to join in singing if you desire.

Are You Interested in Joining LTUMC?

Pastor Marcus will be meeting with anyone who would like to join LTUMC. He will be meeting with you in the **Bill Minnich conference room after today's service and on 4/6.**

Administrative Council Meetings

The following dates have been scheduled for the remaining Administrative Council meetings for 2025: **Friday, June 6; Friday, August 22; and Friday, October 24. The meeting times are 10:00 AM in the Bill Minnich conference room.**

LTUMC Name Tags

We are ordering name tags. If you need one, please email Saunders at 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 and for Flowers please e-mail Beth Holimon at roxy1011@gmail.com** and for flower wording for the bulletin please reach out to Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org before 5:00 PM the Wednesday 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*

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 pray for those having or had a surgery, acute illness or injury and their recovery. We pray for Tacia Butz who is healing from an accident while hiking.

Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the recent passing of a loved one. We especially pray for Nancy & Don Henderson. Nancy Henderson's cousin, for whom she was guardian, died unexpectedly this week. His name is Mike Harrison. Nancy & Don Henderson's address is: 12076 Rosman Hwy., Lake Toxaway, NC 28747

We pray for Tom and Kay Blackstock and Hallie, their daughter & her family as they grieve the loss of Thomas. Thomas Blackstock died 3/20/25 after his valiant fight with cancer. Kay and Tom are thankful to the entire congregation for all of your prayers and support throughout this very difficult period of time. Their address is: Tom & Kay Blackstock, 208 Hidden Ln. #58, Sapphire, NC 28774.

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

Pianist/Organist: Charlotte Gilmore

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh, 469-569-2314, administrator@laketoxawayumc.org

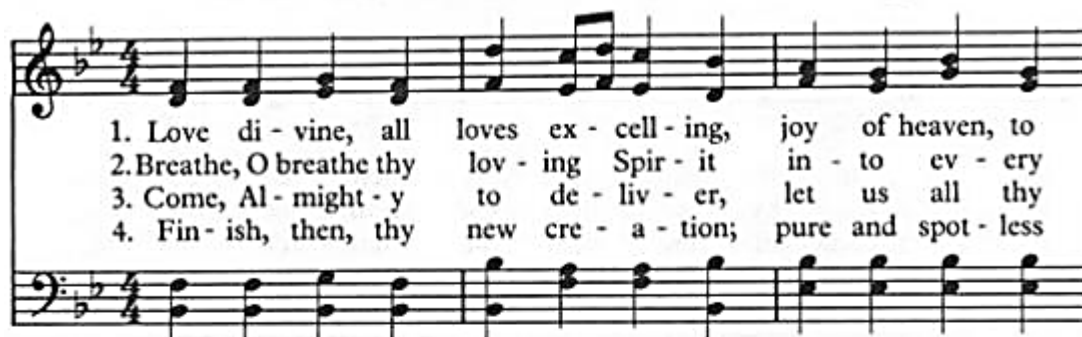
Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434 & Scott Walter: 314-374-2969

Livestream Chair: Joe Haraschak: 813-918-1916

Liturgist: John Lefler

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

384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



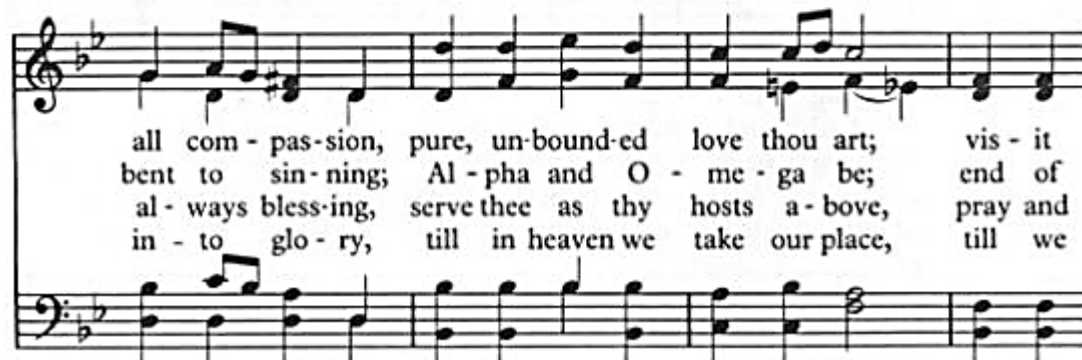
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



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

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

BEECHER
 87.87 D

Alt. tune: HYFRYDOL

Amazing Grace

378

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and
 6. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 mor - tal life shall cease, I shall pos - sess, with -
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour, I first be - lieved.
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.
 in the veil, a life of joy and peace.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Cherokee

OOH NAY THLA NAH, HEE OO WAY GEE.
 E GAH GWOO YAH HAY EE.
 NAW GWOO JOE SAH, WE YOU LOW SAY,
 E GAH GWOO YAH HO NAH.

Navajo

NIZHÓNÍGO JOOBA' DITS' A'
 YISDÁSHÍITNÍGÍ.
 LAH YÓÓIIYÁ, K'AD SHENÁHOOSZIN,
 DOO EESHÍÍ DA NT'ÉÉ.

Kasota

DAW K'EE DA HA DAWTSAHY HE TSOW'HAW
 DAW K'EE DA HA DAWTSAHY HEE.
 BAY DAWTSAHY TAW, GAW AYM OW THAH T'AW,
 DAW K'EE DA HA DAWTSAHY H'EE.

Creek

PO YA FEK CHA HE THLAT AH TET
 AH NON AH CHA PA KAS
 CHA FEE KEE O FUNNAN LA KUS
 UM E HA TA LA YUS.

Choctaw

SHILOMBISH HOLITOPA MAI
 ISHMINTI PULLA CHA
 HATAK ILBUSHIA PIA HA
 IS PI YUKPALASHKE.

WORDS: John Newton, 1779; st. 6 anon.; phonetic transcription Cherokee, Kiowa, AMAZING GRACE
 Creek, Choctaw as sung in Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference; Navajo phonetic CM
 transcription by Albert Tsosi (1 Chr. 17:16-17)
 MUSIC: 19th cent. USA melody; harm. by Edwin O. Excell, 1900

357 Just as I Am, Without One Plea

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea,
 2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not
 3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout
 4. Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind;
 5. Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive,
 6. Just as I am, thy love un - known

but that thy blood was shed for me,
 to rid my soul of one dark blot,
 with many a con - flict, many a doubt,
 sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,
 wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve;
 hath bro - ken ev - ery bar - rier down;

and that thou bidst me come to thee,
 to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 yea, all I need in thee to find,
 be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
 now, to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

Refrain
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

WORDS: Charlotte Elliott, 1835
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1849

WOODWORTH
 LM