



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, January 24th, 2021

Dear Lake Toxaway UMC family and friends,

Today's Scripture readings have a big fish story (yes, I know a whale is a mammal, but bear with me) and a call to professional fisherman to become "fishers of men!" I cherish both of these call stories. The contrast of an Old Testament story is the reluctance of Jonah to follow the call with the Gospel lesson where Simon and Andrew immediately respond to Jesus' call. I have found myself in both places in my journey to follow Jesus, and I suspect you have too.

I want you to imagine Jesus' call not as a simplistic "rounding up for Jesus." I want you to hear the call to make human connections, to recognize the interwoven nature of our interrelationships of influences and support. Can we imagine casting the net wide enough to include acceptance and hospitality, invitation and engagement? Following Jesus is not simply about a state of being but a call to doing! If we follow Jesus, we will find ourselves busy in God's work, bubbling with a desire to connect, to share, to gather. Follow Jesus and we are never alone again!

So, this week I am asking many of you to step out, listen to a call to write personal devotionals and to agree to publish those on our website as a way of engaging each other and the larger community. (Read the announcement with the bulletin, please!)

I am suggesting the following format: 1) include some Bible verses (you can choose them or we can assign them; the verses can simply be a reference to the passage such as Philippians 4: 4-7 and highlight a singular verse that speaks to you). 2) Provide a short story or commentary on the verses. Share a story from your life where you have applied one of the particular themes in the verses (from the above passage in Philippians, I would choose the theme of letting my gentleness be known and tell a story where I found being gentle a powerful spiritual recognition with some brief details. Whatever theme you decide is speaking to you, stick with it in the devotional. The devotional will be much more powerful if you keep it personal rather than focusing on a historic person or attempting to be something/somebody you are not. 3) Finally, write a brief prayer to conclude the devotional. The prayer should attempt to pull the devotional into a concise focus. And many of you are asking about length: concise is best but many, like I, will be wordy. Don't focus so much on the length, but I suggest 50 to 150 and no more than 175 words.

I am gently casting a net with a prayerful request for volunteers. We need to hear from each other! You hear too much from me. I want to learn where you are growing more in love with God and walking closer with Christ Jesus. I want to hear where your "rough edges" are (You hear about mine frequently). Most of all, I want us to be The Church even in a time of Social Isolation! Please prayerfully consider this request and hear it as a call to follow Jesus.

I express appreciation to those who have prayed with me about this idea and to Nancee Salyer and Scott Walter for coordinating this Faith Formation endeavor.

With an excited heart and a deep love for you and our Lord,

Marcus

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Third Sunday after the Epiphany, January 24th

9:30 A.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/Bx2zyXpYwuk>

PRELUDE

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus arr. Gilbert M. Martin

GREETING

L: God called to Jonah to get up, go to Nineveh and proclaim God's word.

P: But Jonah refused, until God called a second time.

L: God is persistent. God believes in those whom God has called.

P: Jesus called the disciples by the lakeshore

L: They left their families and jobs to follow Jesus.

P: Lord, give us the courage to follow you all of our lives. AMEN.

HYMN #181

Ye Servants of God

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

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you are our light and our salvation. Living in your presence, we have nothing to fear. Open our hearts to your word this day. As we hear the story of the call of the first disciples, make us ready to follow Jesus on whatever path he leads us. Enable us to cast aside our fears and doubts, and teach us to trust wholly in you. For we ask this in Jesus' Name, AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

- 3:1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying,
- 3:2 "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you."
- 3:3 So, Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across.
- 3:4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

- 3:5 And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.
- 3:10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Psalm 62:5-12 (Please read responsively the text in bold)

- 62:5 For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.
- 62:6 He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**
- 62:7 On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.
- 62:8 Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah**
- 62:9 Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.
- 62:10 Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.**
- 62:11 Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,
- 62:12 and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.**

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

- 7:29 I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none,
- 7:30 and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions,
- 7:31 and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Mark 1:14-20 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 1:14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,
- 1:15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."
- 1:16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen.
- 1:17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people."
- 1:18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

- 1:19 As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.
- 1:20 Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

P: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

We listen to the stories of the call of the disciples and find them interesting but unrealistic. When we look at our own lives, we believe that we could not leave everything to follow someone we didn't know. We have many responsibilities and ties which keep us from following. But God is persistent. God understands our confusion and doubts. And God continues to call us to be in ministry and mission in this world. It may not mean leaving everything behind, but it does mean being willing to serve wherever God calls us. That's hard. We want to place conditions on service, and usually those conditions are "if we have time", "if we have energy"; "if we can just try serving God for a little while to see how it all works out". Still God calls to each of us. Discipleship is difficult. Forgive us, patient and persistent Lord, for the very many times we turn our backs on serving you and focus on our own comforts. Forgive us when we look the other way when people are in need. Forgive us our angry attitudes and actions which hurt rather than heal. Wrap your arms around us, healing our wounds, binding us to you. Gently move us into service in your name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*When we repent, our God relents,
lifting us beyond the pain, restoring us to safety,
protecting us in the refuge of eternal love.
In the name of Jesus, who is the Christ,
you are forgiven.*

In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH *(Alternate for Season of Epiphany)*

*We believe in God,
the creator of all things,
the giver of life and breath.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
born Emmanuel, God with us,
baptized and revealed the most beloved Son of God;
he sought to heal humanity by taking our brokenness upon himself,
suffering for us,
dying for us
and being raised from the dead for our sake
and for the sake of all the world.
We believe that he will come again.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
continually poured out refreshing our lives,
leading us into a new day,
ever birthing the church, the body of Christ in the world.
This Spirit is our constant companion and counselor of truth
reminding us
of the gift of faith,
the ever presence of God
and the promise of eternal life.
Thanks be 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.*

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Let Us Every Walk with Jesus arr. Robert J. Powell

DOXOLOGY

*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.
Amen.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Generous God, we ask you to bless the gifts we give this morning. We ask that that you help grow the trust in us, that we might follow without looking back and that we might leave behind more of our old lives to experience more deeply new life in you. Help us to leave our nets on the shore, leave those things that seemed essential before we heard the call, so that we might travel the road you have put before us. In the name of Christ who goes before us and beside us, we pray. Amen.

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 #398

Jesus Calls Us

Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed with permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I Will Go in the Strength of the Lord Douglas E. Wagner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Devotional Writers Wanted! Request from Pastor Marcus

Nancee Salyer and Scott Walter have agreed to coordinate a Lenten Daily Devotional. We are asking for volunteers to write a short devotional utilizing an easy format with a length of 50 to no more than 150-175 words. We will publish the devotionals daily on the church's updated website at laketoxawayumc.org. There are 40 days in Lent, excluding Sundays, so we are hoping to have at least 40 volunteers (Remember, God likes 40!). The first step is to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to nudge you. This will serve as a way to stay connected throughout Lent (begins Feb. 17 and ends on Saturday, April 4). Nancee will coordinate the schedule and Scott will provide editing for those of us who are concerned about making a grammatical error or misspelled word.

Their email addresses are:

Nancee: nsalyer331@aol.com

Scott: scotlaw@aol.com

Nancee and Scott began attending church in the late summer of 2019 and have remained faithful and connected to us through this challenging time of "being the church" in a pandemic. They reside in Burlingame. I am so appreciative they have agreed to coordinate this endeavor to strengthen our fellowship and encourage our faith journeys.

Every one of us has a faith story/journey to tell. We are all on this journey to follow Christ and be His disciples and to grow more into his image. Lent is the season for self-examination and repentance as we prepare for a joyful Easter worship celebration. I have had this idea in my heart for some time and think this is the time to cease the opportunity! Our website is now "back on-line" as an interactive place and is evolving. We continue to have to limit our attendance numbers due to the worldwide pandemic, so this allows us the opportunity to get to know each other and have a different format for fellowship. I am asking every committee chair, key leaders current and past, and year-round and seasonal persons to participate. Please go ahead and contact Scott and Nancee with a hearty yes and let them assign a date to you!

Administrative Council Meeting

The Administrative Council will meet on ***Friday, February 12th at 9:00 AM***. If you are a member of the Council, you will receive a Zoom Invite. If you are not a member and would like to attend the meeting, please email Tom Blackstock or Saunders Grommesh as these meetings are open to all members, but only members have a vote if actions are required. You may e-mail Tom at Tom.Blackstock@gmail.com or Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

We pray for the family of Sandra Hoffman Pues (Sandy) as they grieve her death on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. Sandy and Chuck retained membership in this church and a condo her in Lake Toxaway after moving back to Florida several years ago. They regularly attended services in the summer of 2019. Their daughter, Stacey, was an acolyte in this church for many years. Their address is: 1065 Hampstead Ln., Ormond Beach, FL 32174. Her family has requested memorial gifts to Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church.

Dell Anderson's mother, Doris Sims, died peacefully on January 3, 2021. Bill and Dell appreciate your prayers and support. Their winter address is: 134 Linkside Drive, St. Simons Island, GA 32522

Please continue to pray for Rev. Evelyn Owen-Patterson and her son. Evelyn is the pastor of the Selicia UMC, so we also need to pray for the congregation. They were in a bad car accident and is hospitalized with serious injuries.

Please pray for Linda & Kent Garner, Cathie Fussell's sister, Rachel, her nephew, Chad, her cousin Roger and his wife Judy, Chad Zimmerman, Thomas Blackstock, Cathie Fussell's nephew, Jeff Tilley, Marty Young, Madison Coleman & the Jeter family and Frank Hardin.

Please continue to pray for those who have had the death of a loved one in the recent weeks and months.

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 Leaders: Barbara Kline: 828-862-5585 and Paula Markert: 828-553-9434

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Andy Harvill

Soloist/Vocalist: Jacolyn Campbell

Liturgist: Stephen & Cynthia Wood

Ye Servants of God

1. Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
 2. God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save,
 3. "Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne!"
 4. Then let us a - dore and give him his right,

and pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful name;
 and still he is high, his pres - ence we have;
 Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son;
 all glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might;

the name all - vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol,
 the great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
 the prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 all hon - or and bless - ing with an - gels a - bove,

his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all.
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our King.
 fall down on their fac - es and wor - ship the Lamb.
 and thanks nev - er ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744 (Rev. 7:9-12)
 MUSIC: Attr. to William Croft, 1708

HANOVER
 10 10.11 11

Jesus Calls Us

398



1. Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult of our
2. As of old the a - pos - tles heard it by the
3. Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
4. In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
5. Je - sus calls us! By thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to



sweet voice sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me!"
 toil and kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more!"
 cares and plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these!"
 thine o - be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.