

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, May 14th, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Sixth Sunday after Easter, May 14th

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

Joyful, Joyful Alberte Travis

GREETING *(Please Stand)*

*Transforming God, you have taken the world's darkness
and re-created a world filled with the joy of light and hope.*

Come and hear the good news of God's love for all creation.

*Restoring God, you have turned defeat into sudden victory,
and re-created a world filled with the joy of peace and shalom.*

Come and hear the good news of God's awesome powers.

*Renewing God, we respond to your mighty deeds with songs
of praise, worship and thankful prayers. You alone are God!*

Come and hear the good news of God's blessings on us all.

Glory and honor, power and dominion belong to God alone.

Amen.

HYMN #89

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

***Source of all creation, maker of the world
and everything in it,***

you are never far from each one of us.

We come into your house seeking you,

O giver of life and breath.

***Reveal yourself to us; dwell with us;
and abide in us.***

We live because of you.

We hope because of you.

***In the name of Jesus Christ in whom we live,
and the Spirit of Truth who abides in us, Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 17:22-31

- 17:22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.
- 17:23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.
- 17:24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,
- 17:25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.
- 17:26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,
- 17:27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him-- though indeed he is not far from each one of us.
- 17:28 For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'
- 17:29 Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.
- 17:30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,
- 17:31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Psalm 66:8-20 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 66:8 Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,
- 66:9 who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.
- 66:10 For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.**
- 66:11 You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;
- 66:12 you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.**
- 66:13 I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,
- 66:14 those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.**
- 66:15 I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah
- 66:16 Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.**

66:17 I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

66:18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

66:19 But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

66:20 Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

1 Peter 3:13-22 (Epistle Reading)

3:13 Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

3:14 But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated,

3:15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;

3:16 yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

3:17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

3:18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,

3:19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,

3:20 who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

3:21 And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you--not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

3:22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

John 14:15-21 (Please stand for the Gospel)

14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

14:17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

14:18 "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

- 14:19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.
- 14:20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.
- 14:21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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.)

***Maker and giver of all,
forgive us when we are too preoccupied
to notice your presence in our lives:
when we walk through this world
and fail to see the wonder
of you upholding our lives and all creation;
when we walk through our lives
and fail to see you abiding with, within,
and around us;
when we walk through holy moments
and fail to savor your presence,
instead feeling abandoned
in the vast sweep of life
as each day rushes at us
with its demands.
Open our eyes to your presence, God of love,
that we may lean on you—
for you uphold all of creation
in tenderness and power. Amen.***

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

When Jesus left the disciples, he gave us a promise:

"I will not leave you orphaned!"

*For we, his disciples, live in him and he in us—
the presence of God within and around all.*

What a promise! Take courage! Take comfort!

Blessed be God!

In the Name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #887 (Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 37-39)

Leader:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation or distress,

or persecution or famine,

or nakedness or peril or sword?

People:

No,

In all things we are more than conquerors

Through the One who loved us.

We are sure that neither

death nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor things present, nor things to come,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor anything else in all creation,

will be able to separate us from the love of God

in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

HYMN #472

Near to the Heart of God

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

I Need Thee Every Hour Robert Lowry

DOXOLOGY #95 (Please be stand)

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

Holy God and author of our existence; our story is part of a greater story, and your hand is visible on every page and every scene. So too our stories cannot be disconnected from those in the past who have shaped the steps we take – saints and sinners, rebels and followers. They are part of our story as we are part of theirs. As we offer gifts this day, we pray they might be used to strengthen the story of faith that will be told by those who will come after we are gone. We pray this in the name of Jesus. 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 #384

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Mother's Day to all those with a mother's heart.

Memorial Services:

*A memorial service for **Ed Castle**, a long time LTUMC church member is scheduled for **Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 2 PM.***

*A memorial service for **Anne Vickery**, Saunders Grommesh's mother is scheduled for **Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 2 PM.***

June Potluck/Covered Dish

Our next potluck will be Tuesday, June 13th at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your friends and neighbors.

***Future potluck dates*:** 7/11/23, 8/8/23, 9/12/23, 10/10/23, 11/14/23, 12/12/23 (*subject to change).*

Sign-up Sheets in the Fellowship Hall

If you would like to volunteer as an usher, sign up to sponsor, bring food for a coffee hour after our Sunday service, or have flowers/plant on the altar please look at the sign-up sheets.

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. Especially for Sherry Minnich.

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

Organist: Charlie Steele: cwsorgan@comporium.net

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

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

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Andy Harvill: 828-884-3548

Liturgist: Carole Guffey

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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



1. Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore thee, God of glo-ry, Lord of love;
2. All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re-lect thy rays,
3. Thou art giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blest,
4. Mor-tals, join the might-y cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan;



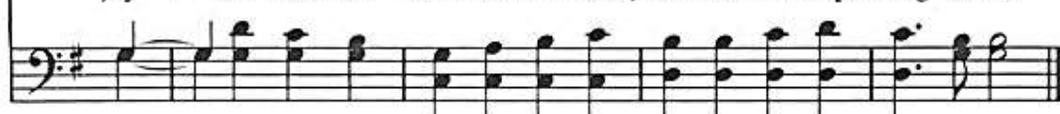
hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, open-ing to the sun a-bove.
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
 well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean depth of hap-py rest!
 love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, bind-ing all with-in its span.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way.
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flow-ery mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Thou our Fa-ther, Christ our broth-er, all who live in love are thine;
 Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife;



Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day!
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth-er, lift us to the joy di-vine.
 joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward, in the tri-umph song of life.



472

Near to the Heart of God

D B⁷/D[♯] Em A A⁷ D

1. There is a place of qui-et rest, near to the heart of God;
 2. There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God;
 3. There is a place of full re-lease, near to the heart of God;

D D B⁷/D[♯] Em A D/A A⁷ D

a place where sin can - not mo - lest, near to the heart of God.
 a place where we our Sav-ior meet, near to the heart of God.
 a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

Refrain G G/D D D/A A⁷ D/A A⁷ A D

O Je-sus, blest Re-deem-er, sent from the heart of God,

G D A A⁷ D

hold us who wait be - fore thee near to the heart of God.

United Methodist Hymnal 472

WORDS: Cleland B. McAfee, 1903

MUSIC (McAFEE, CM with Refrain): Cleland B. McAfee, 1903

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

REBIRTH AND THE NEW CREATURE

us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.