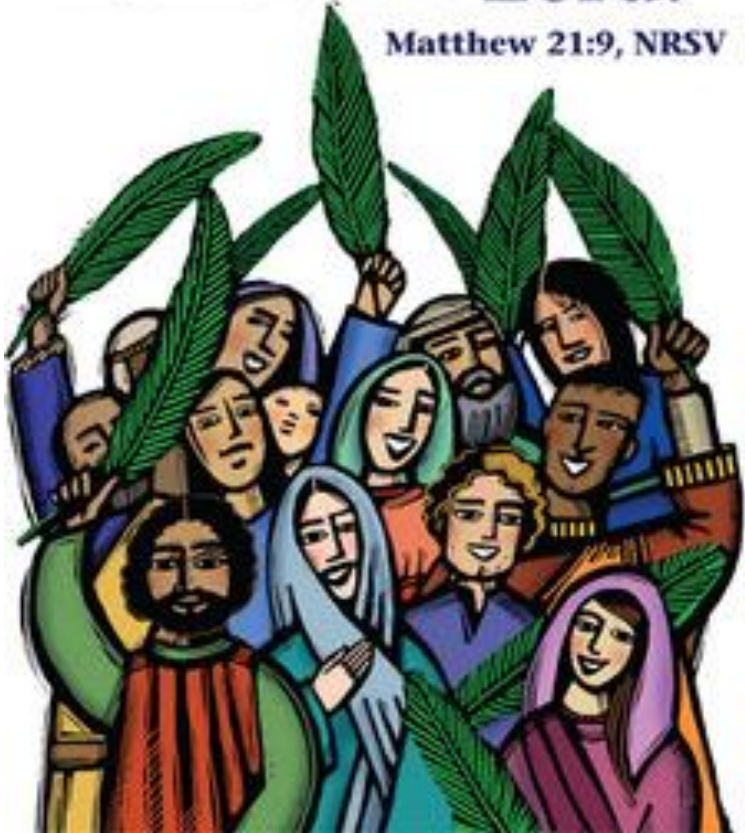


Blessed is the one
who comes in the
name of the Lord!

Matthew 21:9, NRSV



Palm Sunday

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
March 29, 2026



*We have the closed hearing loop system.
You may be able to turn your hearing device to the "T" setting.*

***To allow all worshippers to reflect and prepare for the service,
please observe silence during the prelude.***

 **PALM SUNDAY** 

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE Prelude in F Major J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please respond with words in bold)*

Let us enter the city with God today,

And sing hosannas to our king.

Let us turn our backs on the powers that grasp and control,

And open our hearts to the son of God

who comes riding on a donkey.

Let us join his parade,

Surrounded by the blind and the leper,

the sick and the outcast.

Let us follow the one who brought freedom and peace,

And walk in hope with the abandoned and oppressed.

Let us shout for joy at Christ's coming and join his followers,

Welcoming the broken, healing the sick,

dining with sinners.

Let us feel, hear and see what is happening as God draws near,

**For he knows the final destination as he rides in triumph,
towards the cross.**

HYMN # 278 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, you have shown us the way to enter all the 'Jeruselems' of this world, the places where we will be confronted and challenged, the places where we will be asked to stand faithfully regardless of the cost. You showed us how to enter our lives, not with fear, but with humility and courage. As we worship this day, we draw upon your example of Jesus on that humble donkey, and we raise our palm branches, rejoicing in the hope of salvation! We raise our voices, shouting along with your people of every age, "Hosanna in the highest!" Come, Lord Jesus, and save us this day. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29 *Enter the gates of righteousness (Please respond with the passages in bold.)*

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! ² Let Israel say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

²⁷ The Lord is God, and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

²⁹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Matthew 21:1-11 *Jesus arrives in Jerusalem*

(Please stand as you are able.)

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: ⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion, look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

God most Holy, we confess our tendency, like the Jerusalem crowds, to profess our faith in moments of enthusiasm and deny our faith in moments of stress. O God, we sing and praise you, happy of heart and strong of spirit, when we are among others who praise you too. But in times of adversity, we seek scapegoats to be targets for our anger and fear. We betray those we love and who have loved us, and we turn against you, too busy to seek you, too selfish or afraid to stand by you. Your compassion is without bounds, O God, for you forgive us again and again. You restore us to a right spirit and bring us together to worship you again. God of steadfast love, teach us how to be steadfast; through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Laying aside judgment, God offers us redemption; setting aside anger, God embraces us with love; letting go of grief, God pours living water upon us and invites us into new life. This is the good news, my friends: God's steadfast love endures forever.

In the name of Jesus who comes not to condemn, but to save, we are forgiven. Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH # 889 Affirmation from 1st Timothy
(Please stand as you are able)

GLORIA PATRI #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 # 277 Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

OFFERTORY

Fugue in F Major

J. S. Bach

OFFERING

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

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. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Humble Savior, you ride into our lives not with force, but with invitation—calling us to follow, to risk, and to trust. As we bring these gifts, we confess we don't always understand where the road leads. But like those who laid down cloaks and waved palms, we offer what we have with hope in our hearts and praise on our lips. We pray that these offerings will be used to proclaim your kingdom—where love confronts fear, and peace dares to speak in the shadow of power. Save us, Lord and use us for your glory. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #280 All Glory, Laud and Honor

(Please stand as you are able.)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Improvisation

(Please be seated)

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Katie Monkus, daughter of Stan & Bobbie Moore, Sherry Minnich,
Tacia Butz, Marti Hughes, Grady Price, Leslie Brown,
Maud Lipscomb (mother of Elizabeth Dice),

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Dee Seropian
as we remember the gifts and impact he and June left here at
Lake Toxaway UMC.

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, marcus61dodson@gmail.com

Organist: Bob Kintner: 828-329-2457

Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434, Maria Buehler: 828-553-2128

Audio/Visual & Livestream: Joe Haraschak: 813-918-1916

Ushers: Maria Buehler, Scott Walter

Liturgist: Kim Dodson

Coffee Hour: Nancee Salyer

*Some liturgical selections are adapted from umcdiscipleship.org and
MinistryMatters.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the altar are offered by Ryan & Amanda Stahl in honor of our church family. We are so thankful for each and every one of you.

+ HOLY WEEK WORSHIP +

We invite you to gather in reflection and worship
this Friday, Good Friday, April 3 at 6:00pm

as we reflect on the events of Jesus' final days leading to his death recalling the last supper and reading the passion narrative. There is no resurrection without first experiencing crucifixion.

Let us remember our Lord's passion together
that we may more fully embrace the joy of Easter morning.

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 8:45 am in the Minnich Conference room on Sundays, prior to worship. All are welcome! This is a 'come as you can' Bible Study and a study guide is provided. Don Henderson, bacpac@comporium.net, facilitates this group. Please reach out to him if you have questions.

Website Revamp

"A picture is worth a thousand words!" Work is underway revamping our current website and we would love to include more pictures! If you have any photos of the church, fellowship hall, the church grounds or events that have occurred there in the past two years, please send the JPG photo link with an explanation if necessary (who is in the photo, what the event was, etc.) to Cynthia Wood at cmwood50@gmail.com with an explanation if necessary. We appreciate your submissions.

The Prayer Ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM. Prayer requests may be mailed to LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

AA Meets Every Thursday Night at 4:45 PM in the Dice Hall. To honor anonymity, please do not go to the Parish building from 4:00-6:00 PM.