



EASTER

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
April 5, 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.***



EASTER SUNDAY



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE Sonata for Trumpet and Organ Henry Purcell
Allegro moderato

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

It was early in the morning, three days after his passing,
having observed a particularly heavy sabbath,
when the women came to the tomb of Jesus.

**They came prepared,
prepared to anoint the body of their lord,
the one whom they had believed and followed and loved.**

And yet, they were not prepared; for what they found was
unexpected- an angel with a message--Christ is not in the tomb.
They would not find his body there.

He had risen and would meet them in Galilee.

Are we prepared for this possibility?

Christ is risen?! How can this be?

As they ran to tell the others, there, on the road before them,
Jesus was, truly risen and alive! Christ had indeed risen!

The message is true!

Christ our Lord has risen!

He has risen indeed!

HYMN #302 Christ the Lord is Risen Today (v. 1-4)

OPENING PRAYER

God of mystery and might, on a dawn shrouded in grief and pain, you surprise us with the light of your wondrous love. We come to the tomb expecting death, but find life instead. Take us back to that moment, when fear was healed by hope and death was banished by life. In the holy awe of Easter morning, may we sing out our joy, and shout out our praise, for Christ, our Lord, has risen today! Alleluia! Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 31:1-6 *God's people are restored*

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. ² Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, ³ the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you. ⁴ Again, I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again, you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. ⁵ Again, you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit. ⁶ For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God."

Psalms 118:14-24 UMH 839 *The Lord is our salvation*
(Please respond with the words in bold.)

Colossians 3:1-4 *Raised with Christ*

So, if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Matthew 28:1-10 *Christ has risen!*

(Please stand as you are able.)

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him, the guards shook and became like dead men.

⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you."

⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!"

And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

HYMN # 303 The Day of Resurrection

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the tomb you have given us the sure sign of your power to deliver us from sin and death and to renew our whole creation. We confess that still we fall into doubt and fear. Forgive us, God, for our disbelief— for seeing an empty tomb and thinking it a cruel trick; for discovering a discarded burial cloth and yet still holding to death; for hearing words of life but keeping them to ourselves or worse, denying that we have heard at all. Restore us even in our unbelief. Raise us from the death of sin that we may live with Christ in the joy of his resurrection, now and forever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Do not be afraid! Hear the good news and receive it with great joy! For God's promises are true. Christ has risen! And he is ready to meet you on the road that you are travelling. Believe and be renewed.

In the name of Jesus Christ who truly died and yet has been raised that we might have life, we are claimed, forgiven and freed. Glory to our God who gives us life now and forever! Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH # 881 The Apostles' Creed

(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 #318 Christ is Alive

OFFERTORY

Toccatà in D Minor

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

God of New Beginnings, you roll away more than stones. You roll away despair and doubt, fear and failure. On this Resurrection morning, we offer our gifts in gratitude for the new life we have found in Christ. Let these offerings be signs of our commitment to live differently -- eyes open, hearts awakened, hands ready to serve. May what we give today help announce to the world that hope is alive, love has triumphed, and joy cannot be contained. Use us and what we offer to keep telling the story: Christ is risen, indeed! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #308 Thine Be the Glory

(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Gigue for Trumpet and Organ Georg Phillip Telemann
(Please be seated)



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: Andrew Butz, Scott Walter

Liturgist: Stephanie Taylor

Coffee Hour: Stan & Bobbie Moore

*Some liturgical selections are adapted from umcdiscipleship.org and *Re:worship*.*

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

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

We extend Christian sympathy to the family of Charlie Barger.
Cards may be sent to his wife, Jean at 3031 NE 43rd Street,
Lighthouse Point, FL 33064.

We extend Christian sympathy to the family of Ted Steinmeyer.
Cards may be sent to his wife, Sally at 6319 Court Fleet Trail,
Tallahassee, FL 32309.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the altar are given by Kay and Dan Johnson, to the glory of our Risen Savior and in memory of Dan's mother, Barbara Brasington.

We give special thanks to Luke Norton for sharing his musical gifts with us in worship today.

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.

Our next Fellowship Supper is Monday, April 13th at 6:00pm. Come join us for fun and fellowship! Bring a dish to share if you can.