



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
12th Sunday after Pentecost

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
August 16, 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.***

12th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Be Near Me Still

Ferdinand Hiller

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

Though we may be inclined to brag,

let us come together with humility.

Though we may be tempted to use harsh words,

let us come together with gentleness.

Though we may want everything to happen quickly,

let us come together with patience.

Though the world around us often encourages hate,

let us come together in love.

How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together in unity.

Let us worship the God who has called us to life together.

HYMN #57 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, with open arms you welcome all who call on your name and look to you in faith. No one stands outside the circle of your mercy and love, not us, and not those we might look at with judgment or disdain. We come today offering ourselves in declaration that you are our God and that all of us gathered here and scattered throughout the world are your people, called and chosen by you. Through the presence of your Holy Spirit open our eyes to see you, open our minds to receive your truth, open our mouths to speak and sing your praise. For you alone are God for us and all the world, now and to the end of time. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 45:1-15 *Joseph reconciles with his brothers*

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' ¹² And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Psalms 133 UMH 850 *Living in unity* *(Please respond with the words in bold)*

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 *God is merciful to all*

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew, ²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Matthew 15:10-28 *A parable and a healing* *(Please stand as you are able.)*

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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.)

Merciful God, we confess that, just like Jesus' disciples, we too sometimes lose patience with people who need our help and support. Like the disciples, we find ourselves wishing that they would just go away and leave us in peace. In Your mercy, o God, forgive us. Remind us again of the deep love you showed toward us when we were still in need—a love so deep that you went willingly to the cross on our behalf. Show us how to love others as you have loved us. Teach us your compassion for those who trigger our deep-seated prejudices. Open our hearts, O God, to those who seem different and strange. Help us to see others not as offensive to our sensibilities but rather as your children in need of grace and love. For we long to know the joy of living in peace, and the hope of living in harmony, so that we may be your tangible presence to those in need. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Brothers and sisters, the gifts of God are irrevocable.

Nothing can ever separate us from God's mercy and love.

Rejoice in the knowledge of God's saving love. Be at peace for God has heard your confession and has forgiven you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #885 A Modern Affirmation

(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 #549 Where Charity and Love Prevail

OFFERTORY

Deep River

Arr. by Harry T. Burleigh

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

Gracious God, you pour your blessing upon your people like dew upon the earth and oil upon the head, flowing beyond all boundaries we would draw. We thank you for the gift of unity—good and pleasant, beautiful and life-giving—meant not only for us, but for the healing of the world. Receive these offerings as signs of our desire to live together in your love, to practice radical welcome, and to share your abundance with all your children. Let what we give today flow outward in compassion and service, that our life together may reflect your intention for peace, justice, and joy for all the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER**HYMN #554 All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord****BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE**

Now Rejoice, All Ye Christians

J. S. Bach

(Please be seated)

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Carl Shealey, Jay Buehler, Carole Guffey, Sally Steinmeyer,
Bobbie Moore, Randall Galloway, Ed Byrd

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Flowers on the altar are given by Jane & Bob Toney in loving memory of Jane's sister, Betsy Melzer.

We are pleased to welcome tenor Jackson Ray as our guest musician.

A native of Asheville, NC, with an undergraduate degree from the NC School of the Arts via Brevard College, Jackson is a recent graduate of Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, where he earned a Master of Music in Vocal Performance with a prolific performance repertoire. He has also appeared with the Harrower Summer Opera. He made his professional debut with Piedmont Opera, has performed with the A.J. Fletcher Opera Institute as well as UNCSA and is a NC NATS winner and national semifinalist. We are delighted to have him share his gift for music with us as we worship together today.

Name Tags--If any church attendees need a name tag, please contact Fred Markert at 828-553-3303 or let him know when you see him.

Scholarship Ministry--Through its mission committee, the Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church is proud to support twenty-four higher education students seeking degrees and/or certifications, dedicating more than \$55,000.00 in 2026/2027 outreach dollars to this vital mission. Our supportive congregation and the Scholarship Team are true blessings. Thank you all.

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 8:45am on Sundays. All are welcome! This is a 'come as you can' Bible Study and a study guide is provided.

The Prayer Ministry meets every Sunday after church at 11:30 in the Minnich conference room. Anyone is invited to join us on any given week as we lift up the prayer concerns of our community. 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 4-6 PM.

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

Usher: Mike Taylor

Liturgist: Stephanie Taylor

Coffee Hour: Marilyn Beck

Liturgical selections are adapted from umcdiscipleship, ministry matters and re-worship.