



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church

11th Sunday after Pentecost

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
August 9, 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.***

11th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Aria

Gordon Young

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

Children of God, some of us come today with songs of joy,
rejoicing in the abundance of God's blessing upon our lives.

We come to remember God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Some of us come today with songs of mourning in our hearts,
feeling the weight of loss, isolation, and loneliness.

**We come to remember that God bears our pain
and stays near in times of grief.**

Some of us come today with songs of worry and distress,
overwhelmed by the troubles and the sufferings of the world.

**We come to remember God's hand reaches for us to lift us
from the chaos, and enable us to move forward in faith.**

In our joy, our sorrow, our isolation, and our worry, God is faithful!

**We come to sing God's praises, for in all things, God is steadfast
and faithful. Thanks be to God!**

HYMN #368

My Hope is Built

OPENING PRAYER

**Merciful God, fill us with your faith and courage, that we may
not be overwhelmed by our great need, but rather by your great
grace, your great strength, your great compassion, your great
presence, your great hope. Fulfill the faith and hope you have in
us and through us for the glory of your name, and for the
redemption of our world. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 *Joseph is betrayed by his brothers*

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ² Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

¹² Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem.

¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am."

¹⁴ So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, ¹⁵ and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?"

¹⁶ "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." ¹⁷ The man said, "They have gone away, for I

heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸ They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹ They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams."

²¹ But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²² Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. ²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe that he wore, ²⁴ and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. ²⁵ Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. ²⁸ When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver.

And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-23, 43-45 *God's presence in history*
(Please respond with the words in bold)

¹O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.

²**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.**

³Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

⁴**Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.**

⁵Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,

⁶**O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

¹⁶When he summoned famine against the land
and cut off every supply of bread,

¹⁷he had sent a man ahead of them,
Joseph, who had been sold as a slave.

¹⁸**His feet were hurt with fetters;
his neck was put in a collar of iron;
¹⁹until what he had said came to pass,
the word of the Lord kept testing him.**

²⁰The king sent and released him;
the ruler of the peoples set him free.

²¹He made him lord of his house and ruler of all his possessions,

²²to instruct his officials at his pleasure
and to teach his elders wisdom.

²³**Then Israel came to Egypt;
Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.**

⁴³So he brought his people out with joy,
his chosen ones with singing.

⁴⁴**He gave them the lands of the nations,
and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,**

⁴⁵**that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws.
Praise the Lord!**

Romans 10:5-15 *Speaking the word, living the word*

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." ¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Matthew 14:22-33 *Jesus walks on the sea* (Please stand as you are able.)

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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 come before you in our true but often shaky faith confessing that we long for assurance. There are times we mistrust your promises; we test you, asking you to prove yourself. Forgive us, O God, and steady us against the howls of suspicion and fear that creep into our minds and hearts. There are times when we lose sight of you; the chaotic waves rise too high, the wind is too loud, the storm distracts us, dragging us under. We are in over our heads. Reach out, o God, with your saving embrace and lift us that we may walk with you through the storms we face. There are times we risk too little clinging to the tiny ship that we see and know, unwilling to venture into open water. Forgive us and lead us into courage and action that we might boldly participate in your ministry of compassion and redemption for all. Forgive us when we hesitate and miss the opportunity to more fully embrace your blessing upon us and through us. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Take heart, do not be afraid. Christ stands ready to reach out his hand. Everyone who calls upon God's name will be saved.

We are in Christ's hands. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #883 The United Church of Canada

(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 # 358 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

OFFERTORY Now Rejoice, All Ye Christians

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

Faithful God, we offer our meager gifts in grateful memory of your saving work in our lives. You call us to sing of your goodness and to remember your wonders, even when the way forward is hidden from view. As Joseph was used, even in unjust and oppressive circumstances, to bring life in a time of scarcity, so use these offerings for hope and healing in a hungry world. May we be willing to step out in courage and faith, trusting in your steadfast love. Receive what we bring as praise made tangible, and send us out as a people who remember, who trust, and who sing of your deliverance in every season. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN # 374 Standing on the Promises

(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

(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 Jean & Bob Merritt who are grateful for God's continued blessings with the births of their second and third great-grandsons this summer.

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: Katherine Jeter

Coffee Hour: Jean & Bob Merritt

Some liturgical selections are adapted from umcdiscipleship.org and ministry matters.