



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
1st Sunday after Epiphany
Baptism of Our Lord*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
January 11, 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.

***1st Sunday after Epiphany
Baptism of Our Lord***

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE Prelude in Classic Style Gordon Young

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

Come! Let us follow Jesus to the edge of the Jordan River to be baptized.

We come to be cleansed and made whole.

Come! Let us witness John's confusion and Jesus' insistence that John baptize God Incarnate.

**We come to join Jesus in choosing life
in the kingdom of God.**

Come! Let us hear God declare the truth of Jesus' identity and the truth of our identity as baptized people.

**We come to remember and embody who we are
as beloved children of God.**

Come! Let us worship God who leads us into the baptismal waters and salvation life.

**We come to worship God who empowers us through
divine presence to live together as the family of God.**

HYMN #252 When Jesus Came to Jordan

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, at the baptism of Jesus, you revealed him to be your Son, and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful to their calling as your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 42:1-9 *A light to the nations*

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Psalm 29 **UMH 761** *The voice of God in creation* (Please respond with the words in bold.)

Acts 10:34-43 *The Ministry of Jesus following his Baptism*

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,³⁵ but in every people, anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Matthew 3:13-17 *The Baptism of Jesus* (Please stand as you are able.)

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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.)

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord.

We have entered the season in which your light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires.

Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you.

Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again, let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity. Rejoice, dear friends, this is the good news of our Lord.

In the name of Jesus Christ, beloved of God, we too are beloved and forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH # 880 The Nicene 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 #500 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

OFFERTORY Aria Gordon Young

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

Oh God who constantly and faithfully reaches out and calls to us, continue to draw us to you. Continue to draw us into community, into covenant, and into new life through waters of grace and acts of justice. Just as Jesus stepped into the river to stand with us and for us, we bring these gifts today to stand with others—to serve, to uplift, and to proclaim your kingdom. Use these offerings to fulfill your vision for our world and all who are a part of your blessed creation. Help us, your baptized people, to be instruments of healing, hope, and holy change in a world longing for good news. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN #605 Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Improvisation
(Please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the altar are offered by the Jim and Beth Holimon and the Paula and Fred Markert in praise of the glory of God and all His wonderful works.

Sunday Morning Bible Study is back! The study group 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 facilitates this group. Please reach out to him if you have questions at bacpac@comporium.net.

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

Final Call for Scripture Readers for 2026

We are inviting anyone interested to become a scripture reader for worship in the new year. Contact Kim at mldkj@comporium.net or text 828-553-0283 to express your interest. She will be contacting all volunteers in the coming week to coordinate a schedule. Thank you for sharing your gifts in this way.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Katie Monkus, daughter of Stan & Bobbie Moore,
Charlotte Gilmore; Cody Collins

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: Fred Markert, Andrew Butz

Liturgist: Stephanie Taylor

Coffee Hour: Jo Ditzel

*Thank you to all who have signed up through February!
Liturgical selections adapted from umcdiscipleship.org resources.