



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Community Worship Service  
January 18, 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.***

***2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany***

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRELUDE**                      This Day of Rejoicing                      J.S. Bach

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

God calls us out of the daily, mundane activities of our lives to be here together — each of us, all of us, our whole selves.

**We bring our questions, our longings, our hopes, our dreams and our fears.**

Jesus invites us to come and see where God is at work.

**Across the street and across the globe, God is present.**

Within these walls and within our hearts, God is here.

**Let us worship the God who reaches out in love and invites us to come and see!**

**HYMN #568 Christ for the World We Sing**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**O God, you spoke your word and revealed your presence with us in Jesus, the Christ. Fill all creation with that word again, so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations and singing of your glorious hope for all peoples, we may become one living body, your incarnate presence on the earth. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Isaiah 49:1-7** *The servant's mission*

Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. <sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." <sup>4</sup>But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God." <sup>5</sup>And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—<sup>6</sup>he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

### **Psalms 40:1-11 UMH 774** *Trust in God's faithfulness* (Please respond with the words in bold.)

### **1 Corinthians 1:1-9** *Paul greets the church in Corinth*

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, <sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: <sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—

<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—

<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**John 1:29-42** *Testimony of John the Baptist and first followers*  
(Please stand as you are able.)

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup> And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him." <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of *his* disciples, <sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup> He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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.)*

**Gracious and loving God, hear our prayer. We know we do not always live as we ought: we turn away from you, from our neighbor, and from our true selves. We know we dim your light within us, with our pride, our self-righteousness, and our need for control. We know that you love us, that you do not abandon us, and that again and again you call us back to you, back to love, back to grace, back to your light. Forgive us, we pray, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, hear the good news: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Let us proclaim the good news:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! 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 # 451 Be Thou My Vision**

**OFFERTORY** I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ 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 ever with us, knowing us from the beginning, naming us as your own, you have entrusted us with the holy work of bearing your light to the world. Though we often feel unworthy or uncertain, you remind us that your grace goes before us, and your strength works through us. Receive these gifts, offered with gratitude and hope. Use them—and us—to proclaim your hope, to act in justice, to see others with compassion, to shine your love to the ends of the earth, and to glorify your name. In the name of Christ, your presence with us, we pray. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

### CLOSING HYMN #399 Take My Life and Let It Be

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

Improvisation

*(Please be seated)*

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### STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, [marcus61dodson@gmail.com](mailto: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: Scott Walter

Liturgist: Jo Ditzel

Coffee Hour\*: Tom & Kay Blackstock

*Liturgical selections are adapted from [umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org) resources,*

*Re:Worship, and [Pres-Outlook.org](http://Pres-Outlook.org).*

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### PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

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

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**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 facilitates this group. Please reach out to him if you have questions at [bacpac@comporium.net](mailto:bacpac@comporium.net).

**The next meeting on the Administrative Council** will take place on Friday, February 13 at 10:00am here at the church.

**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](mailto: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.

**A water leak has occurred** in the parking lot area, causing the pump to run excessively. The Trustees are actively working to locate and repair the leak as quickly as possible. To preserve the life of the pump, it will be turned off during the week. Please be aware of this if you plan to be at the church. If you require water access during the week, please contact one of the Trustees for instructions on how to turn the pump on temporarily.

### **Allen Model CF Digital Organ Upgrade:** **Success Story from Bob Kintner**

#### **Project Overview**

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church recently upgraded the sound system of its **Allen Model CF digital organ**. This modern instrument uses high-fidelity digital recordings (samples) of six traditional pipe organs including American, French, English, and German, played back through sophisticated software, amplifiers, and seven speaker cabinets for a robust, surround-sound experience. The original installation was incomplete, prompting this successful enhancement.

#### **Key Success Factors**

The upgrade succeeded due to several critical contributions:

**+Generous Donation:** A donor's gift ensured the project was "done right".

**+Expert Design:** National figure Jim Ingram, with 50 years of experience, designed the seven-speaker surround sound system and fine-tuned the audio output to the Sanctuary's unique acoustics. Jim and Bob share a friendship and passion for organs and church music.

**+Dedicated Study & Cooperation:** The Trustees and Church Council spent months studying and resolving identified issues.

#### **Long-Term Impact**

While a pipe organ was not envisioned when the simple Gothic church was built in 1912, this upgraded digital organ will allow Lake Toxaway UMC to praise God for many years by supporting congregational singing and expanding the repertoire of music for preludes, offertories, and postludes.