



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
20th Sunday after Pentecost

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
October 26, 2025**



*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.

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, Arr. by Richard Walters

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We give you thanks, O Lord, with all our hearts.

**People: On the day we called, you answered us;
our strength of soul you increased.**

Leader: For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.

**People: Though we walk in the midst of trouble;
you preserve our lives.**

**All: Let us worship the Lord, who saves us
by the strength of his hand.**

HYMN #158 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

**God of faithful surprises,
throughout the ages, you have made your love and power
known in unexpected ways and places.**

**May we perceive each day the joy and wonder
of your abiding presence and offer our lives
in gratitude for our redemption.**

**Come, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and be present in our
worship of you today and every day. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Joel 2: 23-32 The promise to restore Israel

23 O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.

24 The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

25 I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

27 You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

28 Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

29 Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

30 I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes.

32 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

Psalm 65 You crown the year with goodness UMH 789

(Please respond with the words in bold.)

2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18 The good fight of faith

6 As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

8 From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

16 At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them!

17 But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen

Luke 18: 9-14 A Pharisee and tax collector pray

(Please stand as you are able.)

9 He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:

10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

12 I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.'

13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

14 I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

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 pray the words of the tax collector:

"God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

We have sinned, again and again, by what we have done and by what we have not done. We ask that you redeem us and assist us in turning from our sin and walking in the path of your Son. We ask that you help us to restore those relationships we have broken and allow us to undo the hurts we have caused to others. We repent of trying to look good while pleasing ourselves with sin.

We have no excuse. We have no hope but in your grace.

We ask for your mercy for the sake of your son, Jesus. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news – Blessing and honor and glory and might belong to Christ—the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He has turned our mourning into dancing and clothed us with joy. Know that you are forgiven by the blood of the Lamb, and sing praises to the Lord, giving thanks to his holy name.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH from 1 Timothy UMH 889

(Please stand as you are able)

Leader: There is one God and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus, who came as a ransom for all, to whom we testify.

People: This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory. Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel. Amen.

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 #77 How Great Thou Art

OFFERTORY

At the River, Arr. by Aaron Copland

OFFERING

<https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches>

DOXOLOGY #95 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

(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

Humble and merciful God, you do not require perfection, only a heart that is open. Receive these gifts, not as a sign of our righteousness, but as a humble offering from those who know they need your grace. Teach us again that generosity begins not in pride, but in gratitude—not in proving our worth, but in trusting yours. May what we give today grow into mercy, justice, and joy in the lives of others and in our own. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN #128 He Leadeth Me

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Variations on Simple Gifts, Arr. by John Carter

(Please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The altar flowers are given by Maria and Jay Buehler in memory of their grandson, Emmett Burchill, who would have been 7 this month.

Welcome to Kathy Palmer and Kathryn Gresham Vocalist

Kathryn Gresham has been on the faculty of Brevard College since 2005, currently serving as the Fine Arts Division Chair and Professor of Voice and Lyric Diction. Dr. Gresham holds degrees from Stanford University, Boston University, and the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Potluck Dinner on October 27 at 6 PM

"Cameo, Jonagold, Rome!" What's your favorite apple?

Come and find out at our next church potluck dinner on October 27 at 6 PM. We will be doing an apple tasting. Bring along a dish to share. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers needed for LTUMC Offering Collection Process

If you are interested in being a counter for contributions and making deposits, please reach out to John Lefler, LTUMC treasurer at jdlefler013@gmail.com.

The Prayer Ministry meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the sanctuary. Please e-mail prayer requests to LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

Bible Study meets on Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM in the Minnich Conference room. 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

AA Meetings Thursday Nights

AA meets every Thursday at 4:45 PM in the Dice Hall.

To honor anonymity, please do not go to the Parish building from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Steve and John Haraschak, brothers of Joe Haraschak
Sally and Doug Bailey, Adam Prusiecki, Leslie Brown,
Saunders Grommesh

Our summer residents who are returning to their winter homes
Numerous silent requests, especially those with chronic illnesses
and dementia

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, marcus61dodson@gmail.com

Organist: Bob Kintner: 828-329-2457

4th Sunday Piano/Organist: Kathy Palmer and Charlotte Gilmore

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh *on Medical Leave*

Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434, Maria Buehler: 828-553-2128

Audio/Visual & Livestream: Joe Haraschak: 813-918-1916

Liturgist: Scott Walter

Guest Vocalist: Kathryn Gresham