



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
November 16, 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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE O Holy City, Seen of John Seth Bingham

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

Give thanks to the LORD!

Praise His name!

Tell the whole world what He has done—

His mighty acts on our behalf.

Sing to the LORD,

for He has done wonderful things for us!

Raise your hearts and voices!

shout and sing your praise!

For great is the Holy One who lives among us!

HYMN #428 For the Healing of the Nations

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

Loving and Merciful God, we give you thanks. You bring us strength, when we feel weak; courage, when we cannot stand. You fill our hearts with your glory and bless our being with your grace. You protect our lives.

In your care, not one hair on our heads shall perish, nor the smallest flutter of peace perish in our souls.

Grant our worship to be a time of praise to you, our great protector. We pray in the name of Christ, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 65: 17-25 *New heavens and a new earth*

- ¹⁷ For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
- ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating,
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people
as a delight.
- ¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it
or the cry of distress.
- ²⁰ No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who
dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one
who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
- ²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
- ²² They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat,
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
- ²³ They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity,
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—
and their descendants as well.
- ²⁴ Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
- ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together;
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,
says the LORD.

Isaiah 12 *The Holy One in Your Midst*

(Please respond with the words in bold.)

12 You will say on that day:

**"I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were
angry with me, your anger turned away, and you
comforted me. ² Surely God is my salvation;**

I will trust and will not be afraid, for the LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation."

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴ And you will say on that day:

**"Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.**

⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶ **Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."**

2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13 *Do What Is Right*

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Luke 21: 5-19/Suffering for Jesus' sake

(Please stand as you are able.)

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." ⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" ⁸ And he said, "Beware

that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. ⁹"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. ¹²"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.

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.)

O God, still creating, we hear your promises of a new day of joy and peace, and we are skeptical.

We expect things to go on the same as they always have, from bad to worse. The past will keep us guilty, the future will make us afraid, and the present will burden us with too little time and too much to do.

Forgive our lack of faith, our quickness to believe that you do not hear us, and our pessimism about tomorrow.

Do a new thing in our hearts, and let us be glad and rejoice in your abundant care; through Christ we pray.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The God of our Lord Jesus Christ blesses us and calls us kingdom people. In the name of the reigning Christ, we are forgiven.

In the name of the reigning Christ, we are forgiven.

Glory to God! Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH The Nicene Creed UMH 880

(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 #97 For the Fruits of This Creation

OFFERTORY Hyfrydol Setting by Ralph Vaughn-Williams

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

Restoring God, Maker of new heavens and a new earth, where sorrow is lifted, and joy takes root. As we bring our gifts this day, may they be seeds of your promised future—an offering of hope, justice, and mercy in a weary world. Use what we give and who we are to proclaim a kingdom where none are forgotten, where the wolf and lamb lie down in peace, and where the sound of weeping

is no more. Let this act of giving remind us that your dream is still unfolding—and that we are called to help build it. In the name of Christ, who is our joy. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN #368 My Hope is Built

(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

(Please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given by Susie and Randy Rush to the glory of God.

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets before worship 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.

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.

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.

Advent Covered Dish Dinner--Monday, December 8 at 6 pm.

All are invited! We will share a meal and fellowship as we also finish decorating the Church Sanctuary and Dice Hall for Advent and Christmas. We are starting a new tradition! Please bring an ornament to place on the tree in Dice Hall which represents your family. It can be a craft ornament made by your family or one from your family collection. You may also purchase a new one. If you are away and want to participate, please mail them to the church @ P.O. Box 83, Lake Toxaway, 28747. It would be so fun to have some of our summer congregation participate. Include a note as to the significance of the ornament. We welcome team ornaments, religious ornaments, grandchildren made ornaments. Please sign up on the sheets at the coffee bar if you are attending or send your reservation to LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

Advent Bible Study-open to all!

Kim Dodson will be facilitating a 4-week study for the season of Advent. We will be guided by the study "A Child is Born" by Amy-Jill Levine, renowned American Jewish scholar of the New Testament and Jewish studies, known for her work on Jewish-Christian relations and biblical interpretations. The study will consider birth narratives throughout the scripture and how they inform the faith narrative around Jesus' birth and our own faith understanding of what the birth of Jesus means for us. We will meet on Tuesdays from 10:00-11:15am beginning on November 25 and continuing through December 2, 9, and 16. Please contact Kim at mldkjd@comporium.net to let her know you are interested and if you would like a study guide.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Charlotte Gilmore who remains in the hospital in Charlotte awaiting a liver transplant. Steve and John Haraschak, brothers of Joe Haraschak. Adam Prusiecki. Leslie Brown. Chip Dixon

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
Liturgist: Scott Walter