



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Reign of Christ Sunday

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
November 23, 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 On Eagles Wings Setting by John Carter

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

Blessed be the Holy One,

who looks upon us with love and mercy.

Blessed be the Holy One,

who sent us a Savior to rescue us from despair.

Blessed be the Holy One,

who rules in a realm of forgiveness and peace.

Blessed be the Holy One,

who is worthy of our worship.

HYMN #73 O Worship the King

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

God of Creation, we cannot see you, but we see what you have created in all its beauty and bounty!

Jesus, Child of God, the entire universe lives in you, and for you, and through you!

Spirit of the Holy One, you sweep across creation, enlivening and sustaining.

Everything on earth and in heaven has its being and its hope because of you, Triune God.

Blessed is your holy, life-giving name! Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 23: 1-6 ***A righteous shepherd for Israel***

23 Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. ⁵ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Psalms 46 **UMH 780**

(Please respond with the words in bold.)

Colossians 1:11-20 ***A hymn to Christ, the firstborn of creation***

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all

the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Luke 23: 33-43 *Jesus crucified with two thieves*

(Please stand as you are able.)

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

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.)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you. Though you have been our sovereign, we have not obeyed you. We have not let you rule our hearts. We have not let you direct our thoughts or command our actions. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. You who have power over us, forgive us. Remake us according to your grace.

**Guide us in every step we take.
May your presence be the power in our lives;
may your love control our hearts and minds.
Help us to follow your Way, in the name of Christ,
and by the power of your Spirit in us. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Almighty and everlasting God, who has restored all things through your well-beloved Son, the King and Lord of all, mercifully grant that all peoples and nations, divided and wounded by sin, may be brought under the gentle yoke of his most loving rule, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, ever one God, world without end.

**In the name of the reigning Christ, we are forgiven.
Glory to God! Amen.**

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed UMH 881
(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 #529 How Firm a Foundation

OFFERTORY The King of Love My Shepherd Is
 Setting by Raymond H. Haan

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

Compassionate Shepherd, you do not abandon your flock. Even when we wander or divide, you gather us in Christ, our righteousness, and teach us to live in unity, mercy, and peace. As we bring these gifts, may they be signs of our desire to follow your way—offering compassion where there has been hurt, justice where there has been harm, and hope where there has been despair. Strengthen us to live as people waiting not in fear, but in faith—serving the reign of Christ not just with words, but with lives shaped by generosity and love. In the name of the One who gathers and leads us always. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN #103 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(Please be seated)

Thanks Be to Thee

G. F. Handel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God by Kay and Tom Blackstock.

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 1 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 Candle Lighting Volunteers

Please let Marcus know if you are willing to light the Advent Wreath Candles and do a brief reading for one of the four Sundays of Advent: November 30, December 7, 14, and 21.

Advent Bible Study-open to all!

Beginning this Tuesday, November 25, 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 mldkj@comporium.net to let her know you are interested and if you would like a study guide.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Charlotte Gilmore, Steve and John Haraschak, brothers of Joe Haraschak.
Adam Prusiecki. Leslie Brown. Chip Dixon, Tamsin Freeman

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: Ryan Stahl