

Hope



**Lake Toxaway United Methodist
Church**

1st Sunday of Advent

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
November 30, 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.

1st Sunday of Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel Flor Peeters

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

Beloved, once again, we embark on the Advent path that points us to the coming of Jesus.

We journey together toward the day that all earth awaits.

We remember the signs and the times that heralded the arrival of the baby Jesus, God Incarnate.

We journey together toward the day that all earth awaits.

We tell the stories once again as we learn how to discern the signs and the times, watching for glimpses of God's here-and-not-yet kingdom among us.

We journey together toward the day that all earth awaits.

Come, let us worship God who shines a light to guide us on the path to peace and flourishing for all creation.

Come, let us worship as we journey together toward the day that all earth awaits.

HYMN #210 All Earth is Waiting

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *(Please be seated)*

Reader: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more". (*Isaiah 2:4*)

All: Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.

Reader: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

Advent Prayer

Let us pray together: **God of Hope, in the hushed anticipation of your coming, kindle in us the desire to remain awake, that we might be ready for your coming. In this season, open our hearts to awareness of the signs of your presence. Grant us vision, O God, so that when your Son Jesus comes whether with great might or in manger mild, we might recognize his face and his voice, and come to adore him. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 2:1-5 *A vision of peace*

2 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: ²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Psalm 122 UMH 845 Gladness in God's House
(Please respond with the words in bold.)

Romans 13:11-14 Stay awake! Your salvation is near.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Luke 24: 36-44 The Necessity of Watchfulness
(Please stand as you are able.)

³⁶ "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

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.)

Holy One, you call us to wake from sleep, to become aware to our surroundings. The dawn of a new time of preparation is upon us. Forgive us when sleepiness takes its toll, when our discussions become battles, when our judgment and self-judgement outweigh our faith. Let us put on the light of Christ and live as You have called us--in respect, in mutual dialogue, and in healthy living. Help us so that everything we do reflects Christ's light. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God has not left us alone. Even when all seems lost, God comes into our midst, shines light into our darkness, and offers us salvation.

In the name of Christ, who comes and dwells with us we are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH United Church of Canada UMH 883

(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 ##732 Come, We That Love the Lord

OFFERTORY Salvation Has Come to Us Sigfried Karg-Elert

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 of Hope, you call us to live not in fear, but in faithful anticipation. As we offer these gifts, we do so as people preparing our hearts, our hands, and our world for your coming reign. We confess that we often cling too tightly to our comforts and schedules, forgetting that your kingdom calls us to loosen our grip and lift our eyes. Awaken us, Lord, to the “someday” you are already shaping through our love, our justice, and our generosity. Let these offerings be signs of readiness, trust, and joy as we wait—and work—for your future to break into our present. In the name of the one who comes, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN #203 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

(Please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the alter are offered today by Patricia Simmons and Tom Cook as we begin the Advent season.

Advent Covered Dish Dinner—Tomorrow evening, 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 Bible Study-open to all!

Our Advent study continues this Tuesday at 10:00am. All are welcome to jump in and join us. We are 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. Please contact Kim at mldkjd@comporium.net for more information.

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.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Charlotte Gilmore; Those missing loved ones during this season

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

Advent Candle: Kay and Dan Johnson

Coffee Hour: Jo & Jim Ditzel

Liturgical selections adapted from umcdiscipleship.org resources.