



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Fourth Sunday of Easter

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Community Worship Service
Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 11th

<p>10:00 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg</p>
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RINGING OF THE BELL – *To allow all worshippers to reflect and prepare for the service, please observe silence during the prelude.*

PRELUDE

What Is This Lovely Fragrance Paul Manz

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come! Let us worship and praise God.

P: The Lord is our shepherd, our guardian and our guide.

L: Celebrate the many ways in which God cares for our lives.

P: Green pastures and silent still waters beckon us and comfort us.

L: Even though difficulties happen in our lives, still God is with us.

P: Even when it seems that the world has nothing to offer but suffering and pain, God surrounds us with God's love and bounty.

L: Surely God's mercy accompanies us on our journey.

P: And we will dwell in God's house forever.

Let us worship God! AMEN.

HYMN #127

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

***Merciful God,
you have told us who you are,
and we still struggle to believe.
In Jesus Christ, you reveal your unending care for us,
and we give thanks.
Grant us the vision of the world you see,
a world without hunger, thirst, or tears.
Lead us into the future you are preparing, O God,
as we follow with grateful hearts. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 9:36-43 - Peter raises Tabitha from the dead

- 9:36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.
- 9:37 At that time, she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs.
- 9:38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay."
- 9:39 So, Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them.
- 9:40 Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up.
- 9:41 He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.
- 9:42 This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.
- 9:43 Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Hymn #136 The Lord's My Shepherd (Psalter Lesson) ***(Please remain seated)***

Revelation 7:9-17 - A multitude sings before the Lamb (Epistle Reading)

- 7:9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.
- 7:10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"
- 7:11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,
- 7:12 singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
- 7:13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?"
- 7:14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

- 7:15 For this reason, they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
- 7:16 They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat,
- 7:17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

John 10:22-30 - Jesus promises life to his sheep (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

- 10:22 At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter,
- 10:23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon.
- 10:24 So, the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."
- 10:25 Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me,
- 10:26 but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep.
- 10:27 My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.
- 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.
- 10:29 My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all else, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand.
- 10:30 The Father and I are one."

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.)*

***Eternal God, in the presence of our enemies, we divide and demonize.
When you face our enemies, you choose neither contempt nor punishment,
but set a table and make provision for us all.
Our ways are not your ways, O Creator, and they are an affront to the work of
your hands.
Have mercy on us, O God, and heal us. Forgive us our sins against you and our
neighbor.
Send our risen Lord among us again to repair relationships and restore humanity.
Set us free to share the love of Christ Jesus just as he does at his table.
We pray in the name of the Christ, Jesus our Savior. Amen.***

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Hear the sound of your Shepherd's voice:
Jesus says, I give you eternal life.
You will never perish.
No one can snatch you out of my hand.
Believe the good news.*

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #887 (Affirmation from Romans)

Leader:

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation or distress,
or persecution or famine,
or nakedness or peril or sword?*

People:

No,

***In all things we are more than conquerors
Through the One who loved us.
We are sure that neither
death nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Thanks be to God! Amen***

GLORIA PATRI (UMH #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 #154

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God Benedetto Marcello

DOXOLOGY #94 - Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

(Please stand as you are able)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Giver of life,

You are the source of all good things.

We entrust to you our gifts,

That you would use them to make all know

That with you, they are beloved, whole, and restored.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #157

Jesus Shall Reign

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on Duke Street

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Tom and Kay Blackstock in memory of their mothers, Lois Teien and Helen Blackstock, on Mother's Day.

Interested in joining the Church:

Anyone interested in joining the church membership please meet Rev. Dodson in the Minnich Conference Room after the 5-11 or the 5-18 service.

Coffee Hour after Today's Service

Please join us in the Dice Hall after today's service for coffee and snacks. This is a great way to see friends and make new ones. Please sign up to host one.

Spring Bible Study

The Spring Bible Study group meets on Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM in the Bill Minnich Conference room. This is a come as you can Bible Study and a study guide will be provided. It is led by Don Henderson. Please reach out to him if you have questions at bacpac@comporium.net

The Prayer Ministry

They meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the church. Please e-mail prayer requests to LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

AA Meetings Thursday Nights

The weekly AA meeting is every Thursday 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions.

Please pray for those having or had a surgery, acute illness or injury and their recovery. We pray for Don Scholl, Lysa Riggs' husband who has been diagnosed with throat cancer.

Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the recent passing of a loved one. We especially pray for Katherine Jeter, as Jack died on May 4. Katherine's address is Katherine Jeter, 615 Laurel Lake Dr., A127, Columbus, NC 28722. Please pray for Maria and Jay Buehler, as Jay's sister, Lynn died on May 7th. Their address is Jay & Maria Buehler, P.O. Box 64, Sapphire, NC 28774

We also pray for the family of Polly LeFaivre, who had moved to Deerfield Retirement Center several years ago. Polly and her husband, Al, were long-time members at Lake Toxaway UMC. She will be interred in the Memorial Garden in August during a private family ceremony.

We continue to pray for Dan & Kay Johnson, Tom & Kay Blackstock and Don and Nancy Henderson who have recently lost a family member.

Please continue to pray for our student scholars, our local students, teachers and staff.

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

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

Pianist/Organist: Bob Kintner

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh, 469-569-2314, administrator@laketoxawayumc.org

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

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

Liturgist: Scott Walter