



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 18th

10:00 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg

RINGING OF THE BELL – *To allow all worshippers to reflect and prepare for the service, please observe silence during the prelude.*

PRELUDE

O Holy City, Seen of John

CALL TO WORSHIP

The One who loves without distinction calls us here.

They will know we are Christians by our love.

The One who loves us completely welcomes us home.

They will know we are Christians by our love.

The One who loves us well rejoices in our presence.

They will know we are Christians by our love.

HYMN #90

Ye Watcher and Ye Holy Ones

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

Gracious and loving God, you meet us where we are. We gather from similar but unique walks of life; we are unified as one heart in the body of Christ. In our time of worship, open our ears to hear your voice; open our eyes to see your glory; open our minds to receive Your Word; open our hearts to perceive your presence. Enable us to worship you as the Sovereign God who is always present where two or more are gathered in the name of Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 11:1-18 - *God saves the Gentiles*

- 11:1 Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God.
- 11:2 So, when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him,
- 11:3 saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"
- 11:4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying,
- 11:5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance, I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me.
- 11:6 As I looked at it closely, I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air.
- 11:7 I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'
- 11:8 But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'
- 11:9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.'
- 11:10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.
- 11:11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.
- 11:12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.
- 11:13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter;
- 11:14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.'
- 11:15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.
- 11:16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'
- 11:17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"
- 11:18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Psalm 148 - God's splendor is over earth and heaven (UMH Pg. 861)
(Psalter Lesson)

- 148:1 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise the Lord in the heights!
- 148:2 Praise the Lord, all his angels, praise the Lord, all his hosts!**
- 148:3 Praise the Lord, sun and moon, praise the Lord, all shining stars!
- 148:4 Praise the Lord, highest heavens, and all waters above the heavens!**
- 148:5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded and they were created,
- 148:6 who established them for ever and ever, and fixed their bounds which cannot be passed.**
- 148:7 Praise the Lord from the earth, sea monsters and all deeps,
- 148:8 fire and hail, snow and smoke, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!**
- 148:9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
- 148:10 Beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**
- 148:11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
- 148:12 Young men and maidens together, old men and children!**
- 148:13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name alone is exalted, whose glory is above earth and heaven.
- 148:14 God has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful ones, for the people of Israel who are near their God. Praise the Lord!**

Revelation 21:1-6 - New heaven, new earth (Epistle Reading)

- 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
- 21:2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God;

- 21:4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."
- 21:5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."
- 21:6 Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

John 13:31-35 - Love one another (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

- 13:31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him."
- 13:32 If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.
- 13:33 Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now, I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'
- 13:34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
- 13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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.)*

Patient God, sometimes we are just too busy for our own good. We pledge ourselves to hectic schedules, demands on time, energy, and resources that erode all too quickly. We seem to be rushing through life. The cries of those in need often go unheeded in our blur of activities which sap our energy, our resources, our spirits. Slow us down a bit, Lord. Remind us again that we are responsible for the care of this world, for reaching out and offering your healing love. Help us to hear the words of patient love that you have for us. Remind us again of Jesus' words to his disciples when he told them that they should love one another as he loved them. May we take time to bear witness to that love in all that we do. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Wherever you are, Christ is with you. You are beloved of God and God's care will always surround you. Be at peace and rejoice! Know you are forgiven.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #880 (*The Nicene Creed*)

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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 #548

In Christ There Is No East or West

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Rigadoon (*Old English Dance*) Andre Campra

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

Holy God, you have given us so much. Through your love and abundance, our cup overflows. From the bounty of your blessings, we offer these gifts back to you. Use these offerings for your glory, as we work to bring your kingdom here on earth. 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 #580

Lead On, O King Eternal

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on Lancashire

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Tom & Kay Blackstock in memory of their son, Thomas Blackstock.

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.

LTUMC Graduating Scholars

*Listed below are the spring 2025 college graduates who have been supported by our Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church congregation. This is accomplished by the Mission Committee providing up to four-year scholarships as these young adults pursue their educational goals. We celebrate and give thanks to God for the matriculation of **Elizabeth Daves** (Blue Ridge Community College), **Trista Bryson** (NCSU), **Kaileigh Jones** (Blue Ridge Community College) and **Emma Reese** (Brevard College).*

Each graduate, in addition to the annual financial support, has benefited from a church partner who provides prayer, encouragement and, in many cases, tangible gifts. All graduates receive from LTUMC an inscribed bible.

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: Stephanie Taylor