



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 25th

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

Intermezzo in A Major, Op.118, No. 2 by Johannes Brahms

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We come together this day, drawn by the light of God's love!

P: In God's eternal kingdom, darkness and despair are vanquished.

L: In God's eternal realm, peace and hope reign!

P: Let all the people praise God with their music and their voices!

L: Let all the people praise God with their deeds of loving-kindness!

P: Praise be to God. AMEN!

HYMN #577

God of Grace and God of Glory

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

God of the stars and galaxies, God of the seed and earth, we thank you that you continue to come to us, to amaze us, to laugh with us, to cry with us, to comfort us, and to show us that your love shines through us and your creation, bringing light to a darkened world. May this beauty and peace be reflected in this sacred time of worship. In the name of the Christ, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 16:9-15 - Lydia and her household are baptized

- 16:9 During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."
- 16:10 When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.
- 16:11 We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis,
- 16:12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days.
- 16:13 On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there.
- 16:14 A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul.
- 16:15 When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Psalms 67 - Let all the peoples praise God (UMH Pg. 791) (Psalter Lesson)

- 67:1 O God, be gracious to us and bless us and make your face to shine upon us,
67:2 that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.
- 67:3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!
67:4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.
- 67:5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
67:6 The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.
- 67:7 God has blessed us; **let all the ends of the earth fear God!**

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 - *The Lamb is the light of God's city (Epistle Reading)*

- 21:10 And in the spirit, he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.
- 21:22 I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.
- 21:23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.
- 21:24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.
- 21:25 Its gates will never be shut by day--and there will be no night there.
- 21:26 People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.
- 21:27 But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.
- 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb
- 22:2 through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
- 22:3 Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him;
- 22:4 they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.
- 22:5 And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

John 14:23-29 - The Father will send the Holy Spirit (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

- 14:23 Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.
- 14:24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.
- 14:25 "I have said these things to you while I am still with you.
- 14:26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you.
- 14:27 Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.
- 14:28 You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I.
- 14:29 And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

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.)*

Lord, you know how easy it is for us to sit here, tethered to our darkness and fear. We get bound up by chains of mistrust. We dare not to hope, for so many times before we have been disappointed. So, we sit here and wonder where you are. We are not unlike the disciples who wondered also, who feared. Lord, come to us in our darkness. Flood us with your powerful light of love and mercy. Help open our eyes to the good news of your eternal glory. Give to us visions of the place in which love and hope will reign. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your mercy and your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Let the light of God's eternal love flood into your hearts this day. Feel the healing presence of God in your lives. Accept God's love and hope for you. This is the gift freely given for you by Jesus Christ, God's risen Son our Lord.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #883 (*United Church of Canada*)

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

***who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.***

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

***to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.***

***In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.***

We are not alone.

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 #206

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

V'adoro, pupille, by G.F. Handel

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

*Receive our praise, O God,
for the bounty of your love.
You cause the earth to yield food
to satisfy the hungry.
You send rain upon the earth
to give drink to the thirsty.
You shine light into our darkness
to show us the way.
Bless the gifts we bring before you this day,
that they may touch the world
with your love. 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 #568

Christ for the World We Sing

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, Arr. by John Carter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by the Dices to the Glory of God and with gratitude for the Wedding Anniversaries of Sherry and Bill Minnich and Elizabeth and Kevin Dice.

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.

30 Year Anniversary Luncheon Celebration for Rev. Dodson

On Sunday, June 29th, we are going to host a celebration for Pastor Marcus in honor of his 30 years of service to Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church. After church, a BBQ luncheon will take place in the Dice Hall. Please RSVP to Saunders by noon Wednesday, June 25th at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org so we can get a head count. For questions, please reach out to Mandy Stahl at LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

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.

Summer Bible Study

The new summer Bible Study group will start June 1st and will continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM in the 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. We pray for Don Scholl, Lysa Riggs' husband as he undergoes cancer treatments.

Please pray for those having or had a surgery, acute illness or injury and their recovery. We especially pray for Kim Dodson as she recovers from surgery earlier this week.

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We continue to pray for Katherine Jeter, Maria and Jay Buehler, the family of Polly LeFaivre, 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: Kathy Palmer

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: John Lefler