



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*Fifth Sunday in Pentecost*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Community Worship Service**  
**Fifth Sunday, July 13th**

**10:00 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S\\_Cfg1sWCg](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** - Air (from the Water Music)      G. F. Handel

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*We gather today to remember*

***To hear again the story of God's suffering***

*To hear the cry of our lives echoed on Jesus' lips:*

***My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?***

*We gather today to remember*

***That we are never alone in our suffering***

*That pain and death are not the end of the story*

***That whatever is happening in our lives, and however we feel***

***God does not abandon us.***

**HYMN #108** - God Has Spoken by the Prophets

**OPENING PRAYER** *(Please be seated)*

***Lord God,***

***As we gather today fill us with your Spirit of hope.***

***Grow in us Jesus Christ's perfect humanity and humility.***

***Open our ears to hear your voice***

***And our mouths to proclaim your praise.***

***Amen.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Psalm 82 - O God, rule the earth (Psalter Lesson)** ***(UMH Pg. 804) (Please read the bold text)***

- 82:1 God is seated in the divine council; and in the midst of the gods holds judgment:
- 82:2 "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?**
- 82:3 Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.
- 82:4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."**
- 82:5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding; they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- 82:6 I said, "You are gods, godlike offspring, all of you;**
- 82:7 nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince."
- 82:8 Arise, O God, judge the earth, for to you belong all nations!**

### **Colossians 1:1-14 - The gospel is bearing fruit (Epistle Reading)'**

- 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
- 1:2 To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.
- 1:3 In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 1:4 for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints,
- 1:5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel
- 1:6 that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God.
- 1:7 This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf,
- 1:8 and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.
- 1:9 For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
- 1:10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.

- 1:11 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  
1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.  
1:13 He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son,  
1:14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**Luke 2: 1-7, 3:1-23a, 23:13-25 (Gospel)**

***(Pgs. 54, 56, 83 in the Bible in the pew) (Please stand as you are able)***

*L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.*

***P: Thanks be to God.***

**MUSICAL OFFERING** – *There Is a Balm in Gilead* Arr. Alan Louis Smith

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
(Let us offer our silent confessions.)*

***Dear God, the world often seems to be falling apart. As much as we don't intend to, we seem to jump into that basket instead of into your loving arms. Many of the world's values have infiltrated our minds, and hearts, and actions. It happens so gradually, we hardly notice. We place value on things that harm us, and we insist that things be the way we think they should be. We lost our way, but we are here now. We want to be people who walk in your way, not those who wander blindly from the path. We lay ourselves before you, trusting in your steadfast love. Amen.***

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*There is nothing we can do that will make God love us any less. We can disappoint God. We can ignore God's way. But God is always there on the way—guiding us, calling us to live in God's unconditional, steadfast love. Open yourselves to this love, knowing that with God, all things can be made right.*

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

**HOMILY - *What Do We Really Know?***

**STATEMENT OF FAITH #889 (1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1:15; 3:16)**

Leader:

*There is one God  
and there is one mediator, Christ Jesus,  
who came as a ransom for all,  
to whom we testify.*

**People:**

***This saying is sure  
and worthy of full acceptance:  
That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners,  
and was manifested in the flesh,  
vindicated in the Spirit,  
seen by angels,  
proclaimed among the nations,  
believed in throughout the world,  
taken up in glory.***

***Great indeed is the mystery of the gospel. 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 # 430** - O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

**OFFERING**

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

**OFFERTORY** - Prayer H. Leslie Adams

**DOXOLOGY #94 - Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow**

***(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***

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*Gracious and strengthening God, in you, we find the power to endure with patience and the grace to give thanks with joy. As we offer these gifts, may they bear fruit in your kingdom, strengthening the church, uplifting the weary, and sharing the hope we have in Christ. Help us remember that we are not alone but surrounded by the saints of light, past and present. May our generosity reflect your abundant love and our lives proclaim the gospel in word and deed. In Christ's name, we give and rejoice. 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 #156** - I Love to Tell the Story

**POSTLUDE** - Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me     Paul M. Vasile

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Flowers on the Altar**

*The flowers on the altar are given by the Quint & Kim Jardin in honor of their new grandson, David Lee Bender, III.*

### **Guest Pastor – Rev. Ashley Crowder Stanley**

*Rev. Ashley Crowder Stanley is a dear friend to Kim and Marcus. She has loved them from their days in Durham over 37 years ago! Ashley currently is retired but has been called back into active ministry to serve as one of 2 clergy fulfilling the role of our District Superintendent, Mark Ralls as he recovers from his treatment and surgery. Ashley is modest in her bio, but she is a giant in the Western North Carolina Conference! She grew up in a UMC minister's home; she has served on the faculty at Duke Divinity School; she has served as a District Superintendent; she and her retired MD husband have raised three incredible adults who have now brought the blessings of grandchildren into the Stanley family. She is an outstanding preacher with an incredible heart of care!*

### **Soloist - Vocalist Doug Grimm**

*The vocal skills of Doug Grimm are well known to our congregation; please give him a warm welcome. He has a graduate degree in Vocal Pedagogy and many credits as a professional, singing Opera and Oratorio. Doug is presently the Director of Vocal Arts at Brevard Middle School.*

### **Summer Bible Study**

*The summer Bible Study meets on Sunday mornings 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. It is led by Don Henderson. Please reach out to him if you have questions at [bacpac@comporium.net](mailto:bacpac@comporium.net)*

### **Flowers on the Altar & Coffee Hour Sign-Ups**

*While signing up to host a coffee hour, please consider signing up for flowers on the altar. Please let Saunders know by Wednesday at 5:00 PM on how you want it to read in the bulletin.*

### **The Prayer Ministry**

*Everyone is welcome to join the Prayer Ministry on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the church. Please e-mail prayer requests to [LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com](mailto: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 especially pray for Bob Palmer, Kathy Palmer, our pianist's husband who had a stroke this week. Please pray for his recovery.*

*Please pray for those having or had a surgery, acute illness or injury and their recovery.*

*We continue to pray for those who have recently lost a family member. We pray for Matt Grommesh and family as Lois Baker, his mother passed away on July 4th. Their address is Matt & Saunders Grommesh 234 Fox Ridge Rd., Lake Toxaway, NC 28747*

*Please continue to pray for our student scholars, our local students, teachers and staff over the summer months.*

### **STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS**

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, [marcus61dodson@gmail.com](mailto:marcus61dodson@gmail.com)

Organist: Bob Kintner

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh, 469-569-2314, [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto: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: Drew Prusiecki