



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Seventh Sunday in Pentecost

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Sunday, July 27th

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 - In the Garden Arr. by Judson Trebor

CALL TO WORSHIP

Before we even knock,

Christ opens the doors and invites us in.

Before we even ask,

God knows our every need.

Come to seek; come to pray; come to worship,
for the Spirit has called us here.

HYMN #400 - Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

Christ Jesus, we come to your house this day,
knocking and asking that the door may be opened.

We come seeking your face
and yearning for your presence in our lives.

Open the door of our hearts,
as you have opened the doors of your church.

Lift our faces,
that we may see your face shining upon us.

Answer our yearning,
that our restive hearts may find their rest in you.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hosea 1:2-10 - Hosea's marriage

- 1:2 When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take for yourself a wife of prostitution and have children of prostitution, for the land commits great prostitution by forsaking the LORD."
- 1:3 So, he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.
- 1:4 And the LORD said to him, "Name him Jezreel, for in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.
- 1:5 On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel."
- 1:6 She conceived again and bore a daughter. Then the LORD said to him, "Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have pity on the house of Israel or forgive them.
- 1:7 But I will have pity on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God; I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen."
- 1:8 When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son.
- 1:9 Then the LORD said, "Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not my people, and I am not your God."
- 1:10 Yet the number of the people of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which can be neither measured nor numbered, and in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God."

Psalms 85 - Righteousness and peace (Psalter Lesson) ***(UMH Pg. 806) (Please read the bold text)***

- 85:1 Lord, you showed favor to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 85:2 You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.**
- 85:3 You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
- 85:4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!**
- 85:5 Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- 85:6 Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?
- 85:7 Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.**
- 85:8 Let me hear what God will speak, for the Lord will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to the Lord in their hearts.
- 85:9 Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear the Lord, that glory may dwell in our land.**
- 85:10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

85:11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

85:12 The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

85:13 Righteousness will go before him and will make God's footsteps a way.

Colossians 2:6-19 - Buried with Christ in baptism (Epistle Reading)

2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him,

2:7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

2:8 Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

2:9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

2:10 and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

2:11 In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ;

2:12 when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

2:13 And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses,

2:14 erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.

2:15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

2:16 Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths.

2:17 These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ.

2:18 Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking,

2:19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.

Luke 11:1-13 - Jesus teaches prayer (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

11:1 He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

11:2 so, he said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come.

11:3 Give us each day our daily bread.

- 11:4 And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."
- 11:5 And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,
- 11:6 for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.'
- 11:7 And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.'
- 11:8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.
- 11:9 "So, I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.
- 11:10 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.
- 11:11 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish?
- 11:12 Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion?
- 11:13 If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

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

P: Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL OFFERING – The Lamb Lee Hoiby

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit, we do not find it easy to speak of how we do not live as your people, but you call us to share our weaknesses and failures with you. Tempted to think your salvation is for a select few, we put up barriers for others. Clinging to your grace for ourselves, we are reluctant to share with those in need. Surrounded by evil and violence, we find it easier to close ranks with those just like us, rather than seeking peace and reconciliation for our world. Forgive us, God of our salvation. Open our hearts to all around us. Open our minds to the word of hope you speak to us. Open our spirits to the presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who flings wide the open doors of your kingdom, that all might find life with you. We knock boldly at your door, dear Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Receive the good news, my friends:
Christ came searching for us,
calling us by name,
leading us into God's kingdom.
In Christ, we become new people:
empty, we are made full;
lost, we are found;
dead in sin, we are made alive.*

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #880 (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 #140 - Great Is Thy Faithfulness

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY - Alleluia W.A. Mozart

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

Living and redeeming God, in Christ, you have made us fully alive, setting us free from all that would hold us captive. As we bring these gifts, we do so in gratitude, abounding in thanksgiving for your grace. May these offerings be signs of our rootedness in you, bearing fruit for your kingdom. Let them be used to bring hope, healing, and new life to those in need. Keep us steadfast in Christ, walking in faith and filled with the joy of your transforming love. In the name of the one who makes us whole, we pray. 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 #405 - Seek Ye First

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Improvisation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Les & Penny Rue to the glory of God and in honor of their children and grandchildren.

Guest Pastor – Adrian Taylor

Adrian Taylor serves as Director of Missions Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Nashville, where she oversees local and international mission partnerships. She graduated with a Master of Divinity from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and is currently in the ordination process with the Presbyterian Church. Ministry is a second career for Adrian; she first spent 15 years in health care, during which she earned a Doctorate in Audiology at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, and worked as a cochlear implant audiologist. She is grateful to be back in Nashville, where she is able to spend time with her niece and nephew, but the Carolinas will always be home. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, hiking, and always prefers to be near any large body of water she can find.

Soloist - Vocalist Clair Griffin

A warm welcome to our vocalist Clair Griffin. Clair is a native of Brevard. She has a music degree from UNC Greensboro and a Masters in Voice from the North Carolina School of the Arts. This Summer Clair has returned to Brevard singing roles with the Janiec Opera Company.

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

Student Scholar Bookmarks

We have our 2025-2026 student scholar prayer bookmarks available at both entrances of the church for you. Our scholars appreciate your prayers and support.

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.

Our Daily Bread Devotional

We have new quarterly Our Daily Bread devotionals for your you to take at both entrances of the church and in the Dice Hall.

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.

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 last week. Please pray for his recovery. We continue to pray for Don Scholl who is recovering from cancer treatments. We also pray for Donna Parker, a former church member who is very ill and in the hospital.

Please pray for those having or had a surgery, acute illness or injury and their recovery. We pray for Paula Markert who fell last week and had hand and wrist surgery on Wednesday. The surgery went well. She had a plate with six screws put in and carpal tunnel repaired on her hand. She is seeing the doctor and therapist on Tuesday. Paula is staying with her daughters in Raleigh for the next two weeks. Her address is Paula Markert, P.O. 10, Lake Toxaway, NC 28747.

We continue to pray for those who have recently lost a family member.

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

Organist: Bob Kintner: 828-329-2457

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