



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Ninth Sunday in Pentecost

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Sunday, August 10th

<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 - Andante Tranquillo Felix Mendellsohn

CALL TO WORSHIP

From the rising to the setting sun,

God summons us.

In the perfect beauty all around us,

God brightens our hearts.

When we worship with acts of love and mercy,

God is pleased to give us the kingdom.

Come! Let justice and righteousness be our worship.

HYMN #712 - I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

Surprising God of mercy and love, thank you for calling to us this day. We praise you that you challenge us to show our faith in ministries of peace and justice, offering compassion to all in need. Open our hearts and minds today to hear your words of encouragement and challenge. We offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 - *Learn to do good*

- 1:1 The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.
- 1:10 Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!
- 1:11 What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls or of lambs or of goats.
- 1:12 When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more!
- 1:13 Bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and calling of convocation-- I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.
- 1:14 Our new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.
- 1:15 When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.
- 1:16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove your evil deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil;
- 1:17 learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow.
- 1:18 Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: If your sins are like scarlet, will they become like snow? If they are red like crimson, will they become like wool?
- 1:19 If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land,
- 1:20 but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Psalms 50:1-8, 22-23 - *The salvation of God (Psalter Lesson)* ***(UMH Pg. 783) (Please read the bold text)***

- 50:1 The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**
- 50:3 Our God comes and does not keep silence, before whom is a devouring fire round about whom is a mighty storm.
- 50:4 God calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that the people may be judged:**
- 50:5 "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"
- 50:6 The heavens declare God's righteousness, for God alone is judge!**

50:7 "Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God.

50:8 I do not reprove you for your sacrifices; your burnt offerings are continually before me.

50:22 Mark this, then, you who forget God, lest I rend, and there be none to deliver!

50:23 Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me; to those who order their way a right I will show the salvation of God!"

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 - Abraham's faith (Epistle Reading)

11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

11:2 Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

11:9 By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

11:10 For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

11:11 By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised.

11:12 Therefore, from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

11:13 All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth,

11:14 for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

11:15 If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.

11:16 But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Luke 12:32-40 - The treasure of the kingdom (Gospel)

(Please stand as you are able)

- 12:32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
- 12:33 Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.
- 12:34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- 12:35 "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit;
- 12:36 be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.
- 12:37 Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.
- 12:38 If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.
- 12:39 "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.
- 12:40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL OFFERING – Panis Angelicus Cesar Franck (in Latin)

May the Bread of Angels become bread for mankind;
The Bread of Heaven puts all foreshadowing to an end;
Oh, thing miraculous! The body of the Lord will nourish
The poor, the servile, and the humble.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Jesus Christ, God of our mothers and fathers, you are a God who acts in history. Yet we confess that we are too busy with our own lives to perceive you at work in our time. We fall into fear and despair about our troubled world, as if you had no care for us. Forgive our lack of faith and help us to join you as you labor to bring new life on earth; in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

It is God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom. It is our joy to serve God by helping each other and all those in need. Be assured of God's tender mercy toward you and continue that love in all that you do. AMEN.

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 #529 - How Firm a Foundation

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY - Turn Thee to Me Antonin Dvorak

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

Faithful and Gracious God, you have called us to be a people of hope, to trust in what we cannot see. As we bring these gifts before you, we offer not only our resources but also our faith -- faith that you are at work in our giving, building a future of justice, mercy, and love. Bless these offerings, that they may be signs of our longing for your kingdom and our trust in your promises. May our generosity inspire others to live with courage and conviction, seeking that better country you have prepared for us. In Christ's name, 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 #129 - Give to the Winds Thy Fears

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - A Gaelic Blessing John Rutter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Cynthia & Stephen Wood to the glory of God and in honor of their wedding anniversary.

Soloist - Vocalist Jackson Ray

A warm welcome to tenor Jackson Ray, from Asheville, who is earning his M.M. in Vocal Performance at Indiana University with Jane Dutton. He began his undergraduate studies at Brevard College before completing his degree at UNCSA. Last season he debuted with IU Opera Theatre as El Remendado in Carmen. He has performed with Piedmont Opera and as a soloist in Bach's St. John Passion, and is a NC NATS winner and national semifinalist.

Administrative Council Meeting

The next administrative council meeting will be Friday, August 22nd at 10:00 AM in the Minnich conference room.

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.

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 is recovering from hand and wrist surgery.

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: Brian Singleton