



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Tenth Sunday in Pentecost

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Sunday, August 17th

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 - On Eagle's Wings Setting by John Carter

CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, for the sake of the joy, we gather...

We gather to worship, to encounter grace, to grow in faith.

For the sake of the joy, we proclaim...

We proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, the love of God that surrounds us and forms us into a community marked by love for God, self, neighbor, and all creation.

For the sake of the joy, we respond...

We respond with our lives, ready to embody our faith as agents of God's already-and-not-yet kingdom.

For the sake of the joy, God sends us...

God sends us into the world to meet our neighbors with the defiant joy and persevering love of the gospel today and every day.

Come, let us worship the Triune God who dwells with us as we gather, proclaim, respond, and go forth from this place.

Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN #730 - O Day of God, Draw Nigh

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

Lord of light and life, you have called us this day to open our hearts, our minds, our spirits to hear your words of challenge, encouragement, healing, and hope. Give us patience and willingness to hear the call of the Holy Spirit in our worship. Unite us as one church untied in the universal church of God. May our worship be a pleasing tribute to you, Triune God. We pray as priests to each other in Jesus' name. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 5:1-7 - *The song of the vineyard*

- 5:1 I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
- 5:2 He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.
- 5:3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.
- 5:4 What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes?
- 5:5 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.
- 5:6 I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.
- 5:7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

Psalm 80 - O God, tend this vine (Psalter Lesson)

(UMH Pg. 801) (Please read the bold text)

- 80:1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth!
- 80:2 In the presence of Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might, and come to save us!
- 80:3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**
- 80:4 O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- 80:5 You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.**
- 80:6 You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.
- 80:7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**
- 80:8 You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.
- 80:9 You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.**
- 80:10 The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;
- 80:11 it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the river.**
- 80:12 Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

- 80:13 The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.**
- 80:14 Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven and see; **have regard for this vine,**
- 80:15 the stock that your right hand planted.**
- 80:16 They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance!
- 80:17 But let your hand be upon those of your right hand, the ones whom you have made strong for yourself!**
- 80:18 Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name!
- 80:19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Hebrews 11:29-12:2 - The faith of the Hebrew people (Epistle Reading)

- 11:29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.
- 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days.
- 11:31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.
- 11:32 And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,
- 11:33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,
- 11:34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.
- 11:35 Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection.
- 11:36 Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment.
- 11:37 They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented--
- 11:38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.
- 11:39 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised,
- 11:40 since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

- 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
- 12:2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke 12:49-56 - Jesus brings fire on earth (Gospel)
(Please stand as you are able)

- 12:49 "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze!
- 12:50 I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed!
- 12:51 Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!
- 12:52 From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three;
- 12:53 they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."
- 12:54 He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens.
- 12:55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens.
- 12:56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

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

P: Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL OFFERING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

God of healing mercies, we come to you this day as imperfect people. We know that you desire for us hope, happiness, and love, yet we have found so many ways in which to block your gifts, or to grab hold of them as if we were entitled to them. We have been given the pathway to peace in the witness of Jesus Christ. He taught us to live as people of compassion and service. But our service has been mostly for ourselves, for our own gratification. We have failed to be your church, your witnesses on earth. We have neglected the needs of others in our rush for our own comfort. Forgive us, O merciful God. Heal our wounded spirits. Turn us again to you, that we may again learn of

your love and mercy. Help us to become partners in peace and hope for others. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Turn again, O people, to the Lord who always loves you. Remember God's loving mercies and faithfulness which never fail! AMEN.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH (Great Cloud of Witnesses)

***We believe in One God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
who calls all to run the race of faith.***

***We believe in the enduring witness of the saints who have gone before,
a great cloud surrounding all.***

Their lives, though imperfect, testify to the faithfulness of God.

They inspire perseverance through trials and triumphs, like Abraham who left his home not knowing where he was going, yet trusted God's promise of a new land.

***We strive in grace to live lives worthy of the Gospel,
honoring the sacrifices made by those who walked before.***

Eyes are fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

***He endured the cross for the joy set before him,
demonstrating the ultimate faithfulness and strength.***

We are not alone in this race.

***All are united with all believers, both in heaven and on earth,
forming one body in Christ.***

***All are called to encourage and support each other, as the universal church,
bearing witness to the transforming power of God's grace.***

The day is looked forward to with hope, when all will join the great cloud of witnesses,

entering the heavenly Jerusalem and sharing in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Amen.

HYMN #700 - Abide with Me

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY – MUSIC OFFERING

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

Enduring and Gracious God, you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses, those who have gone before us and those who walk beside us in faith. As we bring our gifts before you, we offer them in gratitude, knowing that our generosity is part of your ongoing work in the world. Strengthen us to run with perseverance the race set before us, so that through our giving and through our living, we may reflect the joy of Christ and the love that unites all your saints. In Jesus' 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 #577 - God of Grace and God of Glory

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE - Improvisation on Cwm Rhonda

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Bob and Jean Merritt in memory of Dave Crawford, their dear friend, and a salute to all veterans who have served our country with bravery and sacrifice.

Soloist - Vocalist Benjamin Czarnota

We welcome back Benjamin Czarnota, he is a friend of Katherine Jeter from when he sang with Brevard Music Center 15+ years ago. He has just completed his doctoral coursework in music at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN, where he performed the role of Otto Frank in the world premiere of the opera ANNE FRANK. He is married to, Emily and have a son Freddie.

Administrative Council Meetings

The following dates have been scheduled for the remaining Administrative Council meetings for 2025: Friday, August 22; & Friday, October 24. The meeting times are 10:00 AM in the Minnich conference room.

Congratulations to Drew & Kellie Prusiecki

They welcomed their new granddaughter, Baby Louise arrived on Monday, 8/11/25.

John Rinker Memorial Video – September 28th at 2:00 PM

Please join us in celebrating the life of John Rinker in watching his memorial service at 2:00 PM in the Dice Hall on Sunday, September 28th. Please RSVP to Sheila Rinker.

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. Our scholars appreciate your prayers and support.

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 PM – 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, Don Scholl, Doug & Sally Bailey.

Please pray for those having or had a surgery, acute illness or injury and their recovery. We pray for Paula Markert who continues to heal from hand & wrist surgery.

Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the passing of a loved one. We pray for the family of Donna Parker, as she passed away 8-11-25.

Please continue to pray for our student scholars, our local students, teachers and staff over as they prepare for the new academic year.

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: Joe Haraschak: 813-918-1916

Liturgist: Drew Prusiecki