



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service & Communion
Proper 18, September 7th

10:00 A.M. Livestream is now available via the LTUMC YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE - O Hail, This Brightest of Days J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wherever you go, from the top of the highest mountain or into the deep abysses of the earth, God knows you.

Wherever we go, God knows our name.

Whatever you do, from the time you wake up until you lay your head down again, God knows you.

Whatever we do, God knows our name.

However, you live, from your inner thoughts to your public acts and everything in between, God knows you.

However we live, God knows our name.

We gather to worship God, who loves us, knows us, and calls us by name.

We gather to worship God, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God who knows our name!

HYMN # 159 - Lift High the Cross

OPENING PRAYER

All-knowing God,

We gather together with praise and thanksgiving

for who You are,

and for all that You have done for us.

You know us better than we know ourselves—

all our thoughts and actions—

and yet You love us.

No matter where we go or what we do,

Your love encircles us—ahead and behind—

gently leading and guiding and blessing.

We praise You for Your love

and Your faithful presence in our lives.

May Your Spirit move in our hearts and minds as we worship together—

***examine our attitudes and actions,
lay bare the things we need to confess,
challenge us with Your Word,
and guide us on to paths that lead to life.
For we are Your people, called by Your name.
Amen.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

***Holy God,
we confess that we do not always love our neighbor.
We confess that we have despised others,
even to the point of hatred.
We confess that we have been hurt by others.
We confess that forgiveness and reconciliation at times
are just impossible for us.
We know that nothing is impossible in You.
We come to You, seeking healing and wholeness for us.
Help us, whenever possible, to live in peace with others,
to seek reconciliation and healing and forgiveness.
For Your Son came and lived among us,
was betrayed and denied,
abused and put to death.
He rose again
and came with the message of peace to those
who had denied him and abandoned him.
May we walk in his ways. Amen.***

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*For nothing is impossible with God.
There is no place you can go,
no end of the earth you can run,
where God cannot find you.
There is nothing on earth or beyond death
that can separate you from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
You are forgiven.
You are loved.
You are reconciled to God.
Go and live with the love of God. Amen.*

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #881 (*The Apostles' Creed*)
(Please stand as you are able)

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

THE GLORIA PATRI #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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 18:1-11 - *The Lord shapes Israel*

- 18:1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:
- 18:2 "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words."
- 18:3 So, I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel.
- 18:4 vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.
- 18:5 Then the word of the LORD came to me:
- 18:6 Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.
- 18:7 At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it,
- 18:8 but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it.
- 18:9 And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it,
- 18:10 but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it.

18:11 Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 - You have searched me out (Psalter Lesson)
(Please read the bold text)

139:1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

139:2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

139:3 You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

139:4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it altogether.

139:5 You pursue me behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

139:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it.

139:13 For it was you who formed my inward parts; **you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

139:14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. **Wonderful are your works!** You know me very well;

139:15 my frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.

139:16 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance; **in your book were written all the days that were formed for me, we very day, before they came into being.**

139:17 How profound to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

139:18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand. When I awake, I am still with you.

Philemon 1:1-21 - Paul says, Receive Onesimus (Epistle Reading)

1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon,

1:2 to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1:4 I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers,

1:5 because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus.

1:6 I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ.

- 1:7 I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.
- 1:8 For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing,
- 1:9 yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love--and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus.
- 1:10 I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment.
- 1:11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.
- 1:12 I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you.
- 1:13 I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel,
- 1:14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced.
- 1:15 Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term,
- 1:16 no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother--especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.
- 1:17 So, if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.
- 1:18 If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me.
- 1:19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self.
- 1:20 Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ.
- 1:21 Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Luke 14:25-33 - Give up your possessions (Gospel)
(Please stand as you are able)

- 14:25 Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them,
- 14:26 "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.
- 14:27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.
- 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?
- 14:29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him,
- 14:30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'
- 14:31 Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?

14:32 If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

14:33 So, therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please be seated)*

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY - Pastorale J. S. Bach

OFFERING

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

DOXOLOGY #95 - 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

Tender and knowing God, you have searched us and known us—every thought, every fear, every hope that stirs within. You wove us together with care, claiming us before we could speak your name. Receive these gifts, offered not from perfection but from hearts seeking you. Use them to shape a world more reflective of your love and shape us, too, into a people more open, more generous, more faithful. May our giving become a response to your knowing and our generosity a reflection of your grace. In the name of the one who knows us still. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN #617 - I Come with Joy

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks and remembers God's acts of salvation, and concludes:...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:...and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering

for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN # 453 - More Love to Thee, O Christ

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Amen.

POSTLUDE (Please be seated) Improvisation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sanctuary Pew Frontals to be Removed

The Administrative Council unanimously approved the removal of the frontals or modesty rails from the front pews in order to provide better access to the chancel and altar. This also will allow the placement of an acoustic upright piano in the sanctuary which will provide a better instrument for worship. There are upgrades coming to the speaker system for the organ to enhance the congregational singing in praise to God and as a recital instrument. The Administrative Council has graciously accepted a financial gift to honor our organist, Robert Kintner, which will pay for these upgrades. To God Be the Glory! The plan is to consecrate these upgrades next Spring and to honor Bob's ministry of over a half of a century in church music and education/training.

Potluck Dinner - September 15th at 6:00 PM

Our first potluck dinner will take place on Monday, September 15th at 6:00 PM and we are asking everyone to bring their favorite Fall dish. Sign-up sheets are available on the metal table in the kitchen. Please indicate the number of people coming as well as what you intend to bring. And brush up on your fall trivia! RSVP's can also be sent to Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org.

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 on Sunday, September 28th at 2:00 PM in the Dice Hall. Please RSVP by September 18th to the Rinker Foundation office at 561-471-8359.

Outreach Committee Volunteers Needed

The Outreach Committee is looking for members to help plan future events at the church. If you are willing to help out, please contact Mandy Stahl at LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

Bible Study

The Bible Study meets on Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM in the Minnich Conference room. It is led by Don Henderson; questions - bacpac@comporium.net

Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Ministry meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the church. If you have a prayer request and cannot make it in person, please e-mail it to LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com.

AA Meetings Thursday Nights

The weekly AA meeting is every Thursday at 4:45 PM in the Dice Hall. In an effort to honor anonymity, please do not go to the Parish building from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM on Thursdays.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions.

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.

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

Organist: Bob Kintner: 828-329-2457

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh, 469-569-2314, administrator@laketoxawayumc.org

Lay Leader: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434 & Maria Buehler: 828-553-2128

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Joe Haraschak 813-918-1916

Liturgist: Scott Walter