



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

*Dear Lake Toxaway UMC family and friends,*

*Today is a day in which clergy are encouraged to celebrate laity. I confess I do not like the term because it emphasizes the distinction between clergy and laity. I prefer a term we rarely use anymore: the priesthood of the believer.*

*Every believer in Christ has experienced the work done for us by Christ as the Final and Sufficient Great High Priest. Because Jesus died, was buried, and arose, we no longer have to offer sacrifices through any human priest to reach God. The worship of The Temple in Jerusalem focused on this system of sacrifice. The book of Hebrews explains this theological system and the supremacy of Christ as High Priest. Because of our salvation in Jesus, every believer is a priest.*

*As priests or ministers together, we can approach God directly. We can read Scripture and ask the Holy Spirit to use God's Word as a living document that nurtures, guides, comforts, and transforms us. Therefore, every one of us has a unique testimony centered around God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. I encourage you to tell your testimony and to continue to develop it. If your testimony lacks current stories of how God is with you and using you, pray and reflect to see clearly those recent experiences.*

*One of the words today from the Old Testament lesson is presence: God's abiding and constant presence. This is not a random "force-like" presence, but it is an intimate presence, a personal presence, a presence that knows your name! We often experience God's presence in communal worship. When we experience God's presence in a private moment, that moment becomes a sacred time of communion with God.*

*While I celebrate the work of the laity, I work with you as laborers together in the world. We share our testimony both by example and word. The Holy Spirit uses our testimony to call others to Christ. Remember the God who knows you by name also seeks to awaken others to the love of God in Christ Jesus.*

*I encourage you to continue to invite your friends and new neighbors to worship with us whether by virtual means or in person. Share your testimonies of how God has blessed you and led you to this church. I believe we are poised to see a numerical growth in our church because of your testimonies and God's vision held by this small church.*

*I love you and celebrate you and the unique spiritual gifts each of you has!*

*Marcus*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Community Worship Service  
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 18th, 2020**

**9:00 A.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/7ZmA1XjGFkA>**

**PRELUDE**

Partita on "Immortal, Invisible" Austin C. Lovelace

**GREETING**

*As we gather to worship you, Holy One,*

***show us your presence, O God.***

*As we join to pray at your footstool, Exalted One,*

***show us your ways, O God.***

*As we unite our voices to praise you, Lover of Justice,*

***show us your glory, O God.***

*As we tremble in the cleft of the rock,*

*silently awaiting you, Merciful One,*

***show us your goodness, O God.***

*Let the earth shake in your praise, Most High!*

***We extol your great and awesome name,***

***ever-present God!***

**HYMN #103**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

**Opening Prayer**

***Living God,***

***move among us and awaken us***

***to your loving presence.***

***When we lose our way***

***and put our confidence in our possessions***

***and our wisdom,***

***call us back to you.***

***Remind us that our very identity***

***is dependent on your abiding mercy.***

***Show us how to walk with steadfast faithfulness,***

*following the path of justice and goodness  
in our daily lives.  
May our days be filled with joy and hope  
as we share the good news of abundant life  
that comes from following Jesus Christ.  
In the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.*

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Exodus 33:12-23**

- 33:12 Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.'
- 33:13 Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people."
- 33:14 He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."
- 33:15 And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here."
- 33:16 For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."
- 33:17 The LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."
- 33:18 Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray."
- 33:19 And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy."
- 33:20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live."
- 33:21 And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock;
- 33:22 and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by;
- 33:23 then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

### **Psalm 99 (read responsively)**

- 99:1 The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!**
- 99:2 The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.
- 99:3 Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!**

99:4 Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

**99:5 Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!**

99:6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.

**99:7 He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.**

99:8 O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

**99:9 Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy.**

### **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

1:1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

1:2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly

1:3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:4 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you,

1:5 because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

1:6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit,

1:7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

1:8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it.

1:9 For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God,

1:10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

## **Matthew 22:15-22**

- 22:15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said.
- 22:16 So, they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality.
- 22:17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?"
- 22:18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?
- 22:19 Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.
- 22:20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?"
- 22:21 They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."
- 22:22 When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

*L: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

***P: Thanks be to God!***

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.***

*(Let us offer our silent confessions.)*

***God of mercy,***

***we place our trust in tangible things—  
things we can see and touch—  
and question whether you are really there.***

***Forgive us, Holy One,***

***when we fail to recognize  
that you are always nearby,  
patiently waiting for us to recognize  
your presence and your glory.***

***Help us when we lose our way,  
and forgive us when we forget  
to whom we truly belong.***

***Lover of justice,***

***open our eyes to see you;  
open our ears to hear you;  
open our hearts to love you;  
and open our hands to serve you.***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*When we cry to God, looking for favor in God's sight,  
God answers: "My presence will go with you,  
and I will give you rest."*

*In the power of the Spirit and in the name of Jesus,  
we are forgiven!*

*We will rest in God's mercy!*

***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. AMEN.***

## **HOMILY**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH** *(From the Land of Aotearoa New Zealand)*

***We confess that we believe in and belong to the one true and living God,  
who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Love before all love.***

***We believe in God the Father, sovereign and holy, Creator and nurturer of all,  
Father of Jesus Christ, sender of the Holy Spirit, and Judge of all the earth.***

***We believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior,  
truly human and truly divine,  
who lived among us full of grace and truth.***

***For our sin he was crucified and by the power of God was raised from death,  
forgiving us, setting us free and bringing to birth God's new creation.***

***Now ascended, he calls us to repentance and faith and restores us to God and  
to one another.***

***We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
the giver of life at work in all creation,  
who inspired the Scriptures and makes Christ known,  
who transforms hearts and minds  
and gathers us into the community of Christ,  
empowering the Church in worship and in mission.***

***We belong to this triune God,  
women and men, young and old, from many nations,  
in Christ we are one people,  
witnesses to God's love in word and action,  
servants of reconciliation, and stewards of creation.***

***As God's people,  
we look forward in hope and joy  
to the return of Christ, to the new heaven and earth,***

*where evil and death will be no more, justice and peace will flourish,  
and we shall forever delight in the glory of God.*

## **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.*

## **OFFERING**

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

## **OFFERTORY - SOLO**

When We are Living, It is in Christ Jesus

## **DOXOLOGY**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*God, source of all that is,  
lover of justice and source of equity,  
help us live boldly and truthfully  
as we seek to follow your ways.  
Embolden us to share with others the gift of grace  
that you have so abundantly given us.  
Receive and bless these gifts  
that we return to you now.  
In the name of the One who gives us life, we pray. Amen.*

## **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

Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed with permission)

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

arr. Robert J. Powell



## STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

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

Organist: Charlie Steele: [cwsorgan@comporium.net](mailto:cwsorgan@comporium.net)

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

Lay Leaders: Barbara Kline: 828-862-5585 and Paula Markert: 828-553-9434

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Andy Harvill

Liturgists: Arlene Hendrix – 9:00 AM & Stephen & Cynthia Wood – 11:00 AM

Soloist & Vocalist: Will Cowan

## Prayer Concerns of the Community

**Please pray for Anita Harvill, the Suggs Family, Madison Coleman & the Jeter Family, Fred Collins, Andy Marshall and Frank Hardin.**

**Please continue to pray for those who have had the death of a loved one in the recent weeks and months.**

## Flowers on the altar

**The orchid arrangement is in honor of the wedding of Katie and Mitchell Davis and in appreciation for Pastor Marcus from Kellie and Drew Prusiecki.**

## Announcements

<b>NEW WORSHIP SERVICE &amp; TIME</b>
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**We are returning to one worship service at 9:30 am on Sunday, October 25th.**

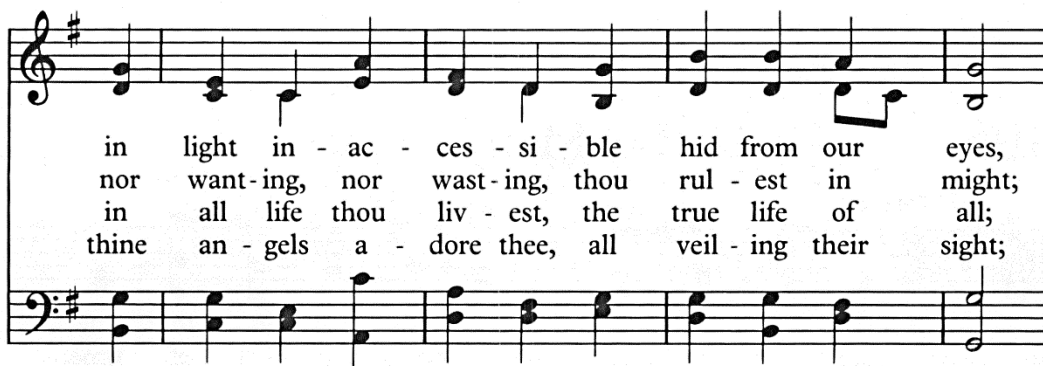
The Worship Committee and key leaders have reviewed the recommendations from the Bishop and have decided we can accommodate 35 people in the sanctuary at worship. ***Our plan is to discontinue the reservations and ask you to come if you are comfortable in this setting.*** We may have 10 in the fellowship hall for overflow.

We will still follow existing social distancing and masks required during the service. The service will continue to be available through Livestream at 9:30 and viewing later on YouTube. ***We are excited to see you. You have been missed.***

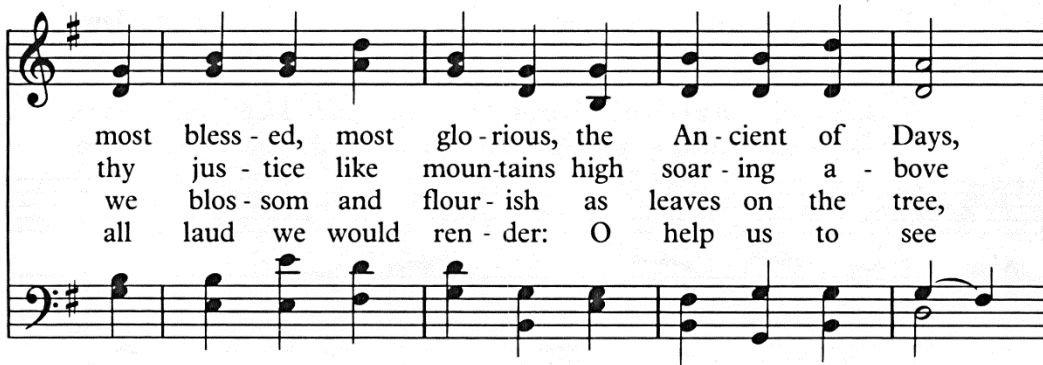
## Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 103



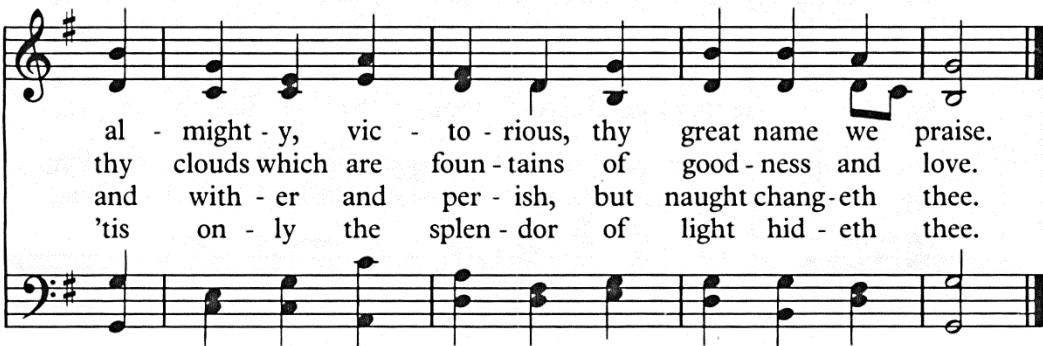
1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867 (1 Tim. 1:17)  
 MUSIC: Welsh melody from *Canaidau y Cyssegr*, 1839; adapt. by John Roberts

ST. DENIO  
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# 577 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple  
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -  
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our  
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in  
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

hour, (of this hour) for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 days, (of these days) for the liv - ing of these days.  
 goal, (king - dom's goal) lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
 dore, (we a - dore) serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

TEXT: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930, alt.  
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA  
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