



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, October 25th, 2020

Dear Lake Toxaway UMC family and friends,

Today is considered Reformation Sunday. It is an opportunity to celebrate the history of Martin Luther and his prophetic voice in nailing the 95 Theses to the Wittenberg Church door which began a Reformation Movement. It also is important to remember the Methodist Church is not a part of the original Reform Church.

Our historic beginning is different. Methodism came from the Church of England (which broke from the Catholic church for different reasons related to a king and his dislike of rules related to marriage. I regret this part of our church history, but God does work through messy situations. Read the Bible and we learn this lesson quickly. In the most technical sense, some church scholars argue Methodism is not a Protestant Church. It is more a part of what is more commonly known as the Anglo-Catholic Tradition.

While am I not a historian and lack credentials to argue a proper historical title, I would encourage us to remember we are a "protest church" movement. John Wesley sought to reform the Church of England by calling small accountability groups together in prayer, Scripture reading, prayer, and work among the poor. He and the groups he formed were given a derogatory name because of their strict adherence to methods John Wesley believed would lead to a deeper walk with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. In this sense, Methodism is a reform movement!

I like to acknowledge the theology behind reform! Luther was trying to bring the Church back to the basics of faith, the Bible, to Jesus! We need to be reminded to keep the main thing the main thing in our worship. We need to be reminded to return to the core of Jesus' gospel. When Jesus was asked, what are the greatest commandments, his reply was simple: "Love God and love neighbor."

This is a foundational statement for who we are and how we are called to live. The loving God part of this equation finds expression in our worship. We sing songs of praise of the attributes of God, the presence and power of God. We love our neighbor in the care and concern we express toward each other, the outreach to our mission partners, the support of college students, and numerous other acts of this church and as individuals.

I encourage us to claim a reformation, to set aside the things that get in the way of being the church as Jesus describes it and as the Apostle Paul assisted in forming the early Church. We are the community that loves God and neighbor with commitment and passion.

As we press on in this work, God blesses and uses us to make disciples for Christ. I always want to be a part of this reforming and transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

In the words of John Wesley, "if your heart is as my heart, take my hand" (how we would like to join hands physically right now). Let us joyfully join hearts and hands in worship and service.

Blessings to you, my brothers and sisters,

Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 25th, 2020**

9:30 A.M. Livestream link: https://youtu.be/2eAb_M8Z7bE

PRELUDE

Pastorale on "St. Anne" Paul Manz

GREETING

God, we know you are with us.

From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

*You have showered your love upon all generations,
since the beginning of time.*

From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

*Guide us now through this time of worship,
and into the week ahead.*

From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

HYMN #117

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

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

Opening Prayer

God, you are God forever.

***This alone is cause for celebration,
but we also know that we are your people!
As we feel your love washing over us now,
may we love you with every part of our being:
heart, mind, body, and soul.***

***We celebrate your love in our lives,
and we ask for your help
as we try our best to boldly share the good news
of your love with others.***

***We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
who models the way for us. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

- 34:1 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan,
- 34:2 all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea,
- 34:3 the Negeb, and the Plain -- that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees -- as far as Zoar.
- 34:4 The LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there."
- 34:5 Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord's command.
- 34:6 He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day.
- 34:7 Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated.
- 34:8 The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.
- 34:9 Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.
- 34:10 Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face.
- 34:11 He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land,
- 34:12 and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 (*read responsively - text in bold*)

- 90:1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
- 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**
- 90:3 You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
- 90:4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.**

- 90:5 You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;
- 90:6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.
- 90:13 Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants!**
- 90:14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- 90:15 Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil.**
- 90:16 Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.
- 90:17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands -- O prosper the work of our hands!**

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

- 2:1 You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain,
- 2:2 but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition.
- 2:3 For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery,
- 2:4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts.
- 2:5 As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed;
- 2:6 nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others,
- 2:7 though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children.
- 2:8 So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Matthew 22:34-46

- 22:34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together,
- 22:35 and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.
- 22:36 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"
- 22:37 He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'
- 22:38 This is the greatest and first commandment.
- 22:39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
- 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."
- 22:41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question:
- 22:42 "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David."
- 22:43 He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,
- 22:44 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'?
- 22:45 If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?"
- 22:46 No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

P: Thanks be to God!

SOLO

Seek Ye First

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

Most holy and merciful Father,

We confess to you and to one another,

that we have sinned against you

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our

whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not always had in us the mind of Christ.

***You alone know how often we have grieved you
by wasting your gifts, by wandering from your ways.
Forgive us, we pray you, most merciful Father;
And free us from our sin.
Renew in us the grace and strength of your Holy Spirit,
for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. Amen.***

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ, the righteous;
and He is the expiation for our sins,
and not for ours only
but also for the sins of the whole world.*

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH (Apostles' Creed Ecumenical Version)

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe 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, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living 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.***

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

Dearest Jesus, At Thy Word David Cherwien

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord of all we see and all that we cannot see: Give us this day a glimpse of the complexities of the world and the simplicity of living our lives centered in you; loving you with all our heart, soul, and mind, and loving our neighbors well. Bless the gifts we offer you; but in our giving, help us focus on these other more basic gifts. May the love we show you and others be a testimony of whom we follow and who is worthy of our devotion. In Christ's holy name, 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 #399

Take My Life, and Let it Be Consecrated

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude in Classic Style

Gordon Young

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, marcus61dodson@gmail.com

Organist: Charlie Steele: cwsorgan@comporium.net

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

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

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Andy Harvill

Soloist & Vocalist: Will Cowan

Prayer Concerns of the Community

Please pray for Marty Young, 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.

Announcements

NEW WORSHIP SERVICE & TIME

We have returned to one worship service at 9:30 am starting today, 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.*

Our Students Scholars need you: Student Scholars Mentors are still needed. If you can pray, text, e-mail and call lending your support to our student scholars please reach out to Cathie Fussell at linguafrog@gmail.com or 910-572-2167. The students are in their final month of this semester as it will end at Thanksgiving. Now is a perfect time to be a mentor.

117 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne, still may we dwell se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges, in thy sight, are like an eve - ning gone;
 5. Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, bears all who breathe a - way;
 6. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come;

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!
 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing, thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night, be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 they fly for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the open - ing day.
 be thou our guide while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 90)

MUSIC: Attr. to William Croft, 1708; harm. by W. H. Monk, 1861

ST. ANNE
CM

399

Take My Life, and Let It Be

1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - cra - ted,
 2. Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly,
 3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no

Lord, to thee. Take my mo - ments and my days;
 for my King. Take my lips, and let them be
 long - er mine. Take my heart, it is thine own;

let them flow in cease - less praise. Take my hands, and
 filled with mes - sag - es from thee. Take my sil - ver
 it shall be thy roy - al throne. Take my love, my

let them move at the im - pulse of thy love.
 and my gold; not a mite would I with - hold.
 Lord, I pour at thy feet its trea - sure - store.

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 Take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.
 Take my-self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

WORDS: Frances R. Havergal, 1873 (Rom. 12:1)
 MUSIC: Louis J. F. Hérold, 1839; arr. by George Kingsley, 1839

MESSIAH
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