



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

*Dear Lake Toxaway UMC family and community,*

*Today, Sunday, October 4 is World Communion Sunday. This day always has been a special day for me. I remember as a young child the emphasis on the significance of this day as a world-wide celebration among Christian churches. On this day Christians around the globe celebrate communion in our unique traditions and recognize our mutual connection in Christ despite differences of theology, nation and status. It was a favorite day in worship for me: having different kinds of bread on the altar, learning about missionaries and the different cultures where they served.*

*I am sad today because we will continue our fast from holy communion due to reasons of a world-wide pandemic. As I have prayed and contemplated how to approach today, I have found an old phrase from childhood ringing in my ears, "Pressing On!" My intent is to express the belief that the world with which we desire to be in communion is broken and part of our ongoing hope as followers of Jesus is that we proclaim the kingdom, our connection as relatives, until He comes. We announce the worldwide communion until it becomes a reality. We are pressing on toward what God has in store!*

*I hope I always preach about the "something better" God constantly calls His followers to find by the grace of Jesus Christ. Rather than emphasizing what is wrong with the world, what we should avoid, what is broken, we are invited to see the powerful and transformative work of Christ.*

*I invite you to join me in pressing on toward the call for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14). If we were to read a few additional passages in Philippians, we would encounter the phrase, "hold fast." Paul encourages us to stay focused on what God intends for His world now and in the future. Hold fast to the vision of a coming kingdom that God in Christ will bring into reality.*

*I need that message on World Communion Sunday. God gave His only Son, Jesus, to bring salvation to the world and to bring us into salvation and relationship with Him and each other. While we worship without the sacrament today, we worship with the presence of God's Holy Spirit in us and around us. We press on and hold fast as we proclaim God's inbreaking kingdom of God!*

*In faithfulness and love,  
Marcus*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Community Worship Service  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 4th, 2020**

**9:00 A.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/8MSqpAwoLW4>**

**PRELUDE**

Chorale and Trio on "Hymn to Joy" Charles Callahan

**GREETING**

*L: Welcome to God's house, a place of faith.*

***P: From our homes, we come seeking God's word.***

*L: Here you will find nourishment and hope.*

***P: May we learn lessons of courage and peace.***

*L: Here you will find rest from your struggles*

***P: Lord, prepare our hearts to receive your words that we may leave this holy house of faith and return to our homes, encouraged and challenged to be your people. AMEN.***

**HYMN #89**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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

**Opening Prayer**

***Lord, from the mountaintop in ancient Israel, you gave your people ways in which to live in harmony with all creation. As time has progressed the power of those words seems to have faded in our lives and we often succumb to base temptations of power and greed. Bring us back to your words of compassion and hope, offered to all creation by your Son Jesus. Open our hearts to receive your love and your direction in our lives. AMEN.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

- 20:1 Then God spoke all these words:
- 20:2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;
- 20:3 you shall have no other gods before me.
- 20:4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
- 20:7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
- 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.
- 20:9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work.
- 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
- 20:13 You shall not murder.
- 20:14 You shall not commit adultery.
- 20:15 You shall not steal.
- 20:16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 20:17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.
- 20:18 When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance,
- 20:19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die."
- 20:20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

### Psalm 19 (read responsively)

- 19:1 The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- 19:2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**
- 19:3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
- 19:4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**
- 19:5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

- 19:6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hiding from its heat.**
- 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
- 19:8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;**
- 19:9 the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- 19:10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**
- 19:11 Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
- 19:12 But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.**
- 19:13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
- 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

#### **Philippians 3:4b-14**

- 3:4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:
- 3:5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;
- 3:6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
- 3:7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.
- 3:8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ
- 3:9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.
- 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,
- 3:11 if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
- 3:12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.
- 3:13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
- 3:14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

## **Matthew 21:33-46**

- 21:33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.
- 21:34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce.
- 21:35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.
- 21:36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way.
- 21:37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'
- 21:38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'
- 21:39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.
- 21:40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"
- 21:41 They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."
- 21:42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"
- 21:43 Therefore I tell you; the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.
- 21:44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."
- 21:45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them.
- 21:46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

*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.)*

***We keep slamming into walls, O merciful God, when we are left to our own devices. Throughout our faith history, your Son offered words of healing and hope to people who dwelled in darkness. In the brilliant light of his love, people grew and flourished. But now, Lord, we find that this world dominates our lives. We are troubled, angry, and fearful. We want to see your presence in the world, but we spend far too much time looking for the "big picture" rather than seeing the myriad of ways in which your love and healing power***

***is shown. Forgive us when we grow impatient with you and with the course of things in our lives. Heal our wounds and put us back on pathways of peace and service. Enable us to speak your words of hope in this darkened world. We ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*Hear the words of hope! Though the days seem to darken quickly, the brilliant light of your love and presence will always be a guide and comfort to us. This is the Good News of Jesus Christ. AMEN.*

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

## **HOMILY**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH** *(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 live with respect in Creation,  
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.***

## **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.***

## OFFERING

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

## OFFERTORY

Prelude on "Beach Spring"      Gilbert M. Martin

## DOXOLOGY

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Washed in your peace and love, O God, we bring our gifts to you. Bless the gifts and the lives that they represent, that all may be used in your service and to your glory. In Jesus' 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 #368

My Hope is Built

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

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Hymn to Joy"      Albert L. Travis

## 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: Carole Guffey– 9:00 AM & Bob Fussell – 11:00 AM



## Prayer Concerns of the Community

Please pray 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

### NEW WORSHIP SERVICES & TIMES

We have two worship services 9:00 am & 11:00 am to accommodate more of you who want to attend church. We encourage you to e-mail your reservation for the next week even if you attended the week prior. We are excited to see more of you at church.

To reserve a place for 9:00 am or 11:00 am please contact Saunders at:  
[administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org).

***Reservations open: Sunday noon-Tuesday at 5:00 PM each week.*** If you make a reservation later in the week, we will reserve your spot if there is room. Saunders will need an e-mail with the following:

1. First & last name
2. E-mail address
3. How many attending
4. What service 9:00 AM or 11:00 AM.
5. If you are open to attending the other service please notate it

It will be first come first served and we are excited to see you.

### Administrative Council Meeting – Friday, October 9th at 3:00 PM

If you are a member of the Council, you will receive a Zoom Invite. If you are not a member and would like to attend the meeting, please email Tom Blackstock as these meetings are open to all members, but only members have a vote if actions are required. You may email Tom @ [tombblackstock@gmail.com](mailto:tombblackstock@gmail.com).

## 89 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1. Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore thee, God of glo-ry, Lord of love;  
 2. All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re-flect thy rays,  
 3. Thou art giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blest,  
 4. Mor-tals, join the might-y cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan;

hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, open-ing to the sun a-bove.  
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.  
 well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean depth of hap-py rest!  
 love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, bind-ing all with-in its span.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; drive the dark of doubt a-way.  
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flow-ery mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
 Thou our Fa-ther, Christ our bro-th-er, all who live in love are thine;  
 Ev-er sing-ing, march we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife;

Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day!  
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.  
 teach us how to love each oth-er, lift us to the joy di-vine.  
 joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward, in the tri-umph song of life.

WORDS: Henry Van Dyke, 1907; st. 4 alt. 1989  
 MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. by Edward Hodges, 1864

HYMN TO JOY  
 87.87 D

## My Hope Is Built

368

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than  
 2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I  
 3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup -  
 4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O

Je - sus' blood and right - teous - ness. I dare not trust the  
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace. In ev - ery high and  
 port me in the whelm - ing flood. When all a - round my  
 may I then in him be found! Dressed in his right - teous -

sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
 soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
 ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*

On Christ the sol - id rock I stand, all oth - er ground is

sink - ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

WORDS: Edward Mote, 1834  
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1863

THE SOLID ROCK  
 LM with Refrain