

Christ the King



The Lord will reign forever and
will give his people the gift
of peace

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, November 22nd 2020

Dear Lake Toxaway family and friends,

Today marks the end of the church (liturgical) year and culminates in a celebration of Christ as King. We also approach the American celebration of Thanksgiving in the coming week. I have come to understand that the two are complimentary.

The Reign of Christ today is an opportunity to be reminded who is the One we have chosen to follow. It is an opportunity to give thanks for the author of salvation and the one who has given us the gift of the church, the fellowship of the body we celebrate each time we gather in person or online. It is a time to remember Christ is the King who has established the Kingdom of God and will return to fulfill its glory.

Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate the abundance of God. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for all God provides for us. We do struggle with the realities of those who live with inadequate food, shelter and clothing. Many of us have and will participate in ways of sharing some of our blessings. It is more difficult this year to celebrate Thanksgiving with the challenge of a pandemic, so we find ourselves needing a word from God perhaps more than ever.

The Gospel lesson invites us to see Christ, the Christ of glory and the Lord of us all, in the faces of the "least of these." I celebrate the ministries of this church where we participate with community partners in sharing from God's abundance. We are a generous church with generous people. I give thanks frequently for the generosity I see displayed among us.

Remember when Jesus issued his statement in the Gospel lesson, it was not about duty or "ought to," but it was about living a life of generosity as a way of life. The ones Jesus recognized had little awareness of their greatness in service. I pray I could become more like one of this group.

As you see in the chancel, the color has switched from green to white today. The color helps to remind us this is the last Sunday of the Christian year: a culmination of all that has gone before us, a reminder of Jesus we follow and our gratitude for all we have done together, even during a difficult year. I pray there is an atmosphere of celebration and joy as we give thanks for God's goodness and for our place in the body of Christ. This is Christ in his glory!

Faithfully,

Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 22nd, 2020**

9:30 A.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/zmfN2tSgWTQ>

PRELUDE

Three Variations on "Now Thank We All Our God" Kenneth Kosche

1. Prelude 2. Chorale 3. Toccata

GREETING

L: The Lord continually watches all of God's own sheep.

P: They are led to green pastures and brought before stilled waters.

L: Praise God for God's tender and loving care of us.

P: Thanks to God for all the mercies God shows to us.

L: Let us enter God's house with hearts filled with joy.

P: O Lord, open our spirits to respond to your words of compassion. AMEN.

HYMN #715

Rejoice, the Lord is King

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

OPENING PRAYER

***Tender, comforting Shepherd,
your steadfast love is present in this place
and resides within each of us.***

***But sometimes it is hard, so very hard,
to open ourselves to your love.***

***We feel like scattered sheep,
frightened and alone.***

***Help us know your loving presence
as we live as your gathered community in a time of pandemic.***

***Enlighten our hearts,
that we may know the hope
to which we have been called. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

- 34:11 For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.
- 34:12 As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.
- 34:13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.
- 34:14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.
- 34:15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.
- 34:16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.
- 34:20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.
- 34:21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide,
- 34:22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.
- 34:23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.
- 34:24 And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Psalm 100 (read responsively the text in bold)

- 100:1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
- 100:2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**
- 100:3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.
- 100:5 For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

Ephesians 1:15-23

- 1:15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason
- 1:16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.
- 1:17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,
- 1:18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,
- 1:19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.
- 1:20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,
- 1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.
- 1:22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,
- 1:23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Matthew 25:31-46

- 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.
- 25:32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,
- 25:33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.
- 25:34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;
- 25:35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
- 25:36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'
- 25:37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?
- 25:38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?
- 25:39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'
- 25:40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'
- 25:41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;
- 25:42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,
- 25:43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

- 25:44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?'
- 25:45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'
- 25:46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

P: Thanks be to God!

SOLO

What Gift Can We Bring

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

Holy One,

we are like sheep

that stray from your fold.

We are the perpetually hungry,

ever in spiritual need,

and at times in physical want.

We are the naked,

with wounds exposed and bleeding.

We are the sick,

fevered, chilled, and in pain.

We are the strangers,

separated from others

and even from ourselves.

Hear us now as we confess our brokenness

and our need. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Our creator God sees our hunger and gives us food.

Christ, the healer, touches our wounds,

offering comfort and blessed relief.

The Spirit blows through us,

cools our fever, and eases our pain.

God sees and touches and heals our wounds.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH *(The Apostles' Creed)*

*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. Amen.

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Simple Gifts arr. Kenneth Kosche

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Good Shepherd, who leads and guides us through all the trials and tribulations of our lives, we bring these gifts to celebrate the ministries of justice and hope in which our church is involved. Be with us and cause us to grow in our faith and our service. 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 #545

The Church's One Foundation

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God arr. Michael Helman

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

Liturgist: Scott Walter

Prayer Concerns of the Community

Please pray for Chad Zimmerman, Cathie Fussell's nephew, Jeff Tilley, Marty Young, Madison Coleman & the Jeter family 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

Seven of 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.

Administrative Council Meeting

The Administrative Council will meet on ***Friday, December 11th at 9:00 AM***. 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 or Saunders Grommesh as these meetings are open to all members, but only members have a vote if actions are required. You may e-mail Tom at Tom.Blackstock@gmail.com or Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org.

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

715

1. Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore;
 2. Je - sus the Sav - ior reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3. His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
 4. Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Je - sus the Judge shall come,

mor - tals, give thanks and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.
 the keys of earth and hell are to our Je - sus given.
 and take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.

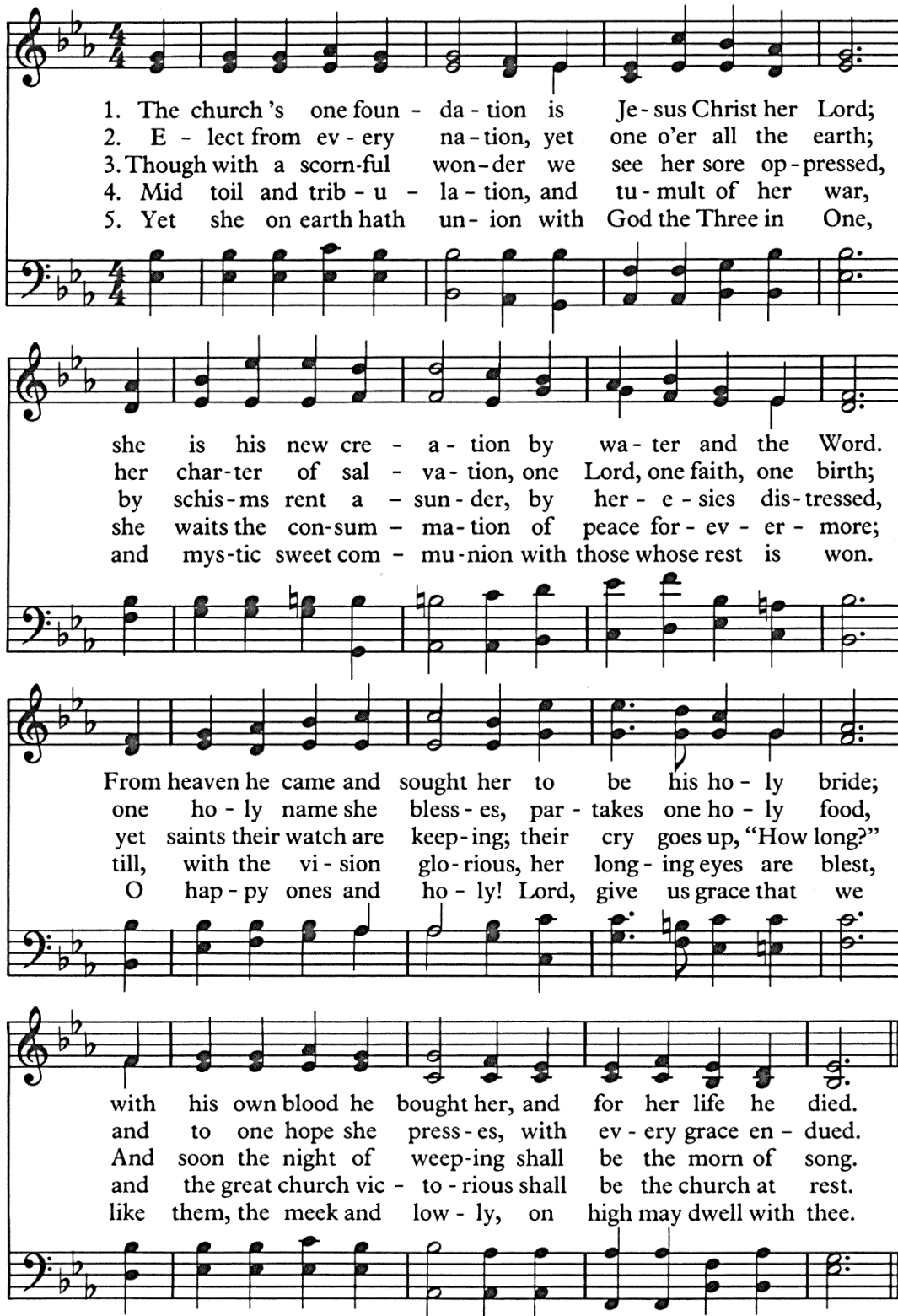
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
 We soon shall hear th'arch - an - gel's voice;

re - joice; a - gain I say, re - joice.
 re - joice; a - gain I say, re - joice.
 re - joice; a - gain I say, re - joice.
 the trump of God shall sound, re - joice!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1746 (1 Cor. 15:51-52)
 MUSIC: John Darwall, 1770; harm. from *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, alt.

DARWALL'S 148th
 66.66.88

545 The Church's One Foundation



1. The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth;
 3. Though with a scorn - ful won - der we see her sore op - pressed,
 4. Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
 5. Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"
 till, with the vi - sion glo - rious, her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

WORDS: Samuel J. Stone, 1866
 MUSIC: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

AURELIA
 76.76 D