



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, August 23, 2020

Dear Lake Toxaway UMC Family and Community,

This week's Scripture texts invite us to go in so many ways and follow so many important points of Biblical teaching. The story of Moses's birth and rescue during a time of infanticide and bravery among midwives ultimately leads to freedom for God's people and the one God chose to deliver The Ten Commandments to His people. Paul's Epistle holds a familiar phrase spoken to the Christian community in Rome. And Matthew's gospel brings us the important question of Jesus's identity.

I invite us to see a thread of humility throughout these passages. The lesson from Psalms highlights this in simplicity: If it had not been the LORD who was for us when everyone went against us, we would have lost our lives. May we cautiously understand this song in the wisdom of Paul's words to the Romans: "Don't think of yourself more highly than you ought."

This message is countercultural in light of our emphasis on self-esteem, building up. Esteem certainly is a biblical concept; we are the crowning part of God's good creation. Paul reminds us to remember the statements made in scripture about humanity's value were said to God's people collectively.

The problem with self-esteem emphasis is how we find ways to understand ourselves better than rather than simply blessed. It is not a competition; it is a state of being. All of us have a role to play in God's kingdom called the church. We are invited to step up, take our part, and rejoice in sharing our gifts of the Holy Spirit as a part of the community.

Remember: we are defined only in relation to the one we follow! This is where Jesus's insistent and important question invites our consideration. All four gospels include this question (this is rare). The question demands an answer.

An important part of the Gospel story is to know this is one of only two places where the word church is used in the Gospels. The second use is two chapters later in Matthew's Gospel. This passage is about identity: first who is Jesus and second who is Jesus to us. Because of the identity of Jesus, our identity is transformed, not just as individual followers, but as a new community of faith under the lordship of Jesus. We are different because of the claim that Christ is Lord. And from this identity flows the call to evangelism.

I hope we understand evangelism begins with conversation, perhaps listening. If we could argue folks into acceptance of Christ or to follow bumper-sticker nonsense, evangelism would be easy. So, what is convincing to people? Living an authentic life of faith (show and then tell) before our neighbors and friends will lead to their inevitable questions of why are we doing what we do? Why do you care so much? How can you be so loving? And our answer is simple: We do what we do because God loves us and transforms us!

May we join in faithfulness in our living through this time of pandemic and rhetoric. May we invite our new neighbors to join us in worship utilizing the virtual means of being the house church united as one body in Christ Jesus!

In faithfulness and deep love,

Marcus

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Home Worship for Community Worship Service
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 23, 2020

<https://youtu.be/5uGeL8XYM8k>

If the video or sound are not synchronized please refresh your browser or click on the Livestream link again. Should the above link not work please go to <https://www.youtube.com/> and do a search for "Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church" and look for today's service; it may not display in date order. If the Livestream is interrupted (like a brown out, power outage, etc.), it cannot be restarted but we will have a backup of the recorded service on the LTUMC YouTube page/channel as soon as possible.

PRELUDE

Entrada and Meditation on "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Charles Callahan

GREETING

L: Life can sometimes be very difficult.

P: We look around and wonder where God is.

L: In the midst of our trials and tribulations, God is with us.

P: God surrounds us with love and courage.

L: Come, let us praise God for God's abiding presence.

P: Lord, thank you for always being with us, even when we don't recognize your loving presence.

ALL: O Lord, you bind us together in love, to learn, to be healed, to grow, to serve. Be with us this day and open our hearts to the amazing opportunities to help others through the gifts we possess. In Jesus' glorious name, we pray. AMEN.

HYMN #117

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Located on the second to last page of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

INVOCATION

We thank you, O Lord, that we are not alone. You watch over us, guide us, and lead us in your righteous pathways. When we stumble and fall, you lift us up and gently place us on that pathway again. When we doubt, you surround us with your mercy and peace, reassuring us of your presence through the love of others and of our savior Jesus Christ. Keep our hearts and minds open and ready to serve you, for we pray these things in Jesus' name. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 1:8-2:10

- 1:8 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.
- 1:9 He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we.
- 1:10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."
- 1:11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh.
- 1:12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites.
- 1:13 The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites,
- 1:14 and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.
- 1:15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah,
- 1:16 "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live."
- 1:17 But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.
- 1:18 So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?"
- 1:19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them."
- 1:20 So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong.
- 1:21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.
- 1:22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

- 2:1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman.
2:2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months.
2:3 When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river.
2:4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.
2:5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it.
2:6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said.
2:7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"
2:8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother.
2:9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So, the woman took the child and nursed it.
2:10 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Psalm 124 (read responsively)

- 124:1 If it had not been the LORD who was on our side -- let Israel now say --
124:2 if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,
124:3 then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;
124:4 then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;
124:5 then over us would have gone the raging waters.
124:6 Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.
124:7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
124:8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Romans 12:1-8

- 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
- 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- 12:3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
- 12:4 For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function,
- 12:5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.
- 12:6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith;
- 12:7 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching;
- 12:8 the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16:13-20

- 16:13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"
- 16:14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."
- 16:15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
- 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
- 16:17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.
- 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.
- 16:19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
- 16:20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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.)***

Almighty God, we have failed to do justice. We have failed to show mercy to others but expect it for ourselves. We have forgotten to be kind. Wake us up to see the violence, the injustice and oppression in our world. Call us away from the worldly ways of looking after ourselves and our loved ones, and to Your ways of seeing all of Your people as our kin, all of creation as our home. Forgive us, help us to repent, to turn to You and to live into your ways of justice, peace and mercy. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God knows our hearts, and God knows when we desire to change how we view the world and how we live. God will help us onto right paths. God forgives us, and restores us, to do God's work in this world. Know that you are a beloved child of God, and there is always the time to do something new. Share the Good News.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH (United Church of Australia)

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One,
confessing him as Lord to the glory of God the Father.
In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the Church,
the Head over all things, the beginning of a new creation.
We acknowledge that we live and work
between the time of Christ's death and resurrection
and the final consummation of all things which he will bring.
We are a pilgrim people,
always on the way towards a promised goal;
on the way Christ feeds us with word and sacraments,
and we have the gift of the Holy Spirit
in order that we may not lose the way.
We will live and work within the faith and unity
of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church,***

***bearing witness to that unity which is both Christ's gift and his will.
We affirm that every member of the Church
is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified.
Together with all the people of God,
we will serve the world for which Christ died.
And we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.***

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

As God has so richly blessed us, let us return a portion of these blessings to God, asking that these gifts may be used in service to others through the ministries and mission of this church. Let us receive our morning offering.

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

OFFERTORY

Prayer (Psalm 5:3) Douglas E. Wagner

DOXOLOGY

**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. Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all creation, as we offer our gifts to you this day, we remember the questions Jesus put to his disciples, "Who do people say that I am? But who so you say that I am?" We pray that we might be ready to answer with our lips, but also with our lives and with our gifts: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!" In his 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 #127

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Located on the last page of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune Robert J. Powell

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

Liturgists: Stephen and Cynthia Wood

Announcements

Susan Bagwell's Memorial Service will be available via Livestream 8/29/20.

Due to Covid-19 Susan's service will be limited to family. The family knows how Susan was loved by LTUMC. The family decided to make the service available via Livestream to the LTUMC family. ***We will e-mail her memorial service bulletin to everyone. Her service will be at 11:00 AM, Saturday, August 29. Below is the link to the YouTube Livestream.***

<https://youtu.be/G6c87kac96s>

Will you host a Home Church Service?

If you have an interest in hosting LTUMC Home Church service of a total of 10 inside or up to 25 on a covered outside porch with 6' social distancing ability please contact Marcus at (828) 553-0282 or marcus61@gmail.com. We are having the Sunday service at 8:30 AM for the Livestream. You may host a Livestream Home Church at 8:30 or watch the recorded YouTube service at 11:00 AM or later.

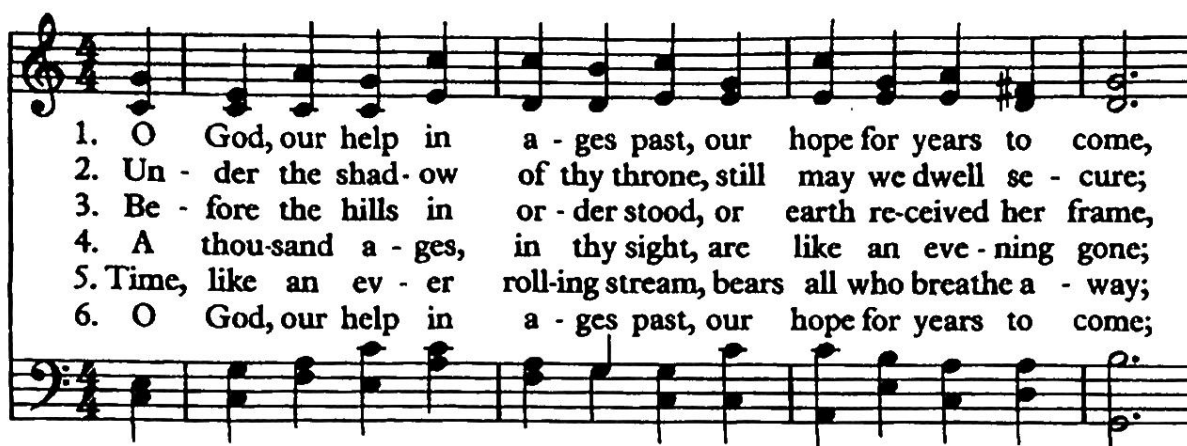
New Bookmarks & Mentors needed for Scholarship Recipients

We have new bookmarks listing all students' names. Please contact Saunders Grommesh at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org or 469-569-2314 (cell) to have a copy of the bookmark which includes a historical prayer for the students.

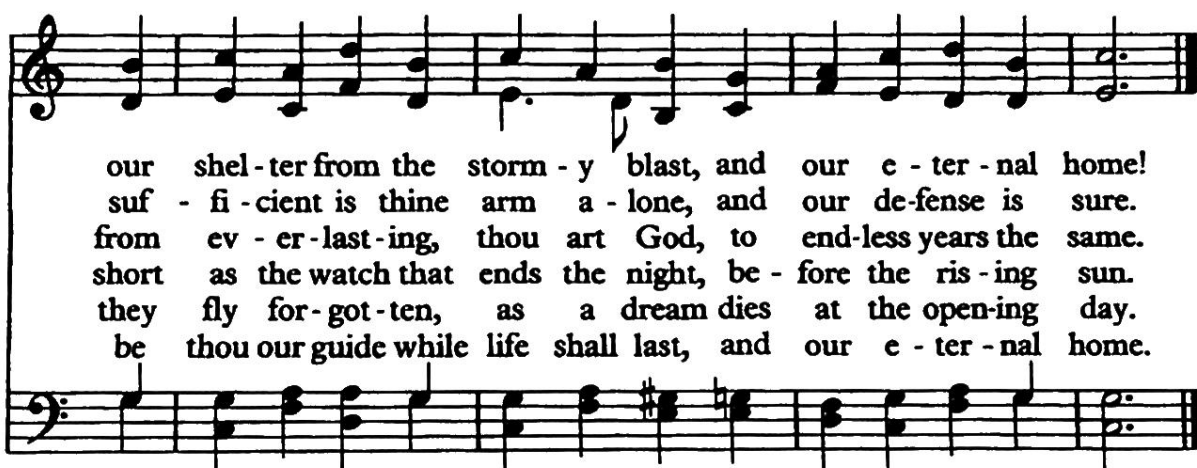
We have seven new student scholarship recipients this year and would like to match them with members of our congregation so you might send them cards, e-mails, gift cards, prayers & support. Please contact Cathie Fussell at linguafrog@gmail.com or 910-572-2167 to learn more about the students and how you can matched with one.

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

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;



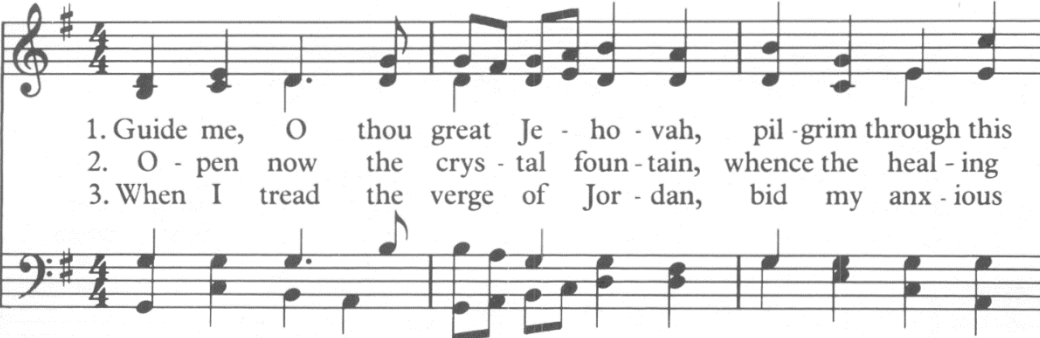
our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!
 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing, thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night, be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 they fly for - got -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

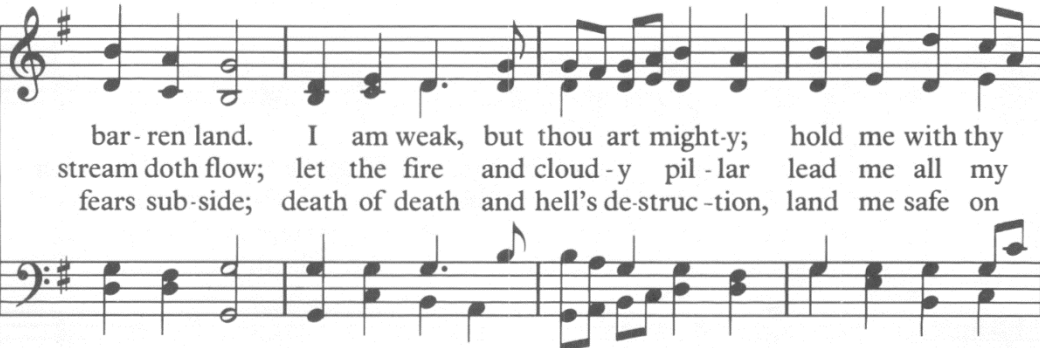
MUSIC: Attr. to William Croft, 1708; harm. by W. H. Monk, 1861

ST. ANNE
CM

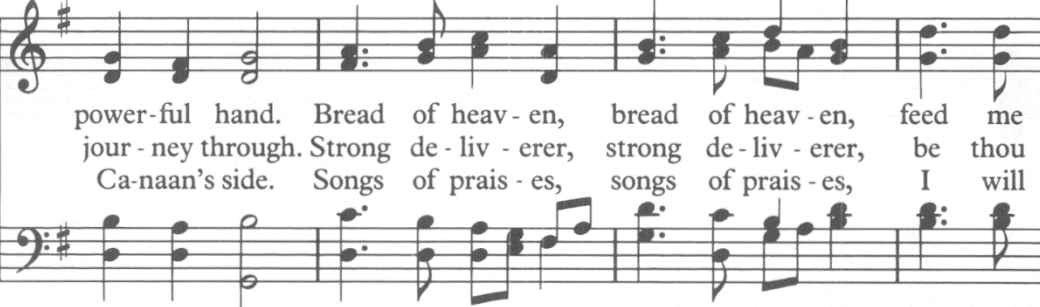
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 127



1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on



power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en, feed me
 jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer, be thou
 Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will



till I want no more; (want no more) feed me till I want no more.
 still my strength and shield; (strength and shield) be thou still my strength and shield.
 ev - er give to thee; (give to thee) I will ev - er give to thee.

WORDS: William Williams, 1745; trans. from the Welsh by Peter Williams and
 the author, 1771
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 87.87.87