



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, September 13, 2020

Dear Lake Toxaway UMC Family and Community,

I am excited to return to the pulpit and preach and worship with you again this week. As most of you know, I have a deep appreciation for the lectionary and how the texts often connect to one or two themes of importance in our journey of becoming disciples and making disciples.

I acknowledge the Lesson from Exodus fascinated me as a child; now, I find myself troubled more with the death of Egyptians and the song of Praise from Psalms of the victory. I remember learning in seminary a rabbinic teaching stating when the Israelites crossed the sea and were safe, a cheer broke out in heaven. Then when the seas crashed down on the pursuing Egyptian army, another cheer went up in heaven. But God turned to the angels and said, "Why do you rejoice when those I had hoped would be my children have drowned in the sea?"

I will not resolve these issues in worship this week, month, or year. I have prayed about the lessons this week and what the Holy Spirit might lead me to hear in a new or different way. A careful look at these scriptures invites me to consider what God has done for God's people rather than about how awful the enemy was. Second only to the power and presence of God in the midst of the journey through the wilderness, Moses stretched out his hand. Even with an angelic tornado, even with the walls of water on either side, even with a dry seabed under the feet, effort is required. God rarely says, "Sit back, I've got this." As I remember the beginning of this story, I see Moses talking to a burning bush and a voice instructing him to go. God works through the efforts of God's people.

We, the people of Christ, are invited to take risks, to step into the unknown and to trust God will manage the overwhelming obstacles. My question is what act of grace would God invite any of us to take this week?

The Gospel lesson and Epistle lesson give us a great lesson (here is my paraphrase): "drop the judgment and forgive!" Forgiveness?! God's forgiveness of me marks me as his disciple. And like Peter, I want to limit my forgiveness, yet God in Christ reveals to Peter the width and depth of forgiveness. First, God's forgiveness in my life has made all the difference. Second, the forgiveness of others and my stepping out in risk and forgiving others makes a difference in my understanding and most importantly in my spiritual journey. It really involves a risk to step out and forgive someone. I can only accomplish this with God's angelic cloud leading me forward and the angelic rear cloud preventing me from a return to the hurt and harm caused. Forgiveness. God calls us to take this journey of forgiveness and to know God blesses our acts of forgiveness by deepening our spiritual lives and making new disciples for Christ. I hope we all can find ourselves walking this difficult journey of forgiveness with the knowledge true forgiveness always is the work of God's Holy Spirit.

*Faithfully and with love as we make this journey together,
Marcus*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Home Worship for Community Worship Service
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 13, 2020**

8:30 A.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/9xOB9jiZLxU>

PRELUDE

Fantasy-Prelude on "New Britain" Sam Batt Owens

GREETING

O Lord, majestic in holiness, who is like you?

In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries.

O Lord, awesome in splendor, who is like you?

Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power, shattered the enemy.

O Lord, worker of wonders, who is like you?

Sing to the Lord, my strength and my might, you are my salvation!

HYMN #73

O Worship the King

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

Opening Prayer

***Holy God, Compassionate One, Lover of Goodness, Patience with Sinners,
Draw near to us. Surround us with confidence in your good news:***

that you love us as parents love their children;

that your mercy is boundless and generous,

that you beckon us always and will wait forever

as we find our way back to you.

***Open our hearts to receive your compassion; and then show us how to
forgive, so that we may be vessels of resurrection hope in our troubled
world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 14:19-31

- 14:19 The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them.
- 14:20 It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so, the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.
- 14:21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.
- 14:22 The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
- 14:23 The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.
- 14:24 At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic.
- 14:25 He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."
- 14:26 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers."
- 14:27 So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea.
- 14:28 The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained.
- 14:29 But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
- 14:30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.
- 14:31 Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So, the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Psalms 114 (read responsively)

- 114:1 When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
- 114:2 Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.**
- 114:3 The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.
- 114:4 The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.**
- 114:5 Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?
- 114:6 O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?**

114:7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the God of Jacob,
114:8 who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.

Romans 14:1-12

- 14:1 Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.
- 14:2 Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.
- 14:3 Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them.
- 14:4 Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.
- 14:5 Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.
- 14:6 Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also, those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.
- 14:7 We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.
- 14:8 If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.
- 14:9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
- 14:10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.
- 14:11 For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."
- 14:12 So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Matthew 18:21-35

- 18:21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"
- 18:22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times.
- 18:23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.
- 18:24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him;
- 18:25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.
- 18:26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'

- 18:27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.
- 18:28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.'
- 18:29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'
- 18:30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.
- 18:31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.
- 18:32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.
- 18:33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?'
- 18:34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.
- 18:35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

P: Thanks be to God!

SOLO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore, you are feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word, I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. Almighty God, our Redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Compassionate-One, Lover-of-Goodness, Patience-with-Sinners, Draw near to us.

Surround us with confidence in your good news:

that you love us as parents love their children;

that your mercy is boundless and generous,

that you beckon us always and will wait forever

as we find our way back to you.

Open our hearts to receive your compassion;

And then show us how to forgive,

So that we may be vessels of resurrection hope in our troubled world.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH *(Apostles' Creed)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And 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, dead, and buried;

the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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

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 – SOLO

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 our salvation, we remember that day when the Israelites, escaping their captors, were rescued by you, as you parted the sea to let them cross. Over the years, scholars have struggled with how many died that day that another group might be led to freedom. We offer our gifts to you in thankfulness for all your blessings, knowing others have so much less. Then we remember, that we have been blessed to be a blessing. May the lives we live this day and every day be an offering of blessing to those who are in need. In Jesus, 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 #463

Lord, Speak to Me

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary in D William Boyce

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

Liturgist: Beth Holimon

Soloist: Sarah Catherine Hook

Prayer Concerns of the Community

Please continue to pray for Andy Marshall as he is waiting for surgery on Thursday, 9/17.

Please remember Frank Hardin in your prayers (LTUMC florist) as he is being treated for a serious condition.

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

Announcements

Have you attended a Home Church Service? Would you consider hosting one?

If you have an interest in hosting LTUMC Home Church service of a total of 25 inside or up to 50 (Phase 2.5) 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.

Can you lend a hand & become a mentor for our Scholarship Recipients?

It is not a time consuming volunteer opportunity. There are several new student scholarship recipients who would benefit from having you in their corner. You can drop them a text, e-mail, card and pray for him/her. Please contact Cathie Fussell at linguafrog@gmail.com or 910-572-2167 to learn more about the students and how you can match with one.

O Worship the King

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1. O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove,
 2. O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
 3. The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4. Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
 5. Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

O grate - ful - ly sing God's power and God's love;
 whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space,
 Al - might - y, thy power hath found - ed of old;
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
 in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;

our Shield and De - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 whose char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 hath stab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 thy mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 and dark is God's path on the wings of the storm.
 and round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend.

WORDS: Robert Grant, 1833 (Ps. 104)

MUSIC: Attr. to Johann Michael Haydn; arr. by William Gardiner, 1815

LYONS
10 10.11 11

Lord, Speak to Me

463

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2. O strength - en me, that while I stand firm
 3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the
 4. O fill me with thy full - ness, Lord, un -
 5. O use me, Lord, use ev - en me, just

liv - ing ech - oes of thy tone; as thou hast sought, so
 on the rock, and strong in thee, I may stretch out a
 pre - cious things thou dost im - part; and wing my words, that
 til my ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and
 as thou wilt, and when, and where, un - til thy bless - ed

let me seek thine err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 lov - ing hand to wres - tlers with the trou - bled sea.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of many a heart.
 glow - ing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show.
 face I see, thy rest, thy joy, thy glo - ry share.

WORDS: Frances R. Havergal, 1872 (Rom. 14:7)
 MUSIC: Adapt. from Robert Schumann, 1839

CANONBURY
 LM