



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, September 20, 2020

Dear Lake Toxaway Church family,

I am excited to have more people in worship today! I am excited to offer 2 services, one at 9 am and another at 11 am so we can increase the attendance opportunities in the next several weeks! Please send your request to Saunders, our church administrator, each week! Even if you attended the previous week, ask. We are going to attempt to be fair with everyone, but I want to see the church full in "the 25" at 9 am and 11 am.

Today in worship, the Old Testament lesson celebrates manna in the wilderness, sustenance for the journey. I enjoy the translation story of this passage from my Hebrew classes and my Hebrew theology classes. Most scholars agree a literal translation of the word, manna, suggest a question, "what is it?"

I think of the times I have been served food new to me. I often have wanted to wrinkle my nose like the emotional adolescent boy I am and say to the host and hostess, "what is it?" Usually, my question has an element of fear involved because I am in uncharted tasting territory, and you want to respond politely to the preparer. I also admit a healthy dose of skepticism, especially if fish or seafood are involved.

The most obvious answer to the question in the Old Testament lesson is "the LORD will provide." God built into creation the means for caring for our most basic needs. I give thanks to God for the food I receive each day, but I often take it for granted. I forget to savor the taste, to enjoy the goodness of having enough, and the joy of sharing with others.

The question, "what is it," really invites us to ask what God is doing in our community of faith? We can ask what God doing in this moment, this pandemic. My prayers have attempted to be open to the Holy Spirit and see how God works in the mundane as well as challenging time. I pray for you and the faith that says God is acting in our lives each and every day, even when we do not understand, or fail to recognize His presence.

I know one of the realities of "wilderness" times is that not everyone can see God at work, not everyone can participate in the abundance of God. Distribution is always an issue, even when it comes to the grace of God. Part of the purpose of our church community is to help others see God's hand at work and often to be the "hand" by how we share the abundance we have experienced. Those of us who serve our Lord, know the joy of hearing someone ask in wonder, "What is it?" We have the opportunity to respond, "It is the grace of God," even in the wilderness. There is grace enough for all!

Faithfully and in Christian love,

Marcus

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Home Worship for Community Worship Service
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 20th, 2020

9:00 A.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/DJ2z6JmalEM>

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Holy Manna" Robert J. Powell

GREETING

*In the prayers and the praise,
in the words and the wonder:
we are given enough joy to live each day.*

*In guidance for the wanderers,
in the unexpected generosity for the lost:
**we are given enough compassion
to use in service each day.***

*In the promises made to all,
in the mercy offered to each:
we are given enough grace to share each day.*

HYMN #145

Morning Has Broken

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

Opening Prayer

***O God,
from your providing hand even the dissatisfied and grumbling
receive what they need for their lives.
Teach us your ways of mercy
and lead us to practice your generosity,
so that we may live a life worthy of the gospel
make known through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 16:2-15

- 16:2 The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.
- 16:3 The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."
- 16:4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.
- 16:5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."
- 16:6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
- 16:7 and in the morning, you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?"
- 16:8 And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him--what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."
- 16:9 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'"
- 16:10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.
- 16:11 The LORD spoke to Moses and said,
- 16:12 "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning, you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"
- 16:13 In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.
- 16:14 When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground.
- 16:15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 (read responsively)

105:1 O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

105:2 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

105:3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

105:4 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

105:5 Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

105:6 O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

105:37 Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold, and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.

105:38 Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it.

105:39 He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night.

105:40 They asked, and he brought quails, and gave them food from heaven in abundance.

105:41 He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.

105:42 For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.

105:43 So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.

105:44 He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,

105:45 that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the LORD!

Philippians 1:21-30

1:21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.

1:22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer.

1:23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better;

1:24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.

1:25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith,

1:26 so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

1:27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are

standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel,

1:28 and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

1:29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well--

1:30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20:1-16

20:1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

20:2 After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

20:3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace;

20:4 and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So, they went.

20:5 When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.

20:6 And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?'

20:7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

20:8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.'

20:9 When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

20:10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.

20:11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,

20:12 saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

20:13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?'

20:14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.

20:15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

20:16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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.)

You know how fickle we are, O Lord. We proclaim your presence with us and then we behave in ways which run counter from your word. We get caught up in our own needs and whine about the injustices we feel in our lives. Help us to place our trust in your mercy and your compassionate love. Forgive us when we stray from your ways and wander into paths of self-pity and self-destruction. Lift us from the deep morass and put us back on track. Give us confidence in your presence and your direction throughout our lives, for we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Feel the comforting power of God's love and mercy in your lives. God is with us through all our experiences. Though we try we cannot stray from God's love. Rejoice! This is the good news for all of us! 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 grace and compassion, as we offer our tithes and offerings this morning, we remember the lessons in your providing the Israelites with manna in the wilderness. First lesson: you took care of their needs. Second lesson: you gave enough to meet the needs of the day and instructed them to look out for the weak and needy. Finally, you made clear that accumulating more than they needed would not end well. Help us to learn from these lessons in what you have given to us by your goodness. In Christ's 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 #396

O Jesus, I Have Promised

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

We Have Heard the Joyful Sound Robert J. Powell

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

Liturgists: Bob & Cathie Fussell

Soloist: Sarah Catherine Hook

Prayer Concerns of the Community

Please remember Andy Marshall in your prayers as his surgery has been rescheduled for Monday, 9/21.

Please pray Frank Hardin (LTUMC florist) as he is being treated for a serious condition.

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

PHASE 2.5 - NEW WORSHIP SERVICES & TIMES

Starting Sunday, 9/27, we will be adding an additional worship service at 11:00 am for the remainder of the season to accommodate more folks who want to attend church.

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

Reservations open: Sunday-Tuesday at 5:00 PM each week. 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.

It will be first come first served. If you attended the prior week, we encourage you wait a week before making another reservation.
We will send out an e-mail blast with more details next week.

Thank you to the Markerts and Tranquillis for hosting Home Church this summer!

Fred & Paula Markert and Rick & Louise Tranquilli opened their hearts and homes to allow many of you to worship on Sundays together while observing social distancing. They averaged a combined total of 25 of you every Sunday with one service outside on the porch and the other inside. Thank you for your hospitality.

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.

Would you consider hosting a Home Church Service?

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 9:00 or watch the recorded YouTube service at 11:00 AM or later.

WANTED: mentors 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.

Morning Has Broken

Unison

C Am Dm G F C

1. Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en;
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

Am Em/G F Em Dm G

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
born of the one light E - den saw play!

C F C Am Dm/F

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

D7/F# C/G F G7 C

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931 (Lam. 3:22-23)
MUSIC: Trad. Gaelic melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1988

BUNESSAN
55.54 D

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O Jesus, I Have Promised

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1. O Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;
 2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near;
 3. O let me hear thee speak-ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4. O Je - sus, thou hast prom-ised to all who fol - low thee

be thou for-ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear;
 a - bove the storms of pas-sion, the mur-murs of self - will.
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser-vant be.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,
 my foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan-der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.
 but Je - sus, draw thou near - er, and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard-ian of my soul.
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my Friend.

WORDS: John E. Bode, ca. 1866 (Lk. 9:57)
 MUSIC: Arthur H. Mann, 1881

ANGEL'S STORY
 76.76 D