



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, September 27 2020

Dear Lake Toxaway Church family,

Some weeks, I approach the appointed scripture readings and let certain words or thoughts jump off the page, and I ask the Holy Spirit to intrigue me in thought. This is the way I am approaching these texts these weeks, and I want to share the words or phrases that jump from my Bible: "strike the rock," "we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD," "make my joy complete," and "by what authority?" Any one of these phrases from each of the four lessons can provide a beginning of a sermon.

I am living in the place where the sermon bubbles and has not yet come to completion, so I also am praying to see a common thread between the texts. I don't know where the Holy Spirit will lead me, but I have decided to ask that we ring our church bell again at the beginning of our worship as a symbolic way of "striking the rock!"

I believe, "Strike the Rock," is a call for deeper living as Christians. "Strike the rock" means lean on God, trust in Jesus. Strike the rock means find the joy even in difficult moments, even in the wilderness. Striking the rock is a declaration of faith, even when it seems like giving up makes more sense. When we gather week by week, in person and online, we are striking the rock! Of all the things I could be doing today, I chose to be here, chose to be present with you, lifting our hearts in worship of the God who provides, the God who is present. We are striking the rock!

I am asking you to remember the real authority we know is God: The Father, revealed in Jesus our Redeemer, and present with us in the work of the Holy Spirit. Our worship, our liturgy, our hymns proclaim this truth. I am thinking of the refrain from one of our hymns: "Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus than to trust and obey."

Our worship is a prayer of faith and not complaining. We state the Truth that faith will get through even messy situations, that a way will be found through the brokenness of our world, the divisions of our world. We acknowledge a need, but we strike the Rock, believing God will bring us through this portion of the wilderness! God will make our joy complete! Let us strike the Rock together this week!

*In faithfulness and a heart of love,
Marcus*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27th, 2020**

9:00 A.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/POT1fagwdws>

PRELUDE

Partita on "Fairest Lord Jesus" Richard Peek

GREETING

Come, let us bow before the holy One.

Come, let us confess God's might.

Come, let us feel God's mercy.

Come, let us live in God's light.

As God's people, we lift our voices in praise.

Glory to you, gracious and loving God!

HYMN #157

157 Jesus Shall Reign

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

Opening Prayer

Gracious Lord,

how shall we do your will today?

***Will it be in acts of praise, in gifts shared,
in prayers lifted?***

Who will you lead us to serve?

Help us trust you.

Help us listen.

Bless this community

as we come together in worship.

***Encourage us, comfort us, unite us,
make our joy complete. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 17:1-7

- 17:1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.
- 17:2 The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?"
- 17:3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"
- 17:4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."
- 17:5 The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.
- 17:6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.
- 17:7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16 (read responsively)

- 78:1 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,**
- 78:3 things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.
- 78:4 We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.**
- 78:12 In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.
- 78:13 He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.**
- 78:14 In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all night long with a fiery light.
- 78:15 He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
- 78:16 He made streams come out of the rock, and caused waters to flow down like rivers.**

Philippians 2:1-13

- 2:1 If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,
- 2:2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.
- 2:3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.
- 2:4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.
- 2:5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
- 2:6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
- 2:7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,
- 2:8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.
- 2:9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
- 2:10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- 2:11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
- 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21:23-32

- 21:23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"
- 21:24 Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.
- 21:25 Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'
- 21:26 But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet."

- 21:27 So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.
- 21:28 "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.'
- 21:29 He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went.
- 21:30 The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go.
- 21:31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you; the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.
- 21:32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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.)

God of patience,

your people grow weary.

We complain and question.

We put you to the test.

Our mouths say yes,

but our deeds say no.

When we wander off your path,

when we fail to follow through on our good intentions, when we give our attention to trivial things;

gently call us back to you.

Empty our hearts of anger and pride.

Empty our souls of greed and selfishness.

Empty our minds of envy, doubt, and mistrust.

***As you poured out your very self through your beloved Son,
pour your Spirit into our hearts today.***

Forgive us our wrongdoing.

Reclaim us with your love.

We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Friends in Christ,
our God is patient, steadfast, and understanding.
Christ hears our cries of repentance.
The Lord knows our hearts, inside and out.
The One who created us promises to care for us,
even when we turn away.
Hear these words of forgiveness.
Be strengthened to walk as disciples.
Trust in God's mercy. Amen.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. AMEN.*

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH *(Nicene Creed)*

*We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.*

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.*

*He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.*

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life.

He proceeds from the Father and the Son,

and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,

and to life in the world to come. 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

God of abundance, you fill us with good things; you satisfy our thirst; you meet our every need. From your rock, our blessings flow. Accept what we give in return: our hearts, our hands, our gifts, our love. Use them to answer the cries of a world in need. We pray in the name and spirit of Christ, Amen.

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

OFFERTORY – SOLO

DOXOLOGY

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of abundance,

you fill us with good things;

you satisfy our thirst;

you meet our every need.

From your rock,

our blessings flow.

Accept what we give in return:

our hearts, our hands, our gifts, our love.

Use them to answer the cries

of a world in need. 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 #189

Fairest Lord Jesus

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name arr. Hal H. Hopson

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: Katherine Jeter – 9:00 AM & Brian Singleton – 11:00 AM

Soloist: Sarah Catherine Hook

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

PHASE 2.5 - 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.

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.

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.

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

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

Jesus Shall Reign

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1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2. To Je - sus end - less prayer be made, and end - less
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; all pris - oners
 5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom spread from
 prais - es crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap and loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men!

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 72)
 MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793

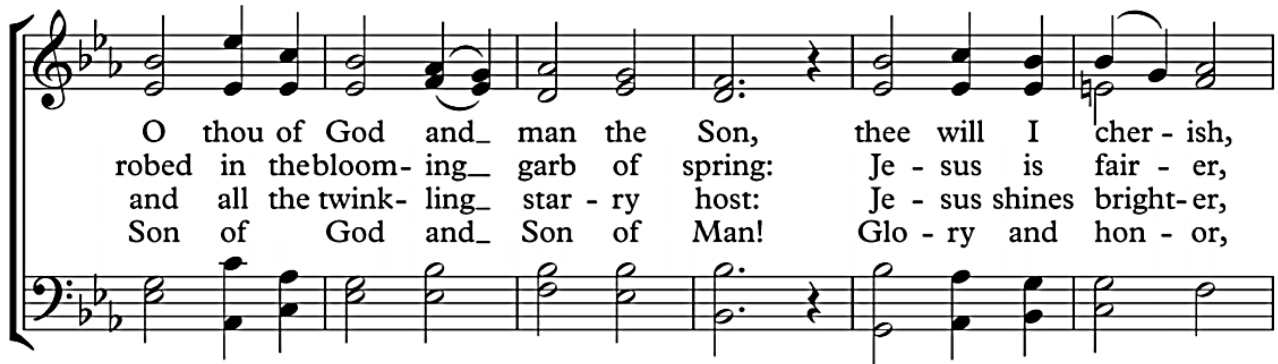
DUKE STREET
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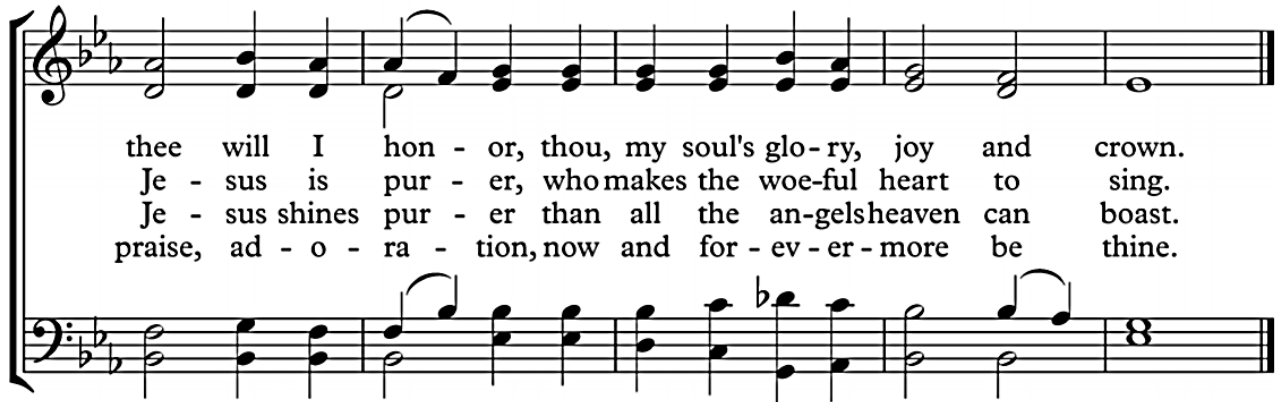
Fairest Lord Jesus



1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, rul - er of all na - ture,
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the wood - lands,
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light,
 4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of all the na - tions!



O thou of God and man the Son, thee will I cher - ish,
 robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
 and all the twink - ling star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,
 Son of God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or,



thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy and crown.
 Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 Je - sus shines pur - er than all the an - gels heaven can boast.
 praise, ad - o - ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine.