



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*Sunday, September 6, 2020*

*Dear Lake Toxaway UMC Family and Community,*

*Kim and I went away this week to celebrate our anniversary and to recharge. We are staying in a quiet place; the lack of noise has invited me to contemplate the beauty of silence and my need for planned silence. I also have contemplated rest and a ceasing activity routine; I have been re-reading passages of scripture from Genesis from a newly purchased study Bible.*

*A significant theological concept and practice lacking in my life is Sabbath keeping which would include silence and listening. The sabbath is a day to worship God and to cease normal activities and to rest. If God rested, we humans need to rest also. I am not suggesting a strict adherence to a "no work, no play" routine. I simply state my recognition for a routine that varies from other days in my week; a time to worship God and to allow my body, mind and, most importantly, my spirit to have a time to cease activity and to rest.*

*Naps have provided welcome restoration. Watching sunsets and sunrises, giving attention to the phase of the moon and the stars in the sky, feeling gentle breezes across a marsh as water encroaches and then recedes also have provided a restored alertness. Taking the time to write in my journal with less hurriedness has allowed me an attentiveness to the Holy Spirit and his direction in my life and in the life of our church.*

*I welcome Rev. Kerry Purselle as our worship leader today. She has been a good friend to our family; she is a faithful proclaimer of the Gospel. Please surround her in the Christian hospitality I have preached recently; it is not easy to preach to an empty congregation and trust people are worshipping at home!*

*I have followed the lectionary texts this week. I have been drawn to Paul's words: "Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." I owe a great deal of love to all of you, but it is not out of obligation. I owe love to you because I experience the mutuality of God's love in this church community. I want to share a prayer with you from a devotional, Passing Thoughts, by Gilbert Bowen that I read this week:*

*Eternal love, out of the confidence that I am loved with the One Love that finally counts, lift from me now preoccupation with whether others love me. May I give myself to care and concern for those with whom I shall share the day, at work and at play, both in their pain and joy. May I know the life where my own needs are fulfilled beyond all measure, the life of meaning and joy. Amen.*

*I look forward to my return to you. I pray we all experience renewal in our cycle of Sabbath keeping to which I am going to recommit. I also pray we all owe no one anything, except to love one another!*

*Faithfully,  
Marcus*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Home Worship for Community Worship Service  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 6, 2020**

**8:30 A.M. Livestream link: [https://youtu.be/Dq1H0\\_fbhwA](https://youtu.be/Dq1H0_fbhwA)**

**PRELUDE**

Blest Be the Tie    arr. Robert J. Powell

**GREETING**

*Leader: Now is the time to awaken to the presence of God the Eternal Spirit.*

*People: Now is the time to come alive with our songs of praise.*

*Leader: Today we open ourselves to the power of the Spirit in our lives.*

*People: Today we extend our hands in caring toward humanity.*

*All: We do all this because we have responded to the ministry and message of Jesus Christ, whose people we are.*

**HYMN #384**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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

**Opening Prayer**

*Let there be praise and joy in our hearts, O God. We have many suggestions about how things could be different and better. It could be cooler; there could be less rain; enable us to be thankful for remarkable blessings which are ours in the way things are.*

*In these moments we will remember enough to let there be praise and joy in our hearts. Call to our mind the joy of a good stretch when we've slept soundly; the exhilaration of a day when we don't have to follow a regular routine; the grace of a drink of cold water going down on a hot day. Review for us the pleasure in the song of the thrush; the sight of the hovering hummingbird's miraculous flight; the nervous chittering of the squirrels. Call to our mind the good feeling when we are comfortable with a loved one; the excitement when we look forward to being with friends or family; the richness of watching children grow and mature; the full heart experienced when a child says, "I love you grandpa." The list is longer than we can finish. We have enough and more for there to be joy and praise in our hearts. Let it be, dear Lord.*

*We do not desire to gloss over the pain and hurt which is a part of life. We know persons who are bowed down with heavy responsibilities; persons who are trying to gather the pieces of broken relationships; persons who wonder what it would be like to feel healthy again; persons who both accept and struggle against physical limitations. By your Spirit, Lord, when any of us are confused or in pain, we are able to live in strength and courage if, in faith, we remember to ask for help. Let it be so for all who need you. Let some sense of blessing touch each one who joins in this prayer. And in return, you shall hear in our hearts a song of praise and joy in worship this day. Through Christ we pray, Amen.*

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Exodus 12:1-14**

- 12:1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt:
- 12:2 This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you.
- 12:3 Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household.
- 12:4 If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.
- 12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.
- 12:6 You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight.
- 12:7 They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.
- 12:8 They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
- 12:9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs.
- 12:10 You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.

- 12:11 This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD.
- 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.
- 12:13 The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.
- 12:14 This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

**Psalm 149 (read responsively)**

- 149:1 Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
- 149:2 Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.**
- 149:3 Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.
- 149:4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory.**
- 149:5 Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches.
- 149:6 Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands,**
- 149:7 to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,
- 149:8 to bind their kings with fetters and their nobles with chains of iron,**
- 149:9 to execute on them the judgment decreed. This is glory for all his faithful ones. Praise the LORD!

### **Romans 13:8-14**

- 13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.
- 13:9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself."
- 13:10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.
- 13:11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;
- 13:12 the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;
- 13:13 let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.
- 13:14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

### **Matthew 18:15-20**

- 18:15 "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.
- 18:16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.
- 18:17 If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
- 18:18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
- 18:19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.
- 18:20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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.)*

***O God,***

***we confess the blindness that is not even aware of sinning;***

***the pride that dares not admit that it is wrong;***

***the selfishness that can see nothing but its own will;***

***the righteousness that knows no fault;***

***the callousness that has ceased to care;***

***the defiance that does not regret its own sins;***

***the evasion that always tries to make excuses;***

***the coldness of heart that is too hardened to repent.***

***God, we are sinners; be merciful to us***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*Almighty God have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,*

*confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life;*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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**

Dove of Peace arr. Gilbert M. Martin

## **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**

***Our God and our Deliverer, as you protected the Israelites in their times of trials, brought them out of Egypt and led them through the wilderness, so you have guided and protected us in our time of trials, anxiety, and uncertainty. In our bringing of our offering today, we remember that in the first Passover, it was the act of an offering that identified households your people, protected by you. We give these gifts in thanksgiving for your care for us, in hope for your continued presence, and as a sign of our desire to follow. In our Savior'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 #549**

Where Charity and Love Prevail

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

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

Toccata in A minor Johann A. Kobrich

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, [marcus61dodson@gmail.com](mailto:marcus61dodson@gmail.com)

Organist: Charlie Steele: [cwsorgan@comporium.net](mailto:cwsorgan@comporium.net)

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh, 469-569-2314, [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org)

Lay Leaders: Barbara Kline: 828-862-5585 and Paula Markert: 828-553-9434

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Andy Harvill

Liturgist:

## **Announcements**

**A warm welcome and thank your to our guest preacher Rev. Kerry Purselle.**

**Please continue to pray for Andy Marshall as he is waiting for surgery on Monday, 9/7.**

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

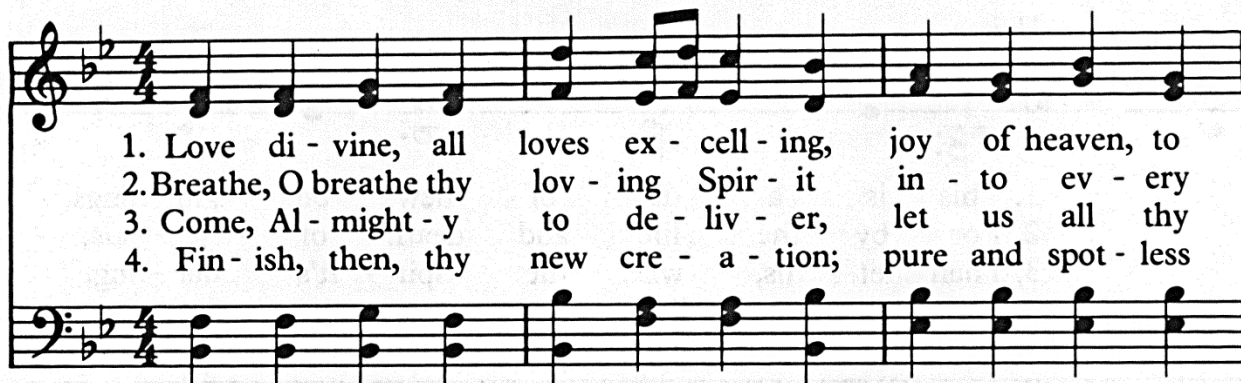
### **Have you attended a Home Church Service? Would you consider hosting one?**

If you have an interest in hosting LTUMC Home Church service of a total of 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](mailto: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.

### **LTUMC Mentors needed for our 2020 -2021 Scholarship Recipients**

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

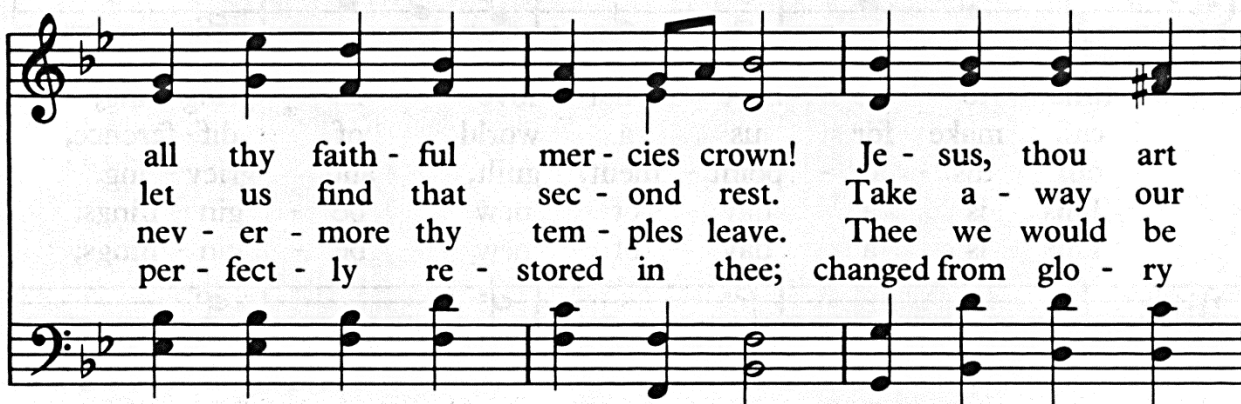
# 384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



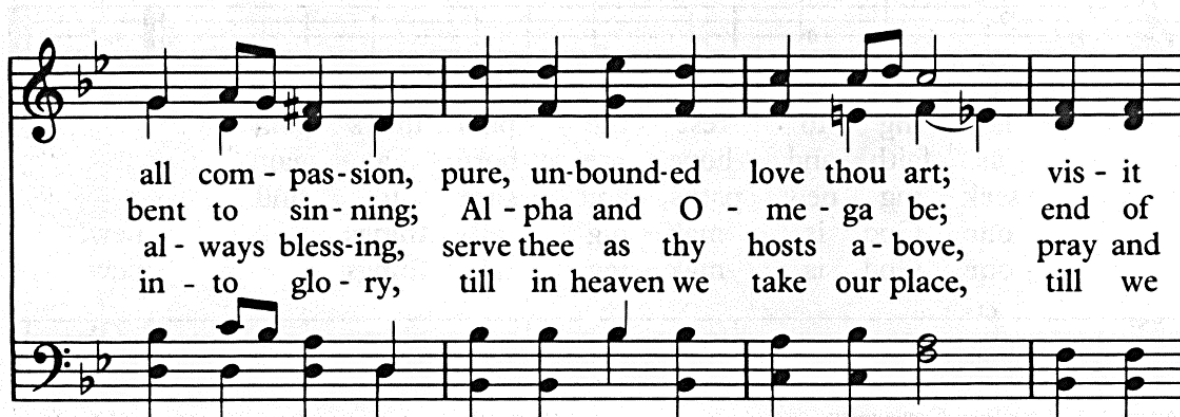
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery  
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down; fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing;  
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in thee in - her - it;  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,  
 let us be. Let us see thy great sal - va - tion



all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, thou art  
 let us find that sec - ond rest. Take a - way our  
 nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be  
 per - fect - ly re - stored in thee; changed from glo - ry



all com - pas-sion, pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis - it  
 bent to sin-ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of  
 al - ways bless-ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray and  
 in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we



us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem-bling heart.  
 faith, as its be - gin-ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 praise thee with-out ceas-ing, glo - ry in thy per-fect love.  
 cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747  
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

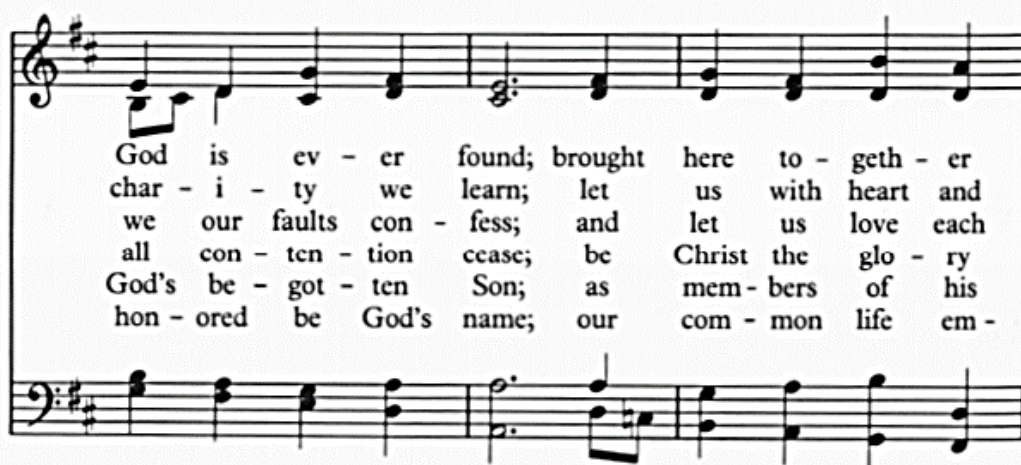
BEECHER  
 87.87 D

Alt. tune: HYFRYDOL

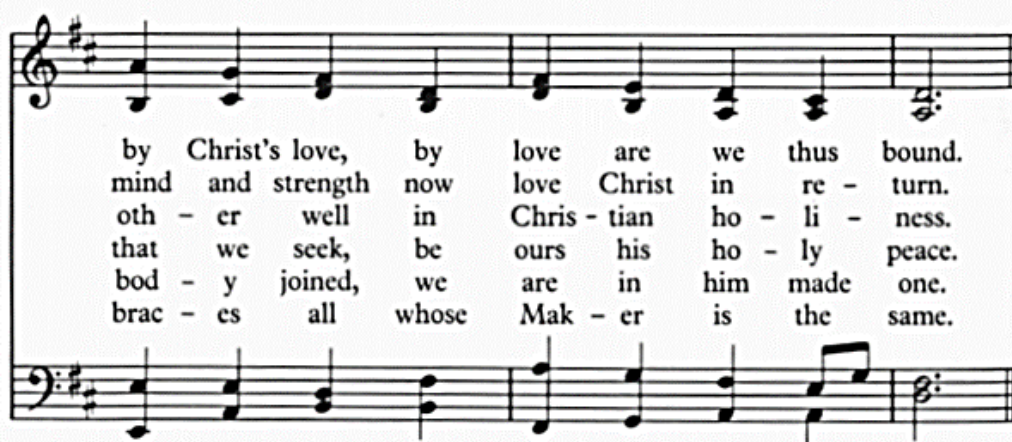
# 549 Where Charity and Love Prevail



1. Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there  
 2. With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear true  
 3. For - give we now each oth - er's faults as  
 4. Let strife a - mong us be un - known, let  
 5. Let us re - call that in our midst dwells  
 6. Love can ex - clude no race or creed if



God is ev - er found; brought here to - geth - er  
 char - i - ty we learn; let us with heart and  
 we our faults con - fess; and let us love each  
 all con - ten - tion cease; be Christ the glo - ry  
 God's be - got - ten Son; as mem - bers of his  
 hon - ored be God's name; our com - mon life em -



by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.  
 mind and strength now love Christ in re - turn.  
 oth - er well in Chris - tian ho - li - ness.  
 that we seek, be ours his ho - ly peace.  
 bod - y joined, we are in him made one.  
 brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. by Omer Westendorf, 1961 (1 Jn. 4:16)  
 MUSIC: Alexander R. Reinagle, 1836; harm. from *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

ST. PETER  
 CM

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