



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*Sunday, January 17th, 2021*

**Dear Lake Toxaway UMC family and friends,**

*Yes, we are going to focus on the Gospel. Even though the lectionary threw us a curve and tossed in this text from John instead of the Mark we were expecting and will continue with next week; it is the Gospel that guides us. But it brings a light to the interactions in this text by looking back at the reading from the Hebrew Scriptures before we wrestle with Nathaniel and his sarcasm. So, we will go back and read I Samuel 3:1-10. It's a familiar story and kind of fun to tell.*

*This is the story about the boy who thought his old mentor was off his rocker, mumbling in his sleep. This is the story about the mentor who had lost his grip on everything and thought the boy was just being annoying. Until the light dawned (we're in Epiphany, remember?), and they realized that God just might have something to say even to them. I am reflecting on this story as if it were happening to me. Because it just might be. Some of us sitting and reading this story might have had troubled sleep the night before because God has been trying to get our attention. So, listen to the story to see if we recognize ourselves.*

*Once again, the lectionary stops before we find out what is really going on. So, we have only half a story here—a great half, to be sure. Lots of lessons are tucked away in this half a story. The starkest is signaled by the very first verse: "The word of the Lord was rare in those days..." Why is that? Did God not have anything to say? Or did the people forget how to listen? Was the weight of the world simply too much to bear and no one was lifting their eyes to heaven? Was the darkness so deep that no one remembered the light? We don't know. All we know is that the Word of the Lord was rare in those days.*

*Yet God spoke. That's our first wake up call, I suppose. In a time when the Word of the Lord was rare, God spoke. Maybe that helps explain the situation a little bit. Not that we need to find who is to blame, not that we need to know who is at fault, but God still spoke when visions were not widespread. How easy it is to give up on God, to decide that we are on our own and God has abandoned us because we don't have a clear vision. The Word is rare in our days. We feel cut off; we feel alone, as though no one understands what we are going through, as though no one cares that we are struggling; we are hurting. So, we develop that layer of cynicism, a sarcastic streak that keeps the world at arm's length to protect ourselves. And we hear even less of a word of hope because that is what we have come to expect.*

*That's the attitude that seems to be reflected in one of Jesus' disciples. Well, before he became a disciple anyway. As we turn back to the Gospel text from John, we find the calling of Nathaniel. Nathaniel appears only here in the Gospel of John. Some scholars think that the Bartholomew mentioned in the other three gospels is Nathaniel. William Barclay even argues that Bartholomew is a last name, translated as "son of Tholmai." So, his name might have been Nathaniel Bartholomew. Maybe. It's hard to tell really, but it is obvious that there is something of significance going on here.*

*"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" The Word of the Lord was rare in those days. We don't know why Nathaniel said what he said. Maybe he just wanted to be left alone, didn't want to be bothered by Philip and his new best friend. Maybe he really thought anyone from a hick town like Nazareth wouldn't have anything of significance to say to him. Maybe he had given up the search that Philip was still on. Maybe he had decided he didn't need a Messiah after all. He was doing all right on his own.*

*But was he? Are we doing all right on our own? Most of the time, we think so. Most of the time, we are content with the world as it is, with our lot in it. Most of the time, we are grateful that things aren't any worse than they are. And the Word of the Lord is rare most days.*

*Every now and then, we ache to hear that Word. When we let down our guard, in our heart, we long to know and to be known. We want so much more of life than we settle for most of the time. We want our relationships to be deep and satisfying. We want those we love to trust in that love; we want to live the fullness of that love. We want someone to know us, all our weaknesses and strengths, all our beauty and ugliness; to know us and love us still.*

*It almost sounds like fantasy, doesn't it? Such knowledge, such love is not possible in this world, a world where the Word of the Lord is rare. So, we bury such thoughts, such quiet desperation behind the facade of being all right, of not needing anyone or anything. Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Or anywhere for that matter?*

*Well, yes, it can. Out of Nazareth can come the one who knows and who loves still. Out of the darkness of the night can come the voice that calls us by name. Out of your church filled with saints and sinners can come a sense of family and community that remakes us. Out of your house can come a trust and openness that gives you that sense of home you were created for. From surprising people can come unconditional love that builds us up and makes us whole.*

*We all need a wakeup call from time to time to keep from sleeping through our own lives. It is a call to hope. Speak, Lord, your servants are listening. Because something good is coming to us. Or rather, something good is already among us. Let us claim it, even as we claim our call to be what Christ has called us to be.*

**Marcus**

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Community Worship Service  
Second Sunday after the Epiphany, January 17th**

**9:30 A.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/G1UGIU8DWMI>**

**PRELUDE**

Here I Am, Lord      arr. John Carter

**GREETING**

*God, you call each of us to serve you, and we answer,*

***"Here I am!"***

*Jesus, you call each of us to follow you, and we answer,*

***"Here I am!"***

*Holy Spirit, you call each of us to worship you this day,*

*and we answer,*

***"Here I am!"***

**HYMN #158**

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

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

**OPENING PRAYER**

***Loving God,***

***you know us better than we know ourselves.***

***Our prayers are in your heart***

***even before they are on our lips.***

***And yet we must utter our prayers.***

***We must proclaim our praise of you***

***and all your wondrous creation.***

***Your love surrounds us***

***and you have promised to be with us always.***

***You know our hearts' desire to serve you.***

***We pray that you will keep us true to that desire.***

***And so we utter our prayer, in Jesus' name. Amen.***

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS - Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

### **1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)**

- 3:1 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.
- 3:2 At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room;
- 3:3 the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.
- 3:4 Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!"
- 3:5 and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.
- 3:6 The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."
- 3:7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.
- 3:8 The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.
- 3:9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.
- 3:10 Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."
- 3:11 Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.
- 3:12 On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.
- 3:13 For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.
- 3:14 Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."
- 3:15 Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.
- 3:16 But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am."
- 3:17 Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you."

- 3:18 So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."
- 3:19 As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.
- 3:20 And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

**Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18** *(Please read responsively the text in bold)*

- 139:1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
- 139:2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**
- 139:3 You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 139:4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.**
- 139:5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
- 139:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**
- 139:13 For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 139:14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.**
- 139:15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
- 139:16 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.**
- 139:17 How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
- 139:18 I try to count them -- they are more than the sand; I come to the end -- I am still with you.**

**1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

- 6:12 "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.
- 6:13 "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.
- 6:14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

- 6:15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!
- 6:16 Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh."
- 6:17 But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.
- 6:18 Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself.
- 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?
- 6:20 For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

**John 1:43-51 (Please stand for the Gospel reading)**

- 1:43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."
- 1:44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.
- 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."
- 1:46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."
- 1:47 When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!"
- 1:48 Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you."
- 1:49 Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"
- 1:50 Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these."
- 1:51 And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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

***P: Thanks be to God!***

**SOLO – PSALM 139 ALLEN POTE**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
(Let us offer our silent confessions.)***

***Awesome God,  
you have made all of creation  
and each cell of our bodies.  
You know our thoughts  
and you know our sins.  
We desperately try to hide our mistakes,  
our weaknesses, our embarrassments.  
But you know it all,  
and so we come before you now  
asking for your forgiveness.  
Even as you know the limits of our human capabilities,  
we know the unlimited power of your love.  
Forgive us, cleanse us, make us whole. We pray through the name of Jesus  
our Lord. Amen.***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*The God who has made us will never desert us.  
The God of creation is creating still, making us new.  
The God whose love gave us the gift of Jesus Christ  
is the same God whose love forgives and sustains us.  
Amen.*

***In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.***

## **HOMILY**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH** *(Alternate for Season of Epiphany)*

***We believe in God,  
the creator of all things,  
the giver of life and breath.  
We believe in Jesus Christ,  
born Emmanuel, God with us,  
baptized and revealed the most beloved Son of God;  
he sought to heal humanity by taking our brokenness upon himself,  
suffering for us,  
dying for us  
and being raised from the dead for our sake***

*and for the sake of all the world.  
We believe that he will come again.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
continually poured out refreshing our lives,  
leading us into a new day,  
ever birthing the church, the body of Christ in the world.  
This Spirit is our constant companion and counselor of truth  
reminding us  
of the gift of faith,  
the ever presence of God  
and the promise of eternal life.  
Thanks be to God! 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**

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

### **OFFERTORY**

Open My Eyes arr. Emma Lou Diemer

### **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**

*Holy God, like the first disciples, we have heard the call to follow Jesus! Yet too often, we have failed to introduce him to others, not willing to take the risks that go with true discipleship. As we bring our tithes and offerings to you this day, make us bold in following. May we give more readily, love more deeply, show mercy and compassion more extravagantly, and seek justice for others courageously. Help us to walk in the steps of the one we follow. In Christ's 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 #454**

Open My Eyes, That I May See  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed with permission)

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

Trumpet Tune C. S. Lang

## **FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR**

Flowers on the altar are given by Bobbi Oldenburger and Stan Moore in celebration for their wedding which will follow our regular worship service today.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**9:30 AM Virtual Services:** The Worship Committee would like to remind everyone we will continue to have 9:30 AM Virtual services until further notice. This is in order to maintain the health and safety of our congregation. Our attendance may include 12 - 15 people and still keep within our guidelines. So those of you who wish to attend please contact Saunders at [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org). We look forward to seeing you. Also, those who would like to participate in reading the liturgy for the week may contact Saunders at the email listed above.

### ***Administrative Council Meeting***

The Administrative Council will meet on **Friday, February 12th at 9:00 AM**. 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 or Saunders Grommesh as these meetings are open to all members, but only members have a vote if actions are required. You may e-mail Tom at [Tom.Blackstock@gmail.com](mailto:Tom.Blackstock@gmail.com) or Saunders at [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org).

## **PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY**

***Dell Anderson's mother, Doris Sims, died peacefully on January 3, 2021. Bill and Dell appreciate your prayers and support. Their winter address is: 134 Linkside Drive, St. Simons Island, GA 32522***

***We pray for the family of Sandra Hoffman Pues (Sandy) as they grieve her death on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. Sandy and Chuck retained membership in this church and a condo her in Lake Toxaway after moving back to Florida several years ago. They regularly attended services in the summer of 2019. Their daughter, Stacey, was an acolyte in this church for many years. Their address is: 1065 Hampstead Ln., Ormond Beach, FL 32174 There will be a graveside service at Gillespie Evergreen Cemetery in Brevard on January 20, 2021 at 1 PM. Her family has requested memorial gifts to Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church.***

***Please continue to pray for Rev. Evelyn Owen-Patterson and her son. Evelyn is the pastor of the Selicia UMC, so we also need to pray for the congregation. They were in a bad car accident and is hospitalized with serious injuries.***

***Please pray for Linda & Kent Garner, Cathie Fussell's sister, Rachel, her nephew, Chad, her cousin Roger and his wife Judy, Chad Zimmerman, Thomas Blackstock, Cathie Fussell's nephew, Jeff Tilley, Marty Young, Madison Coleman & the Jeter family and Frank Hardin.***

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

### **STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS**

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

Soloist/Vocalist: Jacolyn Campbell

Liturgist: Beth Holimon

# 158 Come, Christians, Join to Sing

1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 3. Praise yet the Lord a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

loud praise to Christ our King: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 Let prais - es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;  
 He is our guide and friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;  
 On heav - en's bliss - ful shore his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

WORDS: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843

MUSIC: Trad. melody; arr. by Benjamin Carr, 1824; harm. by Austin C. Lovelace, 1963

SPANISH HYMN

66.66 D

Harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press

# 454 Open My Eyes, That I May See

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth thou  
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou  
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth

hast for me; place in my hands the won - der - ful key  
 send - est clear; and while the wave - notes fall on my ear,  
 ev - ery - where; o - pen my heart and let me pre - pare

*Refrain*  
 that shall un - clasp and set me free.  
 ev - ery - thing false will dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I  
 love with thy chil - dren thus to share.

wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy will to see.

O - pen my eyes,  
 O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
 O - pen my heart,

WORDS: Clara H. Scott, 1895  
 MUSIC: Clara H. Scott, 1895

OPEN MY EYES  
 88.98 with Refrain