



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 26th 2021

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
First Sunday after Christmas, December 26th

9:30 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg

RINGING OF THE BELL – *Please observe silence as we prepare for the service.*

PRELUDE

Ding, Dong, Merrily on High arr. Jack Jones

GREETING

L: We who knelt in the stable—

P: Let us come and kneel in the temple!

L: Let our hearts give thanks, and our hands rejoice!

P: Let our spirits sing, and our bodies dance!

L: O children, enter the house of the Lord!

P: Enter God's presence, and be reborn!

HYMN #240

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

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

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

O Spirit of God, rise up from the earth to be with us in this place; descend from the heavens to be with us in this time. We have gathered to worship you, for such is the beginning of wisdom. In worship, we begin to grasp that, compared with yours, the vast scope of our minds is confined; that the steady scale of our hearts is unsure; that the masterful skill of our hands is common.

O Spirit, like Hannah and Elkanah and Mary and Joseph, we must learn the wisdom of honoring that which lies beyond us, of keeping within our hearts that which we do not comprehend. Help us, as we ponder the power of your presence, the strength of your touch, and the mystery of your voice, to trust the prophets you raise up among your children and the savior you send unto your people. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

- 2:18 Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod.
2:19 His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.
2:20 Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.
2:26 Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

Psalm 148 (Please read the bold text)

- 148:1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
- 148:2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**
- 148:3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
- 148:4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**
- 148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.
- 148:6 He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**
- 148:7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
- 148:8 fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**
- 148:9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
- 148:10 Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**
- 148:11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
- 148:12 Young men and women alike, old and young together!**
- 148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.
- 148:14 He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!**

Colossians 3:12-17

- 3:12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
- 3:13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
- 3:14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
- 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.
- 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.
- 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 2:41-52 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 2:41 Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover.
2:42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival.
2:43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.
2:44 Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.
2:45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.
2:46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.
2:47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.
2:48 When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety."
2:49 He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"
2:50 But they did not understand what he said to them.
2:51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.
2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

L: This is the word of the Lord for the people of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

Lord, it's only a few days after the Christmas celebration and we are exhausted. People have come and gone; gatherings are winding down; we are being reminded of the "normalcy" of life returning to us. We don't want to go there just yet. We want to linger in the warmth of the season. Forgive us when we don't seem to feel your warmth in our lives all the time. Forgive us when we assign warmth only to Christmas, and then to Easter and seem to dwell on the mundane the rest of the time. Give us courage to live as people of the Light, those who find your comforting, encouraging presence in our lives at all times. Strengthen us for joyful service in your name. AMEN.

(Prayer continues in silence.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

People of God, feel the presence of God right now, in this place, warming your hearts, forgiving your fears and strife; preparing you for joyful service. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are beloved and forgiven. AMEN.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #883 (United Church of Canada)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

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.

HYMN #249

There's A Song in the Air
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

The Wexford Carol arr. Jack Jones

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of our salvation, we are still feeling the Christmas glow. Our heads are filled with the sounds and smells and memories of the joy and love and the stable and the baby in the manger. When we read about the twelve-year-old Jesus being left behind, we sometimes wish we didn't have to head back into the world. As we make our last gifts of the year to you, Lord help us see the mission you've put before us. Bethlehem is just the beginning of our work! We pray it in the holy name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 #246

Joy to the World

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Carol of the Bells arr. John Dixon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

Flowers on the altar are given by Barb & Jerry Kline and Marcus & Kim Dodson & family in loving memory of Ruth Cech.

LTUMC Tornado Relief

Due to the generous giving of our congregation throughout 2021, LTUMC has met our aggressive budget of Outreach Giving of \$155,000. As in recent years, our focus has been on local outreach partners in the area and our scholarship program. The tornadoes that ravaged our neighbors to the west have left a humanitarian disaster in their path. This week LTUMC has issued a check for \$15,000 to UMCOR, The United Methodist Church's disaster relief organization, specifically targeted for our neighbor's tornado relief. Thank you for your generosity which has enabled us to respond in such a time of need.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for Jack Jeter, Renee Alexander, Keith and Jackie Skivington, John & Sue Thomas, Donna Parker, Chad & Anne Zimmerman, Marty Young, Cathie Fussell's brother, Lonnie Taylor and nephew, Jeff Tilley, Judy Lefler's friend Barbara Cline-Sanibel, Bobbi Moore's sister, Nancy Schubert and Frank Hardin.

Please pray for those having or had surgery for recovery, those who have had the death of a loved one recently.

Please pray for our student scholars.

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: Scott Walter

240 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled!"
 late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na-tions rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in-car-nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt. by George Whitefield, 1753, and others (Lk. 2:8-14) MENDELSSOHN
 MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856 77.77 D with Refrain

249 There's a Song in the Air

1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
 2. There's a tu - mult of joy o'er the won - der - ful birth,
 3. In the light of that star lie the a - ges im - pearled;
 4. We re - joice in the light, and we ech - o the song

There's a moth - er's deep prayer and a ba - by's low cry!
 for the vir - gin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
 and that song from a - far has swept o - ver the world.
 that comes down through the night from the heav - en - ly throng.

And the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,
 Ay! the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,
 Ev - ery hearth is a - flame, and the beau - ti - ful sing
 Ay! we shout to the love - ly e - van - gel they bring,

for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
 for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
 in the homes of the na - tions that Je - sus is King!
 and we greet in his cra - dle our Sav - ior and King!

WORDS: Josiah G. Holland, 1874
 MUSIC: Karl P. Harrington, 1904

CHRISTMAS SONG
 66.66.12 12

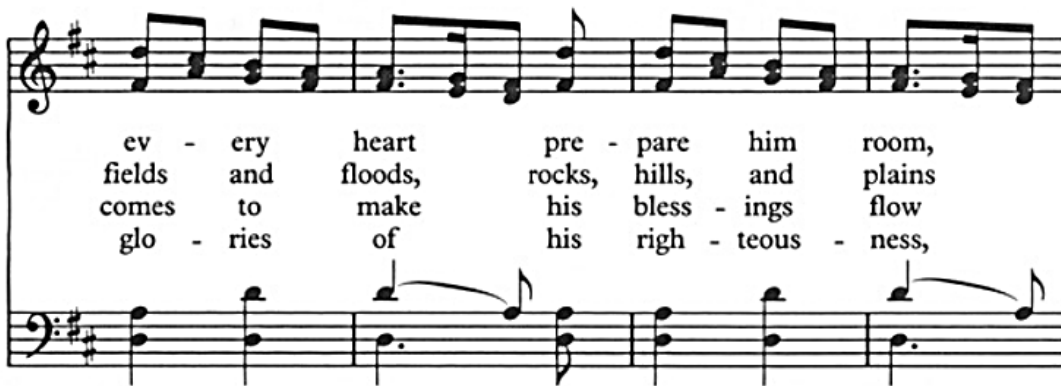
Joy to the World



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns!
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow,
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace,

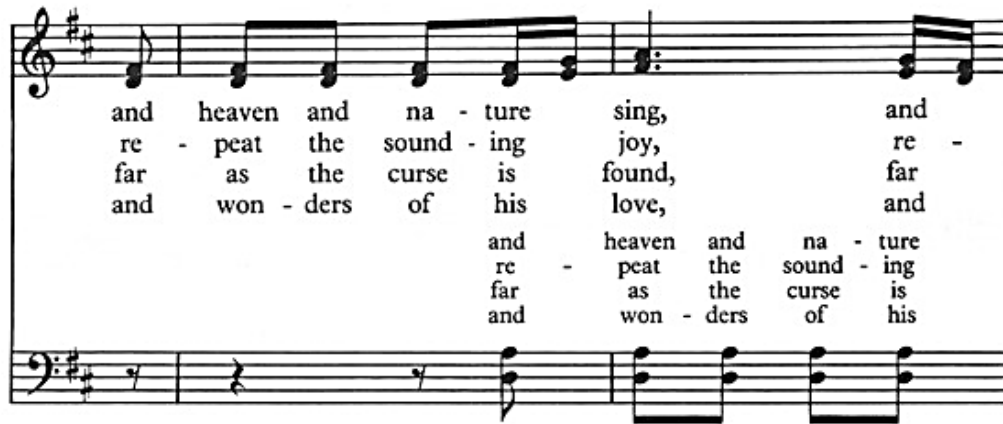


Let earth re - ceive her King; let
 Let all their songs em - ploy; while
 nor thorns in - fest the ground; he
 and makes the na - tions prove the

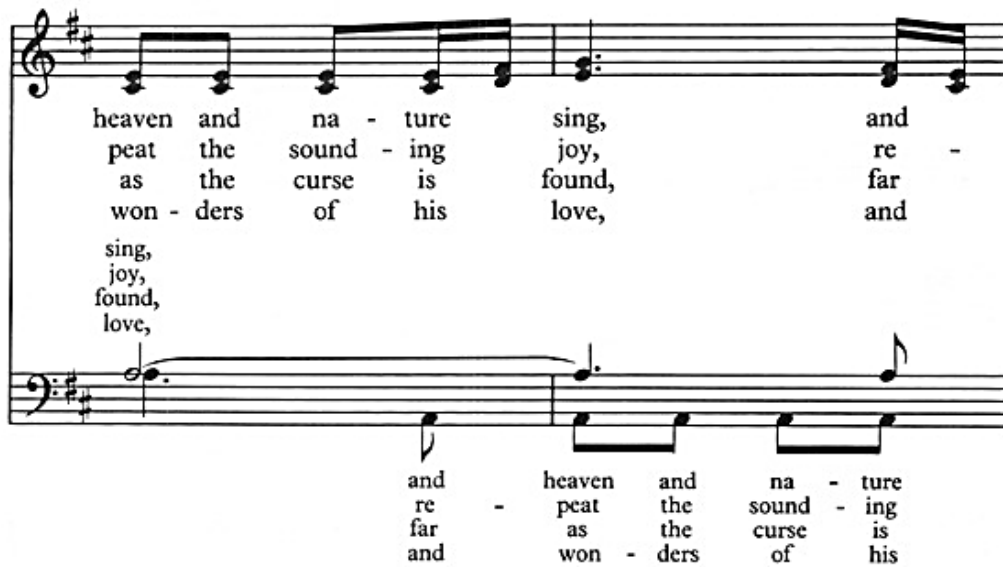


ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 comes to make his bless - ings flow
 glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,

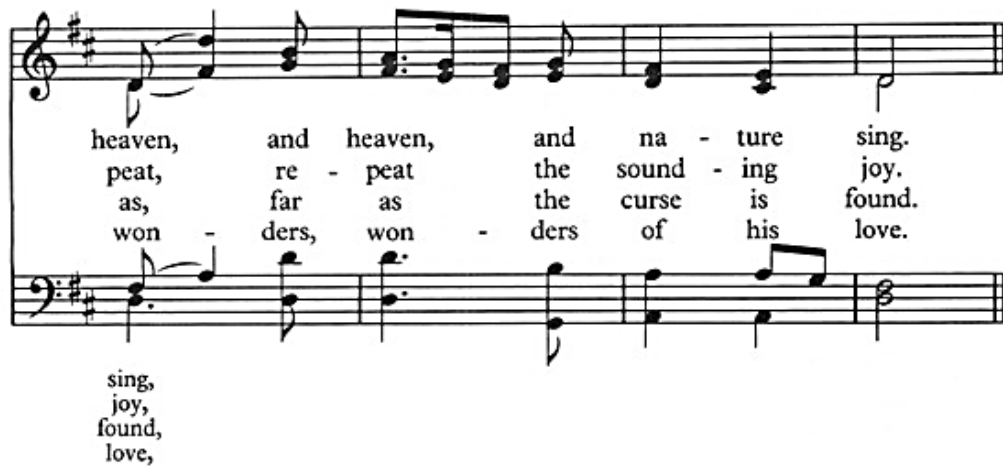
BIRTH AND BAPTISM



and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 far as the curse is found, far and
 and won - ders of his love, and



heaven and na - ture sing, and
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 as the curse is found, far and
 won - ders of his love, and
 sing,
 joy,
 found,
 love,
 and re - peat the sound - ing is
 far and won - ders of his



heaven, and heaven, and na - ture sing.
 re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 sing,
 joy,
 found,
 love,