



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 5, 2021

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service & Communion
2nd Sunday of Advent, December 5th

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

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People Michael Burkhardt

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Welcome today to this time of preparation.

P: Although we have been preparing for celebrations, we come seeking to prepare our hearts to receive God's Good News.

L: Get ready! The Lord is bringing to us Hope and Peace.

P: How wonderful it is that the Lord is showering us with Peace.

L: Open your hearts and let your spirits be quieted. Be at peace with the Lord.

P: Lord, prepare our lives and bring us peace. AMEN.

HYMN #211

O Come Emmanuel (Stanzas 5-7)

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

THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader One: For many of us, the call to head home is one of joy and of hope. We can't wait to reconnect with family, with history and tradition, with a wonderful time of freedom and loving support. We can't wait to go home.

ALL: There are those who fear going home, however, and there are times when going home brings back memories that are not so good, not so healing. We are reminded of when we didn't fit in, when we didn't measure up, when we weren't loved like we needed to be loved. Home can be a difficult place for some.

Reader One: The prophet Malachi tells us that even when we are in the hottest of fires, there is a presence who can make us better, who can refine and purify. John the Baptist tells us that the road home is always under construction, mountains leveled, and valleys filled in, to make smooth the path that leads us to our true destination, where we can live in peace and unity with all.

ALL: We light these candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace, as a sign of our assurance that though the road is hard, we believe it is worth the journey. It is time to go home.

(Light two candles of the Advent wreath.)

OPENING PRAYER

***God in this season
suspended between hope and fulfillment,
let us never forget what you have done.
May we be overwhelmed by your mercy,
which flows in wave after wave.
May we be honest about the darkness within us,
and perceptive of the light around us.
May we make straight the path for the Lord,
that together we may see God's glory revealed.
May we worship you fully,
and let us receive your Holy Presence
in communion today. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Baruch 5:1-9

- 5:1 Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.
- 5:2 Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
- 5:3 for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.
- 5:4 For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."
- 5:5 Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them.
- 5:6 For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne.
- 5:7 For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.
- 5:8 The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command.
- 5:9 For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Luke 1:68-79 (Please read responsively the bold text)

1:68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

1:69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,

1:70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

1:71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

1:72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,

1:73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us

1:74 that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

1:75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

1:76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

1:77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

1:78 By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

1:79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Philippians 1:3-11

1:3 I thank my God every time I remember you,

1:4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,

1:5 because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

1:6 I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

1:7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

1:8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

1:9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight

1:10 to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless,

1:11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Luke 3:1-6 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 3:1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene,
- 3:2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.
- 3:3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,
- 3:4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
- 3:5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;
- 3:6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (#881 The 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.***

THE GLORIA PATRI #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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

Lord, hear us this day as we open our hearts and our spirits to you. These times in which we live are often confusing and fearful. We are pushed to make preparations for a season which is supposed to bring hope and peace; yet we crowd it with obligations and stresses and shut the door to your healing love and compassion. We find ourselves being on edge, fretful, wondering if we have done enough, can do enough. You answer our fears with your voice, "Peace, be still". Help us to hear you. Slow us down. Encourage us to take some time to listen rather than shout, to stop and rest rather than run. Cause us to look around at situations and people who are in need and to place our focus on helping them. For it is in helping your people and reaching out in love that we will find true peace. These things we pray, in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus said, "I am bring you peace, not the kind of peace the world would give to you. My peace I give to you, now and forever." Be at peace. Know God's love is given for you. AMEN.

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Of the Father's Love Begotten Flor Peeters

DOXOLOGY #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of mercy and grace, we pray that the gifts we offer this morning might be used to bring some compassion to the chaos that is our world. We give these gifts in love, hoping they will heal some of the hurting; and as they do, make the crooked road straight for the coming of the Christ. May the hills that separate us from sisters and brothers be made flat and may the valleys of our isolation be raised up, so we will be ready to welcome the Christ as one. In that holy name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN #218

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks and remembers God's acts of salvation, and concludes:...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:...and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering

for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

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.

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #196

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed with permission)

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Amen.

POSTLUDE

O Come, Emmanuel Wilbur Held

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.

A Special Guest Violinist

*On **Sunday, December 19**, we will have special music provided at our worship service by **violinist, Kristine Candler**. Kristine is a graduate of the prestigious Eastman School of Music and serves as concert mistress of the Brevard Philharmonic Orchestra. Thank you, Charlie Steele, for this wonderful suggestion and making this happen.*

Our Daily Bread Devotionals

The next quarter: December – February of Our Daily Bread devotionals are available. They are located at both entrances of the sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall.

From the Worship Committee:

- *Masks will no longer be required for those who are vaccinated.*
- *Those who are not vaccinated will be required to wear a mask.*
- *Anyone wishing to wear a mask may do so.*
- *Masks are available if needed. Please request one.*

LTUMC App for your Smart Phone

The LTUMC app is available to download it from either the App Store or the Play Store. Search for "Lake Toxaway UMC". The app is for everyone.

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: Fred Markert

211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Stanza 5:

**O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode. Refrain**

Stanza 6:

**O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light. Refrain**

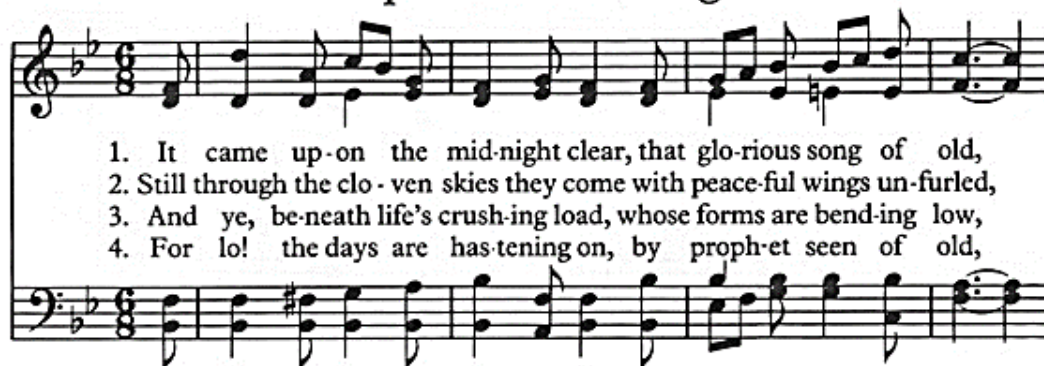
Stanza 7:

**O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace. Refrain**

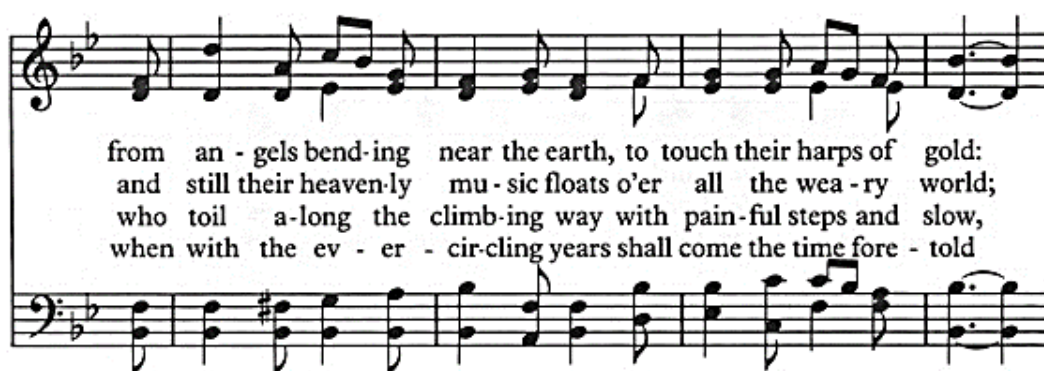
Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

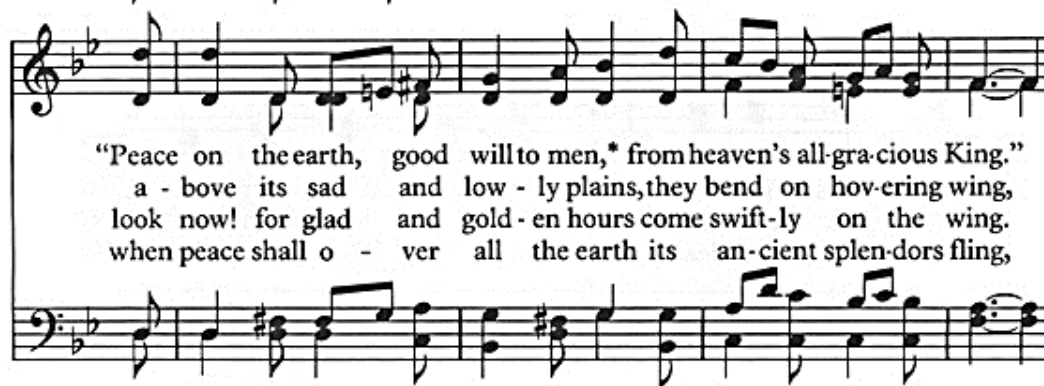
218 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



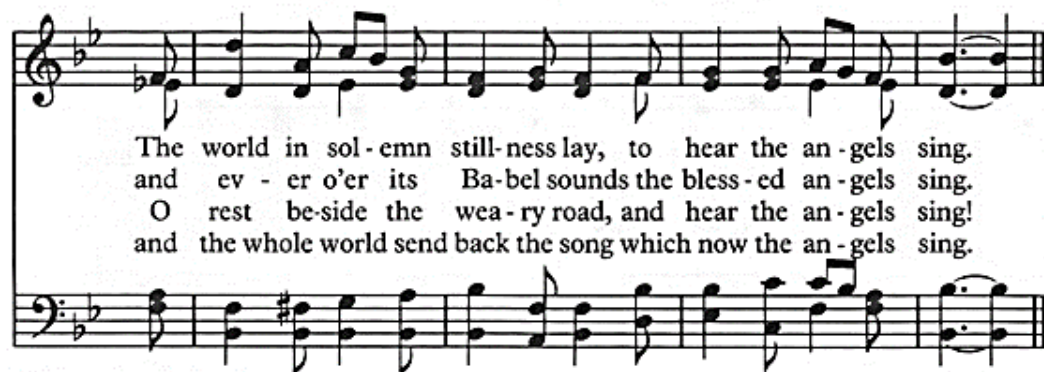
1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,



from an - gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav-en-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told



"Peace on the earth, good will to men,* from heaven's all-gra-cious King."
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains, they bend on hov-ering wing,
 look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift-ly on the wing.
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!
 and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.

*"all" may be substituted

WORDS: Edmund H. Sears, 1849 (Lk. 2:8-14)
 MUSIC: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

CAROL
 CMD

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 196

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
 2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,
 yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
 now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
 spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744

MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

HYFRYDOL

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