



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, February 14th, 2021

Dear Lake Toxaway family and friends,

As I am thinking, praying, and preparing for Transfiguration Sunday, I have found myself thinking about how many events both in the life of Jesus and the life of the Hebrew covenantal people of God occurred outside! Jesus went up to a mountain today with a select group of the disciples and encountered three powerful and important historical figures in the faith story of Judaism.

The disciples' first response was to build "shrines" to commemorate this significant event and place. They wanted to bring this miracle "inside" in some architectural wonder. They wanted to create monuments to attempt to capture this moment of transcendence. I am reminded of how the Hebrew people wanted a building in which to worship God as the other nations they encountered had with their great shrines to their gods. I wonder if we might be worshipping outside if we had not wanted buildings.

I, as the preacher, want to explain the transfiguration. I want to lift up both the immanence of a God in the manger and soon to be nailed to a cross and transcendence of a God in a place of communion with Moses (giver of the Law) and Elijah (greatest of the prophets).

It is not my task nor anyone else's task to explain transfiguration. We are called to stand together in open-mouthed wonder at the fullness of the Christ we worship. In this in between moment at the end of Epiphany and before the start of Lent, we catch our breath and stand on the mountaintop with Peter, John, and James. We watch the unexplainable. We reflect on the truth that there is more to Jesus than we can know or understand in our human intelligence. We continue to find more mystery in the Christ who is fully God and fully man. And that is a good thing. We worship One who continues to take our breath away in wonder and awe.

We sing songs about the glory and grandeur of God and of Jesus. We get carried away in the moment by the wonder and beauty of Jesus who invites us to follow. This is the moment in the liturgical calendar when we are invited simply to bask in the light that is Christ! I pray we will be lifted up above the present moment, higher than we thought possible. We speak of the mysteries of God and the promises of eternity beyond our grasp to comprehend!

Our prayers are statements of awe and praise. Our confession is full of the realization of how we worship a living God who has access to both our human condition and the heavenly realm. Our responses may be both tears and laughter or places in between.

And remember, Jesus called the disciples from this awestruck wonder to follow him. The voice on the mountain told us to listen to him. May we find ourselves in this moment of holy amazement able to follow Jesus. May we keep the focus off ourselves and our successes and failures and instead keep our eyes on Jesus, our Lord. We easily fall in despair as we observe the needs and brokenness of others and ourselves. WE care about the brokenness that surrounds us but we commit it to Jesus and trust as we lift up the name of Jesus through our work and service, our passion and commitment, our songs and prayers, our compassion and caring that Jesus the Great Physician is at work in the world. Let us worship only Jesus in our church, our homes, our gardens... the great Outdoors! Hallelujah!

Come stand beside me in AWE!

Faithfully,

Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Transfiguration Sunday, February 14th**

9:30 A.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/isdXm3-OQk>

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Beach Spring" Gilbert M. Martin

GREETING

*Beyond our busyness,
Above the cold winter floor
there is a glory rising born of heaven
and reaching out to each one of us
**a light that shines through the clouds
an invitation seeking all of who we are
that transfigures the world**
that transforms darkness into hope
that brings life from a cross
where old life ends and new life is born
**In glory Jesus meets us here
raising us from depths of valley to the height of the mountain
carrying the weight of our humanity
to the heights of heavens glory.**
Let us worship from the mountain and hear again
"This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"*

HYMN #181

Ye Servants of God

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

OPENING PRAYER

*O Holy One,
on mountaintops and valley floors
you reveal to us the light of your love.
Our hearts desire is to bask in the amazing glory
of the divine presence.
With each encounter we are changed and transformed.
Draw us nearer
that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit.
Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory.
May we walk among our brothers and sister as a blessing,
bearing light into dark places,
hope to displace despair,
and love that casts out hate.
Our world is hurting
and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely.
Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying,
... "listen to my Child, the Beloved!" Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Kings 2:1-12

- 2:1 Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.
- 2:2 Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So, they went down to Bethel.
- 2:3 The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."
- 2:4 Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So, they came to Jericho.
- 2:5 The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."
- 2:6 Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So, the two of them went on.
- 2:7 Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.

- 2:8 Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.
- 2:9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit."
- 2:10 He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not."
- 2:11 As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.
- 2:12 Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalm 50:1-6 (Please read responsively the text in bold)

- 50:1 The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**
- 50:3 Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.
- 50:4 He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:**
- 50:5 "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"
- 50:6 The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge. Selah**

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

- 4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.
- 4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- 4:5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
- 4:6 For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Mark 9:2-9 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 9:2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,
- 9:3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.
- 9:4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.
- 9:5 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."
- 9:6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.
- 9:7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"
- 9:8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.
- 9:9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

P: Thanks be to God!

SOLO

He Comes to Us

Jane M. Marshall

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

We worship you, O God, with songs of praise.

***We worship you with words of prayer
and with ears that listen for you to speak
your saving truth into our lives.***

***We worship you in the silent spaces
where we struggle for hope and for courage.***

***We long for a glimpse of your glory:
the glory that shines in the darkness
and the darkness cannot overcome it;
the glory that touches lives with a beauty so holy
that it heals the wounded soul;
the glory that gives strength to the weary.***

***We, who stumble and fall so often,
worship you,***

*longing for your light to shine upon us.
Dazzle us with your holy love,
draw us into your purifying presence,
speak to us your transforming truth.
Then, grant us grace
to live every moment
changed by such glory—
daring to live with hope and courage and love
reflecting the life of Jesus,
through whom your glory shines
in the most unexpected ways. Amen.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Hear the good news! In this very instant, God has touched our hearts and offered God's healing and forgiving love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah!!
AMEN.*

In Jesus 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

Meditation on "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling" Michael Burkhart

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of Transformation, we come together as those who have met you on the mountaintop. We have each had our holy encounters with you; and in those moments, we have wanted to stay on the mountain and retreat from the world. We know that is our longing, not yours. So, as we offer our gifts this morning in response to your blessings in our life, remind us that our mission begins as we leave this place, and help us hold our memories of those mountaintop encounters with you in our hearts. We pray boldly in Jesus' name. 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

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed with permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in C G. F. Handel

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

Soloist/Vocalist: Jacolyn Campbell

Liturgist: Beth Holimon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ashes for Ash Wednesday

Marcus will bless the ashes for Ash Wednesday and **Barbara and Jerry Kline will be at the church on Tuesday, Feb. 16th from 10 AM to 11:30 AM for you to drive by and pick up your ashes.**

Ash Wednesday Service

We will have a virtual **Ash Wednesday Service on Feb. 17th at 7 PM.**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period of preparation, self-examination, discipline, self-sacrifice, and service, prior to Easter.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL UPDATE

Thank you for the incredible response. We have 27 volunteers to write a Lenten devotional. We still need 13 more volunteers.

If you are interested in writing a Lenten Journal please email **Nancee Salyer and Scott Walter who have volunteered to coordinate the devotionals.** You may contact **Nancee at nsalyer331@aol.com** and **Scott at scotlaw@aol.com.**

Scholarship Committee needs volunteers to interview students

Are you excited about education and helping future student scholars? Volunteer interviewers are needed to help identify LTUMC student scholars for 2021-2022. Please reach out to Cathie Fussell at linguafrog@gmail.com or 910-572-2167 to learn more.

2020 Tax Letters/Giving Statements

2020 Giving Statements were mailed 2 weeks ago and if you have not received yours, please reach out to Don McSwain, our treasurer via email at bgamedon@gmail.com.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for Thos Blackstock, Marty Young, Linda Garner, Cathie Fussell's sister, Rachel, her nephews, Chad, Jeff Tilley, her cousin Roger and his wife Judy, Chad & Anne Zimmerman, and Frank Hardin.

Please continue to pray for those who have had the death of a loved one in the recent weeks and months especially the families for Kent Garner and Tony Austin.

Please pray for those with illness, upcoming surgery and recovery.

Ye Servants of God

1. Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
 2. God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save,
 3. "Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne!"
 4. Then let us a - dore and give him his right,

and pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful name;
 and still he is high, his pres - ence we have;
 Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son;
 all glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might;

the name all - vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol,
 the great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
 the prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 all hon - or and bless - ing with an - gels a - bove,

his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all.
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our King.
 fall down on their fac - es and wor - ship the Lamb.
 and thanks nev - er ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744 (Rev. 7:9-12)
 MUSIC: Attr. to William Croft, 1708

HANOVER
 10 10.11 11

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks in upon our darkness,
splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,
fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting
to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage
to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us
people of the God we bless.

Text by Carl Daw;

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