



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*Sunday, February 21st, 2021*

Dear Lake Toxaway family and friends,

Lent began on Ash Wednesday this past week. I am aware that many of you will become aware of this season today. You will experience the beginning of Lent today. I wanted to remind you that the devotionals written by you and our church family are posted on the church's website, [laketoxawayumc.org](http://laketoxawayumc.org) and can be accessed by clicking on the calendar on the home page. I am reading these devotionals for the first time each day and the first 3 devotionals have moved me. I encourage you to participate in this discipline and also pick up your Bible and read it daily and pray. I hope some of you might add to your devotional practices by trying to write in a journal every day and record how God has been at work in your life that day or the previous day.

The readings for this Sunday from Genesis, 1 Peter and Mark are about relationship and about presence. On Ash Wednesday, we were admonished to "rend our hearts" as we began a holy fast (from the Prophet Joel). There is a corporate call to the Lenten journey. We heard the words from Joel "to bring the whole community together;" no excuses allowed. We are together in this act of rending, of opening ourselves as a whole body to the promise of God. But the promise is singular, and that promise is God will be in relationship with us.

Of course, there are lots of promises in the Bible. I know this fact; however, there are a variety of gifts and encouragements which all stem from the singular promise of presence. "Best of all, God is with us," as John Wesley reportedly said on his deathbed. We can and should enumerate some of these manifestations of the promise of presence throughout our lives. I have found the first three devotionals written by members of our church community at the beginning of Lent to be about God's presence in their lives. God is with us; we are not alone!

The story of Noah and the Ark and the symbol of the rainbow are well known throughout the history of the Judeo-Christian faith. The rainbow is a symbol of promise, acceptance, and hope. This symbol gathers us together, "all who have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)."

Our worship declares not only "there is a sign as we point beyond ourselves to the naturally occurring light refracting through the rain and producing an arc of color and light; but because of that sign and because of that promise, now we are the sign. The church has become the rainbow sign of the presence of God as we seek to gather up the scattered beloved of God into one covenantal community of faith. May God use us at Lake Toxaway UMC as the sign!

Ironically, I am pushing us to get physical signs along the roads in our community to point people to our building. I am encouraging you to share your devotionals with your friends and neighbors in the belief we are signs of the promise and presence of God at work in the world today. We live under the direction of the Holy Spirit, redeemed by Jesus, and loved by God, the Father.

Faithfully in service alongside you!

Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Community Worship Service  
First Sunday of Lent, February 21st**

**9:30 A.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/NJTLJZ1Sojc>**

**PRELUDE**

Two Variations on "Wondrous Love" Kenneth T. Kosche

**GREETING**

*Now is the time for us to worship!*

*Now is the time for us to come!*

*So, come, you who in God's sight are perfectly imperfect!*

*Come, you who want more of God!*

*Come, you who heard God remind you*

*that you are special and loved beyond measure!*

*Come, People of God, those unified in the waters of baptism!*

*Come!*

**CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please stand)***

*Leader: Come, Beloved! Let us worship!*

***People: We are gathered to worship the One in whom we place our trust!***

*Leader: God, who does all things well, is here! God is among God's people!*

***People: God is merciful, and God is kind!***

***Together, we have come to praise the One***

***Who keeps covenant and decrees! Let us worship!***

**HYMN #61**

Come Thou, Almighty King

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

## **OPENING PRAYER**

*Loving God, we rest in the confidence that you aren't just a God to make covenant. You are the God that maintains and keeps covenant. We've seen storms, God, storms in our personal journeys, storms in our communities, storms in our nation, even storms in our churches. However, we've never seen a storm that you couldn't handle. We rest in the confidence that you haven't lost your ability to be with us even now. Remind us and remind yourself, Loving Creator, that your promise is good for all generations. Be with us, even now, we pray. Amen!*

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Genesis 9:8-17**

- 9:8 God said to Noah and to his sons with him,
- 9:9 "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you,
- 9:10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.
- 9:11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."
- 9:12 God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:
- 9:13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.
- 9:14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,
- 9:15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.
- 9:16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."
- 9:17 God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

**Psalm 25:1-10** *(Please read the bold text)*

25:1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**25:2 O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.**

25:3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**25:4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

25:5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

**25:6 Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

25:7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

**25:8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

25:9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

**25:10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

**1 Peter 3:18-22**

3:18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,

3:19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison

3:20 who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

3:21 And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you--not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

3:22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

### **Mark 1:9-15 (Please stand for the Gospel)**

- 1:9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
- 1:10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
- 1:11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."
- 1:12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.
- 1:13 He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.
- 1:14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,
- 1:15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

*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.)*

***To you, Sovereign, do we lift up our souls. We often find ourselves struggling with shame, and we are afraid. Often, we do not know what to believe. We shrink from rigorous pursuit of your ways. Forgive us for our lackadaisical devotion; and make us to know your ways; teach us your paths. Lead us in truth and to be mindful of your mercy toward us. Deliver us from the sins of our youth; may they not haunt us as we seek you, for your goodness' sake, O God. Hear our prayer in the name of Jesus, the One full of grace and truth. Amen.***

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*Friends hear the good news: God through Christ has remembered us with kindness and steadfast love. As far as east is from west, so has God removed our sins. Believe the gospel: in Christ you are forgiven.*

***In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.***

### **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**

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

## **OFFERTORY**

Prelude on "Cleansing Fountain"      Sam Batt Owens

## **DOXOLOGY**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*Righteous God, we mark these early days in the Lenten journey with reminders of your covenant with your people. In your judgement, you sent upon creation the great flood – yet you saved a faithful remnant. You followed with a covenant not to use the flood again. As we prepare to offer our gifts to you, we are reminded that we have been spared from judgment by the one, your son, our Savior, who took on our guilt and bore our judgement. May gratitude for his sacrifice move us to offer not only money, but our whole being. In Christ, 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 #453**

Move Love to Thee, O Christ  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed with permission)

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

Prelude in G Minor      Johann Krebs

## **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: John Lefler



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **DAILY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL**

*Thank you to those who have signed up to write a Lenten devotional. **The devotionals are on our website under Communications | Lenten Devotionals.** They will be uploaded 1 week at a time. **We have 30 volunteers to write a Lenten devotional. We still need 10 more volunteers.***

If you are interested in writing a Lenten devotional please email **Nancee Salyer and Scott Walter 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](mailto:linguafrog@gmail.com) or 910-572-2167 to learn more.

## ***2020 Tax Letters/Giving Statements***

2020 Giving Statements were mailed 3 weeks ago and if you have not received yours, please reach out to Don McSwain, our treasurer via email at [bgamedon@gmail.com](mailto:bgamedon@gmail.com).

## **PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY**

***Please pray for Thos Blackstock, Marty Young, Chad & Anne Zimmerman Madison Coleman & the Jeter family, Cathie Fussell's family members: Rachel, Chad, Jeff Tilley, Roger and Judy, 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.***

## Come, Thou Almighty King 61

1. Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy  
 2. Come, thou in - car - nate Word, gird on thy  
 3. Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred  
 4. To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to sing, help us to praise! Fa - ther all  
 might - y sword, our prayer at - tend! Come, and thy  
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour. Thou who al -  
 prais - es be, hence, ev - er - more. Thy sov - ereign

glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,  
 peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;  
 might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,  
 maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

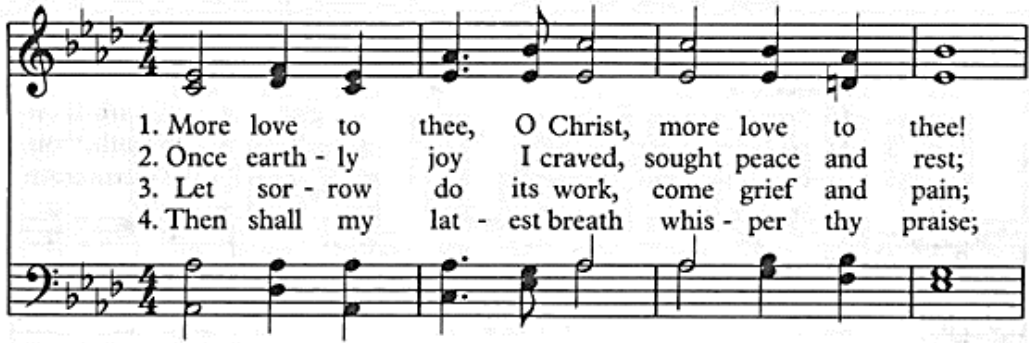
come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days!  
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend!  
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power!  
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore!

WORDS: Anon.  
 MUSIC: Felice de Giardini, 1769

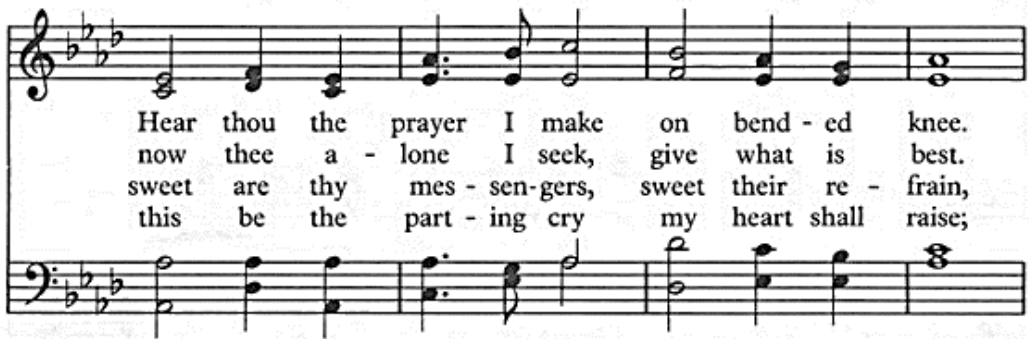
ITALIAN HYMN  
 664.6664

Alt. tune: AMERICA

# More Love to Thee, O Christ 453



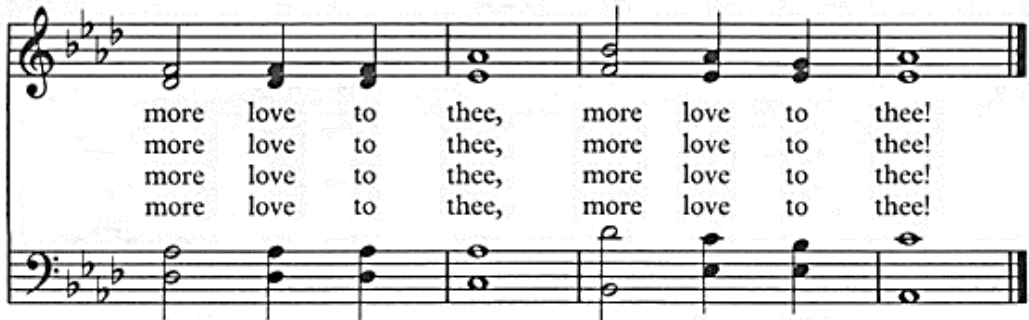
1. More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee!  
 2. Once earth - ly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;  
 3. Let sor - row do its work, come grief and pain;  
 4. Then shall my lat - est breath whis - per thy praise;



Hear thou the prayer I make on bend - ed knee.  
 now thee a - lone I seek, give what is best.  
 sweet are thy mes - sen - gers, sweet their re - frain,  
 this be the part - ing cry my heart shall raise;



This is my ear - nest plea: More love, O Christ, to thee;  
 This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to thee;  
 when they can sing with me: More love, O Christ, to thee;  
 this still its prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to thee;



more love to thee, more love to thee!  
 more love to thee, more love to thee!  
 more love to thee, more love to thee!  
 more love to thee, more love to thee!

WORDS: Elizabeth P. Prentiss, 1869  
 MUSIC: William H. Doane, 1870

MORE LOVE TO THEE  
 64.64.66.44