



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, February 28th 2021

Dear Lake Toxaway family and friends,

Names are important! Remembering names of others and naming is a concern of God. The texts for today provide stories of God's care about names. In the conversation with Abram, God renames him and his wife, Sarai. Both become part of the covenant God makes with Abraham and Sarah to become a great nation in order to be a blessing to all people.

Knowing a name is to know someone, in least in part. It indicates care toward the person to whom you know their name. In the church, we go beyond our names and take on a new name when we enter into covenantal relationship with God. We become more fully ourselves when we walk before God with our whole selves. God does not set us aside as his beloved community; he enables us by the power of the Holy Spirit to use the gifts within us to serve His Kingdom, the community of faith. He also enables us to use our gifts to expand the Kingdom and be a blessing. We use the word evangelism for this latter use of our gifts. This latter use might be as simple as remembering someone's name after meeting them for the first time or telling a new acquaintance about the unique church you attend on Cold Mountain Road.

I want to encourage you and me to examine our own names: the one we were given at birth and the one placed upon us by the Holy Spirit at our baptism. While the Methodist Church does not rename us when we come for baptism as infants or adults, but we do take on the name, disciple, follower. We take Christ's name as our name: Christian.

The question, of course, is how do we walk before God in the name we have been given? How do we represent that for which we are called "to live, move, breathe, and have our being"? Testimony is a powerful way for us to hear and to experience the examples of walking before God as disciples of Christ. I have been moved at the stories, the commitments, the covenants shared so far in the daily devotionals. There are stories of tragedy, triumph, success, and failure. I sense a humility in the telling of how people have grasped the hand of God or God grasped their hand.

You are the heroes of God! You are following God's invitation to be real: to acknowledge your bruised knees and wounded hearts. Remember God's take on heroes is very different than popular culture. God calls us to be heroes who are "real" and authentic with one another. I would add, more importantly, we are invited to be real with God. May we walk before God who claims us in the name of His Son, Jesus, and be blameless.

I love you all and pray for you regularly. I count it a holy privilege to know your names and to share with you in the journey of following Jesus. May all who come behind us find us faithful!

Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Second Sunday of Lent, February 28th**

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

GREETING

*Artist of souls,
you sculpted a people for yourself
out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting.
Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity,
that the discipline of these forty days
may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship,
and whet our thirst for the living water you offer
through Jesus Christ.*

PRELUDE

Wondrous Love arr. David N. Johnson

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please stand*)

*Hear of God's promise.
The promise rests on grace.
God gives life to the dead.
The promise rests on grace
God calls into being things that did not exist.
The promise rests on grace.
God came to us through Jesus.
The promise rests on grace.
Jesus died and rose again to save us.
God's grace comes to us through our faith.*

HYMN #140

Great is Thy Faithfulness

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

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

We gather this day on the second portion of our Lenten journey to the Cross. Last week we looked at our own readiness to follow Jesus. But what about our expectations? We often have fantasies about what lies ahead; picturing ourselves standing lovingly by as Christ heals. Basking in the glow of Christ's love and ministry. We expect that once we have said "yes" to the journey everything will go very well. Give us a reality check, Lord. Help us to understand that the journey has many twists and turns, hills and valleys. Life is not lived on the plain with everything being equal. Prepare our hearts to look at our expectations. Free us from our images of easy ministry so that we can be more effective servants and witnesses for you. AMEN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

- 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.
- 17:2 And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous."
- 17:3 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,
- 17:4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
- 17:5 No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.
- 17:6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.
- 17:7 I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.
- 17:15 God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.
- 17:16 I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Psalm 22:23-31 (Please read the bold text)

22:23 You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

22:24 For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

22:25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

22:26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

22:27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

22:28 For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

22:29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

22:30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

22:31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Romans 4:13-25

4:13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

4:14 If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

4:15 For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

4:16 For this reason, it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,

4:17 as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") --in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

4:18 Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be."

4:19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

4:20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,
4:21 being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.
4:22 Therefore, his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."
4:23 Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone,
4:24 but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,
4:25 who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Mark 8:31-38 (Please stand for the Gospel)

8:31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.
8:32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
8:33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."
8:34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.
8:35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.
8:36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?
8:37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?
8:38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus arr. Jack Schrader

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

*Merciful God,
we confess that our sin turns us from you
again and again.
We are a sinful generation
longing for your mercy.
We want not only to save our lives,
but to gain the whole world as well.
We are too often ashamed to show our faith
to the world around us.
Have mercy on us. Amen.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*If we rely upon the law of God,
we are beyond hope.
But in God's mercy we are declared righteous
through our faith in Jesus, who died for our sins.

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

Improvisation on "My Song is Love Unknown" Charles Callahan

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of all, you love us and have claimed us. As you blessed Sarah and Abraham, you have invited us into the blessing of connection within the family of humanity whom you continue to bless. We give our tithes and offerings in celebration of the depths of our blessing and pray that they will strengthen the church across the world to bless all your children. In the holy name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray in gratitude. 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 #415

Take Up Thy Cross

Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed with permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude in E minor Johann Krebs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship Committee announces open worship – March 7th

Starting March 7th, we can increase our attendance to 32.

Masks and social distancing will still be in effect. However, if some folks have been gathering with others socially and feel comfortable they could sit together in church. No reservations required.

DAILY LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

We pray you are enjoying the daily Lenten devotionals on our website:

[https://www.laketoxawayumc.org/index.php/communications/lenten- ?](https://www.laketoxawayumc.org/index.php/communications/lenten-?)

We have 31 devotionals and still need 9 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 or 910-572-2167 to learn more.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for Marcus' nephew Steven Hudson, Dell Rearden, Marty Young, Chad & Anne Zimmerman, Thos Blackstock 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.

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

Liturgists: Stan & Bobbi Moore

Great is Thy Faithfulness

1. Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God, my Fa - ther, There is no
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest, Sun, moon, and
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, Thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee; Thou chang - est not, Thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove Join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; Strength for to - day and bright

pas - sions, they fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed, Thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed; Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

MUSIC: William M. Runyan, 1870-1957

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FAITHFULNESS

11.10.11.10. with Refrain

Take Up Thy Cross

415

1. "Take up thy cross," the Sav - ior said, "if thou wouldst
 2. Take up thy cross, let not its weight fill thy weak
 3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame, nor let thy
 4. Take up thy cross and fol - low Christ, nor think till

my dis - ci - ple be; de - ny thy - self, the
 spir - it with a - larm; his strength shall bear thy
 fool - ish pride re - bel; thy Lord for thee the
 death to lay it down; for on - ly those who

world for - sake, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 spir - it up, and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.
 cross en - dured, to save thy soul from death and hell.
 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

WORDS: Charles W. Everest, 1833 (Mt. 16:24-25; Mk. 8:34-35; Lk. 9:23-24)
 MUSIC: William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

GERMANY
 LM