



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

Dear Lake Toxaway family and friends,

The Old Testament Lesson is from the book of consolation in Jeremiah. Like all the prophets, Jeremiah has difficult words to share with the people. But our text this week is a moment where Jeremiah hopes to encourage the people of God. The current situation for the people is bleak. Jeremiah wants to assure the people God is still God. And the day is surely coming when God will write on the heart of the people of God. And while even then we may still wonder what the loving thing to do is, we will desire to do that loving thing with our whole being. We will cease following God half-hearted but as fully committed members of the loving community of the Kingdom of God.

I had an image of a tattoo chair set up in front of the altar as a reminder of this writing of God's law written on our hearts. Admittedly, I am not one who understands the aesthetic of tattoo art, but I like the reminder of God's law written on my heart as if there is some internal mark that finds its expression in an external way as we live our love, care, concern for each other and then move our care beyond our small church community.

Jeremiah wrote his words in difficult times. He lived in those difficult times and so he becomes one of the prophets many consider offering trustworthy help in knowing what to think, how to pray, how to carry on during times of difficulty.

We live in very disruptive times in 2021. The end of the second millennium and now the first 21 years of the third millennium are not as unprecedented as we might want to think. Jeremiah lives and speaks to a people who are living in one of the most troublesome periods in Hebrew history: the decades leading up to the fall of the Temple in 587 BCE and then the Babylonian exile. Everything has gone wrong! And Jeremiah stayed in the middle of it: praying, preaching, suffering, striving, writing and believing.

Much of the previous paragraphs could describe our present time. And for those of us living in disruptive times, we need Christian companions who have lived through catastrophic disruption and survived with God's amazing grace. So, our worship this week is one of hope and joy, confidence in the ultimate goodness of God. We proclaim in song and prayer that we remain under the tutelage of the Holy Spirit. We continue to find ourselves shaped by the hand of God into disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. And yes, this proclamation is what will be written on our hearts. Thanks be to God! Praise be to God!

In love and humility, I pray God continues to write on my heart and seek to serve you as a fellow pilgrim who remains under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. God is still God in 2021 and will remain so throughout the ages!

Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Community Worship Service  
Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 21st**

**9:30 A.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/xxESKawfat4>**

**PRELUDE**

Wondrous Love arr. Craig Phillips

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

*We are alive to see this new day – Shout hallelujah my brothers and sisters.*

***Hallelujah! We are God's people.***

*Behold, the Lord has made a new covenant with us. Our hearts and minds will be renewed and restored. Rejoice and be glad for now we will know and see God's awesome power more clearly.*

***Hallelujah! We are God's people.***

*The Lord is making a new covenant with the people of God.*

***Here in this place,***

***Christ writes the law of love on our hearts.***

*We are children of the living God.*

***Together, let us worship the Lord of Love!***

**HYMN #157**

Jesus Shall Reign

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

**OPENING PRAYER** *(Please be seated)*

***O God of our Hearts***

***You yearn to be so close to us***

***that we can know you in every breath,***

***in every hope, in every relationship.***

***Meet us here today and***

***teach us to recognize***

***the covenant of justice, peace and love***

***you have written on our hearts.***

***So may our desires become your desires,***

***our work become your work,***

***and our community***

***the place where you are sought and found.***

***In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Jeremiah 31:31-34

- 31:31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
- 31:32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt--a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.
- 31:33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
- 31:34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### Psalm 51:1-12 (Please read responsively the bold text)

- 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**
- 51:3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- 51:4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**
- 51:5 Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- 51:6 You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**
- 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 51:8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**
- 51:9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

51:11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**51:12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

### **Hebrews 5:5-10**

5:5 So also, Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you";

5:6 as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

5:7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

5:8 Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered;

5:9 and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,

5:10 having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

### **John 12:20-33 (Please stand for the Gospel)**

12:20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

12:21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

12:22 Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

12:23 Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

12:24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

12:25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

12:26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

- 12:27 "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say--' Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.
- 12:28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."
- 12:29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."
- 12:30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.
- 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.
- 12:32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."
- 12:33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

*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, we know Easter is coming soon and while we anxiously wait to celebrate your triumphant victory over sin and death, there are still difficult days between now and then. There is nothing perfect about us, yet you beckon us with hands that soon will be scarred by betrayal, greed, selfishness, pettiness, pride, and apathy. You see us and our imperfections with compassionate and patient eyes as we struggle to rid our lives of all the worldly things that distort, distract, and entangle us. As the cross looms ahead, our eyes and our focus are on you and you alone for our redemption and salvation. Amen.***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*Hear the Good News: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.*

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

## **HOMILY**

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH** *(Please stand for the Nicene Creed)*

***We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is seen and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.***

***Through him all things were made.***

***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.***

***For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.***

***On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.***

***With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.***

***We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.***

***We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.***

***We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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**

Beneath the Cross of Jesus arr. Marianne Kim

## **DOXOLOGY**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*God of compassion, when we failed to keep your commandments and rebelled against that which would bring peace and joy to our lives, your love was so great that you offered us a new covenant – not written on tablets, but on our hearts. In our giving, and in all our offerings, may it be our lives, our love and devotion that we bring to your altar. May we remember in our giving that you loved us so much that the sacrifice of your Son on the cross for us was not too great a cost. Our gifts are meager in comparison but let them remind us of what you gave first. In Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, 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 #297**

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

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

Toccata in E minor Johann Pachelbel

## **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: Carole Guffey



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***Good Friday - Tenebrae Service***

*We will have a Good Friday – Tenebrae Service at 7:30 PM. You are welcome to join us at church or Livestream. Marcus will be asking people to read.*

### ***Website Membership Login - a future option***

*LTUMC Membership Login on our main web page: <https://www.laketoxawayumc.org/> is NOT currently operational. It will be available in the future. It will be available for committee members to see agendas and minutes from meetings and it will be available for church members to access an online directory.*

### ***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.

### ***No reservations needed for Sunday services***

*Our Worship committee decided we may safely increase our attendance capacity and reservations are no longer needed to attend services. Masks and social distancing will still be in effect. However, if some folks have been gathering with others socially and feel comfortable, they may sit together in church.*

## **PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY**

***Please pray for Kitty Neff, Katherine Jeter, Marcus' nephew Steven Hudson, Thomas Blackstock, Chad & Anne Zimmerman, Marty Young, Madison Coleman & the Jeter family, Frank Hardin and Cathie Fussell's family members: Jeff Tilley (nephew) & Ellen Gause (niece), and for Cynthia Wood's friends' two-year-old son Conor.***

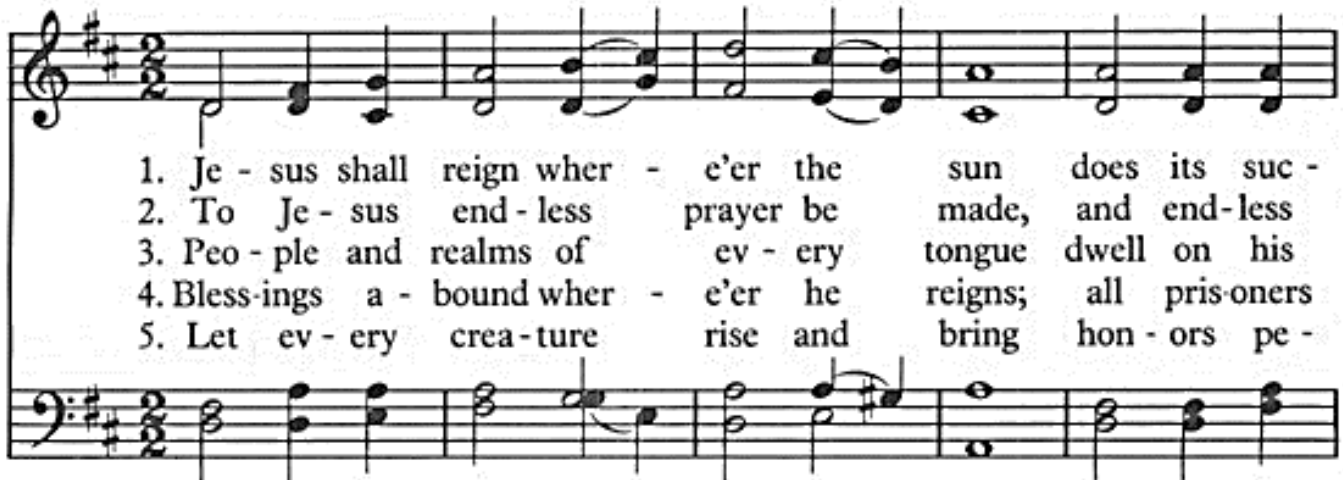
***Please pray for our student scholars in their Spring semester.***

***Please continue to pray for those who have had the death of a loved one in the recent weeks and months; especially the family of Dell Rearden.***

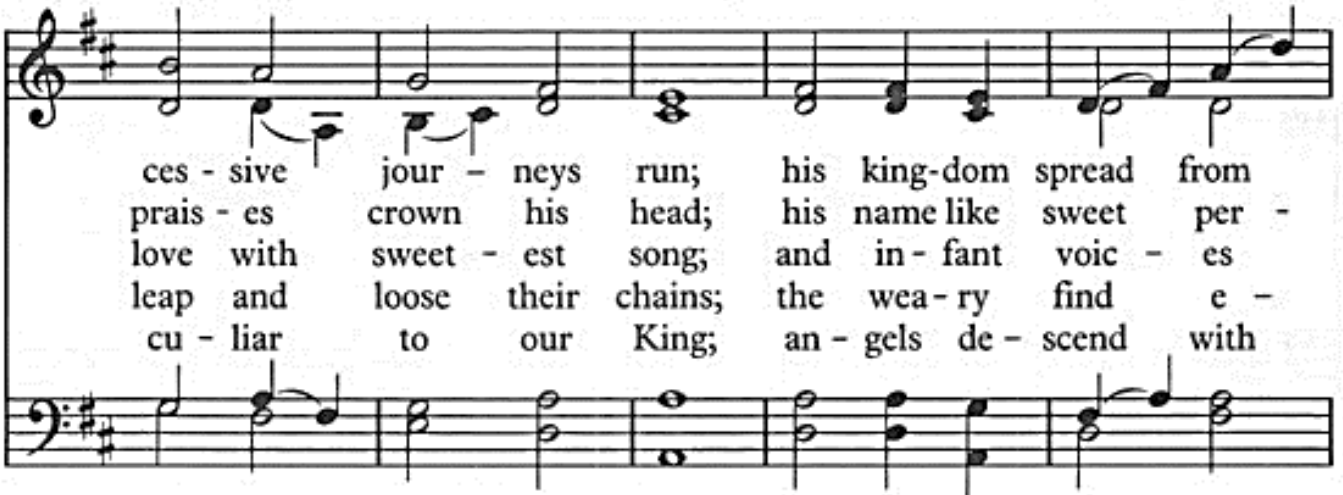
***Please pray for those with illness, upcoming surgery and recovery.***

# Jesus Shall Reign

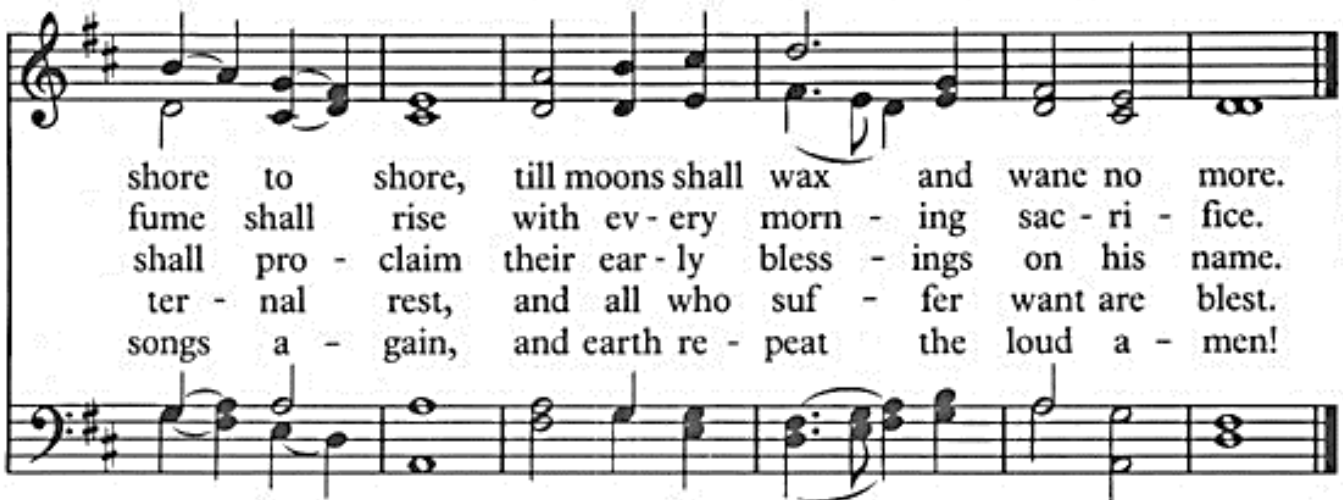
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1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
2. To Je - sus end - less prayer be made, and end - less  
3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his  
4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; all pris - oners  
5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom spread from  
prais - es crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
leap and loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -  
cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men!

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 72)  
MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793

DUKE STREET  
LM

# Beneath the Cross of Jesus 297

1. Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,  
 2. Up - on the cross of Je - sus mine eye at times can see  
 3. I take, O cross, thy shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place:

the shad - ow of a might - y Rock with - in a wea - ry land;  
 the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - ered there for me;  
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
 and from my strick - en heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess,  
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and the bur - den of the day.  
 the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
 my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1868; alt. 1990

ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6.  
 Frederick C. Maker, 1881