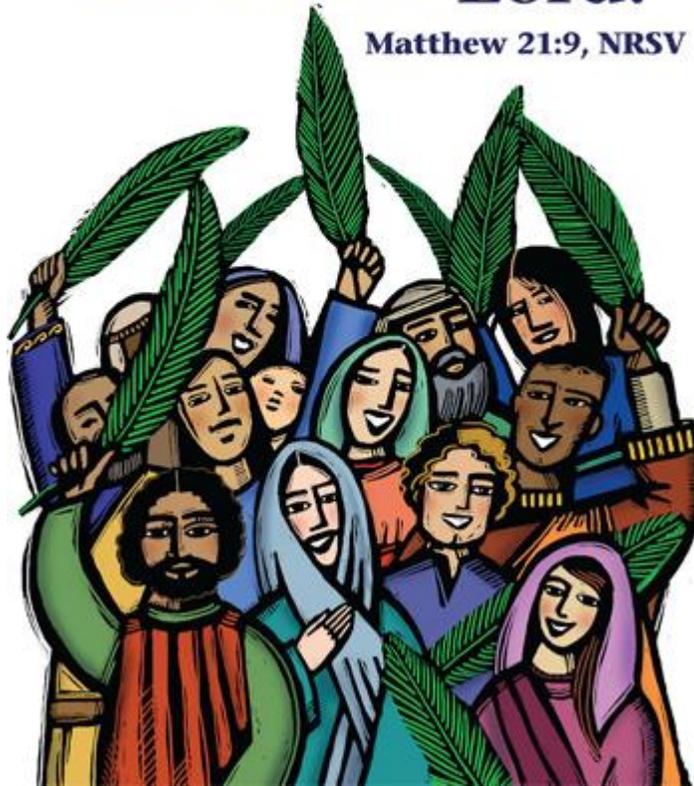


**Blessed is the one
who comes in the
name of the Lord!**

Matthew 21:9, NRSV



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

Dear Lake Toxaway family,

Palm Sunday is a day for joy to pour out in the church. It is a Sunday to recall the child in each of us and allow the child to imagine how we would have participated in the parade. I remember the Sunday School stories with the wonderful pictures and improv creations of the procession into Jerusalem. I always wanted to wear my Sunday jacket on Palm Sunday, so I could volunteer to be one of the ones who volunteered to lay "my cloak" on the donkey for Jesus' seat.

Today we have palms for all of us to have in our hands in worship. We will wave those branches and proclaim our joy as we remember this entry into Jerusalem. We will shout, "blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" and "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" I will invite you to be free to wave your palm branch and feel the excitement and restlessness of a child at a parade.

I remember a college New Testament professor stating his opinion about the procession and how he believed it to be a rather insignificant event in the city of Jerusalem. The professor suggested the crowd was small and not recognized by many, perhaps even the religious authorities. I remember how I disagreed with his lecture and thought, "have you ever attended a parade?" Parades bring people to gather to celebrate and to find unity in joy at a coming season, a winning team, a welcome home, a recognition of a special person.

The word the people shouted as Jesus made his procession into Jerusalem, hosanna, translates as a hearty expression of adoration, praise, and joy. We use hallelujah next week as an exclamation in songs of praise or thanksgiving to God for the miracle of resurrection, but today we shout hosanna as a cry of praise and adoration. Jews used hosanna in the liturgy of the synagogue to express the unbridled joy of the promises of God.

May we also find the capacity to offer our joy in the choice Jesus made to enter into the final week of His life on earth as fully man and fully God. May we find ourselves filled with joyful expectation as we shout, "blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

With a faith full of joy!

Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Palm Sunday, March 28th**

9:30 A.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/8pdisk7xaOo>

PRAYER FOR INDIVIDUAL PREPARATION

(Use the following prayer as a time to pray and prepare during the Prelude.)

*Sovereign God,
You have established your rule over the human heart,
not by force but by the servant example of Jesus Christ.
Move us by you Spirit to join the joyful procession
of those who confess Christ Jesus with their tongues
and praise him with their lives. Amen.*

PRELUDE

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna arr. Michael Burkhardt

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please stand)*

*We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.
**We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips;
we will travel through betrayal and death,
cradling hope deep in our hearts.**
Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow,
for he is the life we long for,
he is the Word who sustains us.
**We wave palm branches in anticipation,
we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.**
Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes:
modeling humility and obedience for all of us.
Hosanna! Hosanna!
**Blessed is the One who brings us
the kingdom of God.***

HYMN #278

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

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

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

Holy God, your love goes beyond all limits. In love, you have given us your beloved, Jesus, whom we claim as the Christ, to lead us ever closer to your shalom...your peace that passes understanding.

As we worship you this day, give us the desire and the will to follow Jesus, that we may be led into that peace that holds in time of trouble, and into a love that persists far beyond today's parade. We make this prayer in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior . Amen!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 *(Please read responsively the text in bold)*

- 118:1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!
- 118:2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."**
- 118:19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.
- 118:20 This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.
- 118:21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.**
- 118:22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
- 118:23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- 118:24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- 118:25 Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!**
- 118:26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.
- 118:27 The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.**
- 118:28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.
- 118:29 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.**

Mark 11:1-11 *(Please stand for the Gospel)*

- 11:1 When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples
- 11:2 and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it.
- 11:3 If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'"
- 11:4 They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it,

- 11:5 some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?"
- 11:6 They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.
- 11:7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it.
- 11:8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.
- 11:9 Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
- 11:10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"
- 11:11 Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SOLO

Fanfare for Palm Sunday

Katherine K. Davis

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

When the parade is over, do we pick up our lives, brush them off, and live in the old way? Do we toss our palm branches aside, so we can grasp the seductions of the world? As we begin the journey through the holiest of weeks, let us speak the truth, as we confess to our God, praying together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

Ever constant God, mixing love and hope together, you pave the way to the kingdom, but we prefer to stub our toes on the potholed roads of temptation. You will touch the cup of grace to our parched lips, but we seem to hunger for the ashy taste of bitterness. You beg us to learn the songs of salvation, but we hum along with the chorus death plays in the background of our lives.

Have mercy upon us, God of Holiness. As you come to us, you bring healing for our brokenness, peace for our troubled lives, hope for our doubting minds. May we empty ourselves of everything which keeps us from following you, so we may receive these gifts, and more, from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Laying aside judgment, God offers us redemption; setting aside anger, God embraces us with love; letting go of grief, God pours living water upon us. This is the good news, my friends: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

***Blessed is the One who brings us
the kingdom of God! Amen.***

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH *(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

Wondrous Love arr. Don Hustad

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty and everlasting God, as we bring our gifts and lay them at your altar, we remember the crowds in Jerusalem who laid their cloaks on the road, shouting "Hosanna" as Jesus passed. We know they were looking for a Messiah who was different from who you sent Jesus to be – not one of political power and military might, but one who came in compassion and mercy to heal, love, and save. Search our hearts that we might be confident that the Messiah for whom we long is the one you know we need – Jesus Christ, your anointed one, in whose name 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 #277

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed with permission)

BENEDICTION

*Now you have waved your palms at him. Now you have followed him on the parade route. You have seen Jesus for yourself. You know that he is real. Go forth and continue to see him in the world! Go where he goes and do what he commands. And may the peace of God rule and abide with you now and forever! **Amen.***

POSTLUDE

Toccata in E minor Johann Pachelbel

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: Bobbi & Stan Moore

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Devotionals THANK YOU!

We hope you have enjoyed the daily Lenten devotionals. Thank you to Marcus for thinking and proposing this wonderful idea. This all came together so well with the helpful hands of Nancy Salyer and Scott Walter for scheduling and editing the devotionals; we are grateful for all your guidance.

Below is a list of who wrote a devotional this Lent. Thank you all Sandra Eyster, Barb Kline, George Bagwell, Char Holbrook, Lori Delany, John Lefler, Carole Guffey, Stan Moore, Bobbie O Moore, Sherry Minnich, Tom & Kay Blackstock, Mary Pat Martin, Fred Markert, Cynthia Wood, Don McSwain, Cathie Fussell, John Holbrook, Sherry Minnich, Gerrie McSwain, Andy Harvill, Scott Walter, Beth Holimon, Rick Dobbins, Arlene Hendrix, Stacey Pues, Nancee Salyer, Andy Marshall, Fred Collins, John Shoemaker, Mary June Warren, Katherine Jeter, Dan Bell, Judy Lefler, Rick Tranquilli, Saunders Grommesh, Brian Singleton, Drew Prusiecki.

All of the devotionals are located on our website:

<https://www.laketoxawayumc.org/index.php/communications/lenten-devotional>

Good Friday - Tenebrae Service: Friday, April 2nd

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.

Two Easter Services

We will have two Easter services: 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM. *Our 9:30 service will also be the Livestream for those of you wanting to participate from home.*

Website Membership Login - a future feature

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.

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 those with illness, upcoming surgery and recovery.

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 our student scholars in their Spring semester.

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

278

1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2. From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" that an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang.
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
 for Christ is our Re - deem - er, the Lord of heaven our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
 The Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
 nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.
 and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice!

WORDS: Jeanette Threlfall, 1873 (Mt. 21:8-9; Mk. 11:8-10; Jn. 12:12-13)
 MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle*, 1784; adapt. and harm. by W. H. Monk, 1868

ELLACOMBE
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277 Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

Unison (Optional S.A.)

1. Tell me the sto - ries of Je - sus I love to hear;
 2. First let me hear how the chil - dren stood round his knee,
 3. In - to the cit - y I'd fol - low the chil - dren's band,

things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
 and I shall fan - cy his bless - ing rest - ing on me;
 wav - ing a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;

scenes by the way - side, tales of the sea,
 words full of kind - ness, deeds full of grace,
 one of his her - als, yes, I would sing

sto - ries of Je - sus, tell them to me.
 all in the love - light of Je - sus' face.
 loud - est ho - san - nas, "Je - sus is King!"

WORDS: William H. Parker, 1885 (Mt. 19:13-15; 21:8-9;
 Mk. 10:13-16; 11:8-10; Jn. 12:13)
 MUSIC: Frederick A. Challinor, 1903

STORIES OF JESUS
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