



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*Sunday, May 9th, 2021*

Dear Lake Toxaway family and friends,

It is Mother's Day today in the United States. One of the forgotten facts about Mother's Day is that the card companies did not create this day. A Methodist laywoman, Anna Jarvis, organized the first official celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia after her own mother's death; The date for the first celebration was May 10, 1908. Ms. Jarvis never married or had children. She did obtain financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner, John Wanamaker. The day became commercialized because of this joint venture but Ann Jarvis had conceived the idea as a day of personal celebrations between mothers and families. Her idea was to suggest individuals wear a carnation and attend their mother's church. As the day became increasing commercialized, Anna Jarvis went on a campaign to attempt to reclaim her original vision for this holiday.

The mother of Anna Jarvis, Ann Reeves Jarvis, had worked in West Virginia prior to the Civil War to start "Mothers' Day Work Clubs." These clubs organized meetings with the intention of teaching women how to properly care for their children and to receive support from more experienced women in the challenges of motherhood.

I usually would never take this much time to talk about a secular holiday, but I think it is important to connect Mother's Day and its celebration to the Christian Church! I also recognize this day is bittersweet and painful for many of us. While some of us had mothers, who worked tirelessly to organize the family, nurture and love unconditionally often while sacrificing tremendously, others of us had mothers who were unable to care for us or who left the family early because of death or emotional challenges. I also know many women who wanted children but were not granted their heart's desire. For these reasons and many more, I always recognize the delicate and difficult commemoration of this day. I never want to ignore the many whose experience of mother was more painful than joyous. I never want to ignore those mothers whose children have died prematurely or "out of order." I never want to ignore those who wanted to have children whose life circumstances prevented this desire. I also never want to ignore those who made conscious decisions not to be a mother and follow other pathways.

I do not want to ignore Mother's Day, however. I want to acknowledge this day and connect it to a theological truth in our scripture lessons for today. We are followers of Christ and everything our culture does should be observed from a theological point of view. Jesus said: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). This is an ongoing, new every morning "kind of thing." This is not a love your enemies "kind of thing" but love those around you, those in your care. This is the kind of love a parent should give.

In my experience, my mother could not love me in this way. Her mental illness prevented her from such love. I prayed many times for God to grant healing to her and enable her to love me unconditionally. As I have matured, I have recognized the many good things my mother taught me; the most important gift was her unwavering faith in God and a trust God would provide what she could not provide. She did her best, and that is all any of us can do. Do our best to love.

Loving is who we are: loving in a way that lays down our lives for those we love, loving in a way that honors God and the commandments of God, loving that is a response to the love we have received from God in Christ, loving that trusts God to provide the love we need. Loving another is a response to the love we have received. And all of us have been loved by God in His definitive sacrificial act of loving. So may our response be to love more and with greater love. We are filled with love because of God's love for us!

Remember God's love surrounds all of us on this Mother's Day.

Marcus

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Community Worship Service  
Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 9th**

**9:30 A.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/lxzU6OauCj0>**

**PRELUDE**

Blest be the Tie      arr. Robert J. Powell

**GREETING**

*L: Sing to the Lord a new song, a song of hope and rejoicing!*

***P: Praise God for wonderful acts of mercy and kindness!***

*L: God has remembered God's faithful ones.*

***P: God has poured blessing upon blessing upon us!***

*L: Praise the Lord, all the earth, shout your praise!*

***P: Rejoice, for God is truly with us. AMEN.***

**HYMN #400**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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

**OPENING PRAYER**

***Lord, we are gathered here today as one body, because you chose to call us your friends. We come from all walks of life. We have had our share of good days and bad days. In the world's eye, we aren't good enough or worthy enough to have this bond; but in your sight, we are exactly who you need. Despite all the drama, we made it here to worship and praise your name. May the love we experience today in worship restore us, revive us, refresh us. God, use our broken selves as tools of hope and love on this day. Lord, we love you. Thank you for loving us and calling us your friends. It's in your name, we pray. Amen.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **\*Acts 10:44-48**

*\* During Eastertide a reading from Acts is often substituted for the lesson from the Hebrew Bible.*

- 10:44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.  
10:45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles,  
10:46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said,  
10:47 "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"  
10:48 So, he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

### **Psalm 98 (Please read responsively the bold text)**

- 98:1 O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.**  
98:2 The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.  
**98:3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**  
98:4 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
**98:5 Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.**  
98:6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.  
**98:7 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.**  
98:8 Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy  
**98:9 at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

### **1 John 5:1-6**

- 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child.  
5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.  
5:3 For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome,  
5:4 for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith.

5:5 Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

5:6 This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

**John 15:9-17** *(Please stand for the Gospel)*

15:9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

15:10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

15:11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

15:12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

15:13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

15:14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

15:15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

15:16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

15:17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

*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.)*

***Loving and merciful God,***

***we thank you for the community in which you have placed us,***

***for the brothers and sisters with whom we walk this pilgrim journey.***

***Yet, we confess that we fail to love as you love.***

***We push aside those whom we believe are the least in your Kingdom.***

***We fail to see your Kingdom in parables***

***because we fail to see your Kingdom in each other.***

***Form in us a new vision of community***

***in which there is neither East nor West, neither South nor North.***

***We pray for the sake of your Kingdom***

***that both is and is not yet. Amen.***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*Long ago Jesus said to his disciples,  
"I have called you friends, because I have made  
known to you everything that I have heard from [God].  
You did not choose me, but I chose you!"  
Jesus speaks these words to us today.  
Jesus forgives us and chooses us to be his friends,  
sharing his great work of love. Hallelujah!*  
***In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.***

## **HOMILY**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH** *(United Church of Canada)*

***We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.  
We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
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**

Reflection on "Nettleton" Jeffrey Blersch

## **DOXOLOGY**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*God of unimaginable love, we have known of your caring since we were babies in our mother's arms. We have been told the stories of your love, and we have sung songs about your love. These things bring us comfort. What challenges us is the command of Jesus, "As I have loved you, so you should love one another" – not just those who think as we do, pray as we do, and look the way that we do. Help us, through our giving, our living and our loving, to live up to the challenge of loving as you would have us love. In the name of our risen Savior, 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 #557**

Blest Be the Tie that Binds  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed with permission)

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

Postlude on "Nettleton" Jeffrey Blersch

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***Partners for 2021 – 2022 Scholars***

If you are interested in being a **partner** (formally known as a sponsor/mentor) for a future scholar recipient for the 2021-2022 school year, please reach out to Judy Leffler at [judyleffler1@gmail.com](mailto:judyleffler1@gmail.com).

### ***LTUMC App & Member login update***

LTUMC App: We are working closely with our website design & hosting company. We are developing a new LTUMC app for our cell phones – both for iPhones and Android smart phones.

LTUMC Website Membership login update: Thank you for those of you who provided updated information for our new LTUMC directory and taking updated pictures. We will have an online directory and it will only be viewable to the LTUMC family through your unique login. This is taking a little longer than expected but is coming along.

***One thing you can do now is to set up your own individual e-mail address if you do not already have one. Some couples share an e-mail address and the program is requiring each person have their own individual e-mail address.***

Please reach out to Saunders if you are unable to have your own individual e-mail. If you need help in creating a new e-mail address, please reach out to Saunders at [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org) | [saunderv@hotmail.com](mailto:saunderv@hotmail.com) | 469-569-2314.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY**

***Please pray for Chad & Anne Zimmerman, Marty Young, Jan Crocker, Thomas Blackstock, Katherine Jeter, Marcus' nephew Steven Hudson, Cathie Fussell's nephew, Jeff Tilley, Madison Coleman & the Jeter family, Conor, Cynthia Wood's friends' two-year-old son, Frank Hardin, Bill Holden***

***Please pray for those with illness, upcoming surgery and recovery. Please pray for them, their recoveries and spouse/caregiver.***

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

***Please pray for all student scholars as they are finishing their school year. A special request from Molly Cammack - "I am in the process of applying for a very exciting education opportunity! Please keep me in your prayers!"***

## **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

Liturgists: Bobbi & Stan Moore



## Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 400

1. Come, thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to  
 2. Here I raise mine Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy  
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con -

sing thy grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,  
 help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good plea - sure,  
 strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter,

call for songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious  
 safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a  
 bind my wan - dering heart to thee. Prone to wan - der, Lord, I

son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! I'm  
 stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God; he, to res - cue  
 feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O

fixed up - on it, mount of thy re - deem - ing love.  
 me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
 take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758 (1 Sam. 7:12)  
 MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

NETTLETON  
 87.87 D

# Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in  
 2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our  
 3. We share each oth - er's woes, our mu - tual  
 4. When we a - sun - der part, it gives us

Chris - tian love; the fel - low - ship of  
 ar - dent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our  
 bur - dens bear; and of - ten for each  
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.  
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

WORDS: John Fawcett, 1782  
 MUSIC: Johann G. Nægeli; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1845

DENNIS  
 SM