



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, September 26th 2021

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 26th

9:30 A.M. Livestream link: <https://youtu.be/O5bBpUMaU6I>

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Morning Song" Gilbert Martin

Prelude on "Dove of Peace" Gilbert Martin

GREETING

*If it had not been God who was on our side,
the troubles of our world would have swallowed us whole.*

*If it had not been God who was on our side,
the sorrows of our times would have swept us away.*

Are any among us suffering?

Come and pray.

Are any among us cheerful?

Come sing songs of praise.

Are any among us sick?

Come and ask for healing.

Our help is in our God,

the One who made heaven and earth.

Call upon God, creator and rescuer.

God is with us!

HYMN #160

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

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

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

Eternal God, you create us and you rescue us. Be here with us now. Help us know how much we need you. Teach us that no other power can support us like your power. As you share your power with us in our worship today, teach us to be Christ to the world, proclaiming your reign for all people. As you lavish your love upon us, help us receive that love and offer it to the world, in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

- 7:1 So, the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther.
- 7:2 On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled."
- 7:3 Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me -- that is my petition -- and the lives of my people -- that is my request.
- 7:4 For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king."
- 7:5 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?"
- 7:6 Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.
- 7:9 Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that."
- 7:10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.
- 9:20 Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,
- 9:21 enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year,
- 9:22 as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Psalm 124 (Please read responsively the bold text)

- 124:1 If it had not been the LORD who was on our side -- let Israel now say --
- 124:2 if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,**
- 124:3 then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;
- 124:4 then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;**
- 124:5 then over us would have gone the raging waters.
- 124:6 Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.**
- 124:7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 124:8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

James 5:13-20

- 5:13 Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.
- 5:14 Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.
- 5:15 The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.
- 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.
- 5:17 Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.
- 5:18 Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.
- 5:19 My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another,
- 5:20 you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Mark 9:38-50 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 9:38 John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us."
- 9:39 But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.
- 9:40 Whoever is not against us is for us.
- 9:41 For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.
- 9:42 "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.
- 9:43 If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.
- 9:45 And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.
- 9:47 And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,
- 9:48 where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.
- 9:49 "For everyone will be salted with fire.
- 9:50 Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with 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.)

Creating and rescuing God, your power amazes us. Yet even in our amazement, we take too long to turn to you, forgetting that you are the power that makes and saves and sustains us. Even when we claim your power, we often do so for our own success and comfort, ignoring your command to use your power on behalf of the weak, the small, and the vulnerable. In Jesus Christ, you show us that you are on the side of all people, but never at the expense of the weakest among us. Forgive us when we try to hoard you for ourselves and try to control who has access to your love. Forgive us when our greed, our control, and our scandals keep others from knowing you. Redeem us and transform us, O God. Open our hearts, our lives, and our ministries, that we may become a doorway to your realm. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

God turns our sorrow into gladness and our times of mourning into celebration. God hears the prayer of faith. Be confident as we pray for one another, for God heals us and forgives us.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #883, 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 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.

HYMN #396

O Jesus, I Have Promised
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Meditation on "St. Anne" Paul Manz

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of the beginning, God of now, and God of what will be; in your claiming us as your own, you have given us the most gracious and powerful invitation – to pray to lift all that weighs on our hearts, with the confidence that you will hear. As we offer gifts to you this morning, we pray that you will dedicate them so that they might bring love, compassion, joy, and mercy to people who are in need. Then remind us that we are not done until we have offered to you the prayers of our hearts. In the name of Jesus, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 #577

God of Grace and God Glory
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart arr. Robert A. Hobby

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Masks now required for all at Sunday services & Coffee Hour cancelled

We have been made aware a fellow parishioner who attended the 9/19/21 service who had been fully vaccinated contracted Covid-19 and will have an infusion. If you are having any flu or cold like symptoms please get tested as soon as possible. In an effort to keep everyone safe, Marcus consulted with some of the leadership team and decided to require masks be worn by everyone attending the church services starting 9/26/21. Please continue to welcome our guests and visit with each other outside on church grounds. We have cancelled coffee hour until further notice all for our safety.

LTUMC App for your Smart Phone

We are excited to announce we have the LTUMC app up and running for your smart phone. It is available for both iPhone and Android phones. Simply search "Lake Toxaway UMC" in the App Store or the Play Store.

Push notifications is now active on both iPhone and Android phones. The messages will go out to anyone who has the app installed. This will allow Marcus or Saunders to send a message on changes for services with inclement weather etc. We do not plan to use this feature often but it should be helpful for all. With the iPhones you are given the option to opt out of receiving notifications when you install the app. We ask you do not opt out.

Administrative Council Meeting

The Administrative Council will meet on Friday, October 8th at 9:00 AM. If you are a member of the Council, you will receive a Zoom Invite. If you are not a member and would like to attend the meeting, please email Tom Blackstock or Saunders Grommesh as these meetings are open to all members, but only members have a vote if actions are required. You may e-mail Tom at Tom.Blackstock@gmail.com or Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org.

Charge Conference Meeting

The Annual WNC UMC Charge Conference will be Sunday, October 10th at 3:30 PM. If you are interested in joining via Zoom please let Marcus know at marcus61dodson@gmail.com.

Outreach – Feeding those at The Haven

Thank you to the following volunteers who have signed up to feed those staying at The Haven.

Louis Spencer – August 15th

John & Char Holbrook – October 3^d

John & Judy Lefler – November 14th

Flowers outside the church & in the Memorial Garden

Thank you to Paula and Fred Markert for the beautiful Fall flowers they planted at the front of the church and in the Memorial Garden.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for Jack Jeter, Renee Alexander, Kitty Neff, John & Sue Thomas, Donna Parker, Chad & Anne Zimmerman, Marty Young, Cathie Fussell's brother, Lonnie Taylor and nephew, Jeff Tilley, Bobbi Moore's sister, Nancy Schubert, Conor, Cynthia Wood's friends' two-year-old son, Barbara Cline-Sanibel, Judy Lefler's friend, Bill Holden and Frank Hardin.

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

Please pray for those about to have surgery, their recoveries and spouse/caregiver(s).

Please pray for our student scholars.

Please pray for students, families, teachers, bus drivers and the rest of the county schools' volunteers and administrative staff.

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

Liturgist: Carole Guffey

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

1. Re - joyce, ye pure in heart; re - joyce, give
 2. Your clear ho - san - nas raise, and al - le -
 3. Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing
 4. At last the march shall end; the wea - ried
 5. Praise God who reigns on high, the Lord whom

thanks, and sing; your glo - rious ban - ner
 lu - ias loud; whilst an - swering ech - oes
 as ye go; from youth to age, by
 ones shall rest; the pil - grims find their
 we a - dore, the Fa - ther, Son, and

wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
 up - ward float, like wreaths of in - cense cloud.
 night and day, in glad - ness and in woe.
 heaven - ly home, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
 Ho - ly Ghost, one God for - ev - er - more.

Refrain

Re - joyce, re - joyce, re - joyce, give thanks and sing.
 Re-joyce, re-joyce, re-joyce,

O Jesus, I Have Promised

396

1. O Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;
 2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near;
 3. O let me hear thee speak-ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4. O Je - sus, thou hast prom-ised to all who fol-low thee

be thou for-ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear;
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur-murs of self - will.
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser-vant be.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,
 my foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan-der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.
 but Je - sus, draw thou near - er, and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard-ian of my soul.
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my Friend.

WORDS: John E. Bode, ca. 1866 (Lk. 9:57)
 MUSIC: Arthur H. Mann, 1881

ANGEL'S STORY
 76.76 D

577 God of Grace and God of Glory

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to
 4. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the search for thy sal - va - tion

bring her bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom,
 free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
 grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, (of this hour) for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, (of these days) for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, (king - dom's goal) lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 dore, (we a - dore) serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

WORDS: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 87.87.87

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