



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, January 1st, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service & Communion
First Sunday after Christmas Day, January 1st

9:30 A.M. Livestream is now available via the LTUMC YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Good People All, This Christmas Time arr. Jack Jones
(Irish Carol)

CALL TO WORSHIP

A new day has dawned, a new year begun.

O Lord, call us so we may hear Your voice.

The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future.

O Lord, keep us in Your ways and on Your path.

We enter this new year with hope and excitement.

O Lord, remind us that You lead us to places of safety

Just as you led Joseph, Mary and Jesus to Egypt so long ago.

O Lord, guide us as we look to You and worship You.

HYMN #245

The First Noel

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

OPENING PRAYER

God of hope and light, your good news has been emblazoned across the skies, the great starry night of Jesus' birth, sung by angels, celebrated by shepherds, witnessed by animals. You have given us a new chance, a reminder of your continual love for us. Be with us in this worship, we pray. Guide our thoughts, our lives, and our spirits. Heal and restore us. For we ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 63:7-9

63:7 I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

63:8 For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior

63:9 in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity, he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Psalm 148 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

148:1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

148:2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

148:3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

148:4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

148:6 He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

148:7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

148:8 fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

148:9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

148:10 Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

148:11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

148:12 Young men and women alike, old and young together!

148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

148:14 He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Hebrews 2:10-18 (Epistle Reading)

- 2:10 It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
- 2:11 For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,
- 2:12 saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."
- 2:13 And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."
- 2:14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,
- 2:15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.
- 2:16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.
- 2:17 Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.
- 2:18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Matthew 2:13-23 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 2:13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."
- 2:14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,
- 2:15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."
- 2:16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.
- 2:17 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:
- 2:18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."
- 2:19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,

- 2:20 "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."
- 2:21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.
- 2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.
- 2:23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (#881 The 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.***

THE GLORIA PATRI #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.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

We come to you this day, gracious Lord, exhausted from all the activities of the season and the added stress from weather related issues. It seems we spend so much energy, time, and resources in preparation, and then when it is over, we collapse. We regret our failed and changed plans. We wonder what happened to all the enthusiasm we had. Lord, forgive us for placing our energies in getting and gathering. Give us peace and strength to renew our commitment to you. Remind us again to look around at the many ways in which we can be of service to you. Help us to move forward in Your compassion and not collapse in our witness. Heal us, merciful Lord, for we ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Though the world swirls around you and exhaustion threatens to overtake you, rest your spirits in the great God of all creation who is with you now and forever. God will give you strength, restore your spirits, and guide you in His dreams.

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Go Tell it on the Mountain arr. James Biery

DOXOLOGY #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of new beginnings, as we move into this new year, stir in us the feelings of expectation! Kindle our hearts and minds to see possibilities for our world and for your kingdom. Use our offerings to protect those in danger of any kind through our Outreach efforts. Lord, help us to give generously this day and bless these gifts for Your Service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Savior and Redeemer. AMEN.

HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION #249

There's a Song in the Air
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks and remembers God's acts of salvation, and concludes:...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:...and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering

for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

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.

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN (*See hymn in the back*)

As with Gladness Men of Old
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed with permission)

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Amen.

POSTLUDE (*Please be seated*)

Rise Up Shepherd and Follow arr. Jack Jones

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Potluck/Covered Dish:

*Our next potluck will be **Tuesday, January 10th at 6:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.*

2022 Year End Statements:

If you have moved in 2022 and have made offerings/donations to LTUMC, please be sure to e-mail Saunders with your winter mailing address. She will ensure our CPA has your current address for the year end statement to be mailed out in time for your taxes. Saunders Grommesh: administrator@laketoxawayumc.org

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions.

Please pray for those having or had a surgery and their recovery. Especially for Frank Tindall, Kitty Neff's son. Frank is having surgery on December 8th in Charlottesville.

We lift up those who are actively searching for employment and pray for perseverance for them.

Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the recent passing of a loved one.

Please continue to pray for our student scholars preparing for final exams, our local students, teachers and 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: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434 & Scott Walter: 314-374-2969

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Andy Harvill: 828-884-3548

Liturgist: John Lefler

Hymns are located on the next few pages and used with permission via One License #737113-A

The First Noel

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1. The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the
 3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -
 5. Then en - tered in those Wise Men three, full rev - erent -

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay
 east, be - yond them far; and to the earth it
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was
 hem it took its rest; and there it did both
 ly up - on the knee, and of - fered there, in

keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 his pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

WORDS: Trad. English carol (Lk. 2:8-14; Mt. 2:1-12)
 MUSIC: Trad. English carol; harm. from *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

THE FIRST NOEL
 Irr. with Refrain

249 There's a Song in the Air

1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
 2. There's a tu - mult of joy o'er the won - der - ful birth,
 3. In the light of that star lie the a - ges im - pearled;
 4. We re - joice in the light, and we ech - o the song

There's a moth - er's deep prayer and a ba - by's low cry!
 for the vir - gin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
 and that song from a - far has swept o - ver the world.
 that comes down through the night from the heav - en - ly throng.

And the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,
 Ay! the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,
 Ev - ery hearth is a - flame, and the beau - ti - ful sing
 Ay! we shout to the love - ly e - van - gel they bring,

for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
 for the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!
 in the homes of the na - tions that Je - sus is King!
 and we greet in his cra - dle our Sav - ior and King!

WORDS: Josiah G. Holland, 1874
 MUSIC: Karl P. Harrington, 1904

CHRISTMAS SONG
 66.66.12 12

As with Gladness

1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing
 2 As with joy-ful steps they sped to that low-ly
 3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at that man-ger
 4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day keep us in the

star be-hold; as with joy they hailed its light,
 man-ger bed, there to bend the knee be-fore
 rude and bare, so may we with ho-ly joy,
 nar-row way; and when earth-ly things are past,

lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright, so, most gra-eious
 him whom heaven and earth a-dore, so, may we with
 pure and free from sin's al-loy, all our cost-liest
 bring our ran-somed lives at last where they need no

Lord, may we ev-er-more your splen-dor see.
 wil-ling feet e-ver seek the mer-cy seat.
 trea-sures bring, Christ, to you, our heaven-ly King.
 star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.

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Spirit of the Living God

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

WORDS: Daniel Iverson, 1926; adapt. (Acts 11:15)
 MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

LIVING GOD
 75.75.875

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