



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, January 29th 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, January 29th

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

RINGING OF THE BELL – *Please observe silence as we prepare for the service.*

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision Dale Wood

GREETING

Happy are we

when our treasures cannot be quantified.

Happy are we

when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.

Happy are we

when our pain is held in the balm of love.

Happy are we

when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.

HYMN #61

Come, Thou Almighty King

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

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

Loving God, we come this morning seeking to abide in your presence. Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom, that we may know how to live as your people. Open our hearts to your spirit of truth, that we may love all your people with a love that speaks of justice, kindness, and grace. May this time of worship be authentic and pleasing to you. We pray in the holy name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Micah 6:1-8

- 6:1 Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.
- 6:2 Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.
- 6:3 "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
- 6:4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.
- 6:5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."
- 6:6 "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?
- 6:7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
- 6:8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Psalms 15 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 15:1 O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?
- 15:2 Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;
- 15:3 who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;**
- 15:4 in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;
- 15:5 who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.**

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (Epistle Reading)

- 1:18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
- 1:19 For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."
- 1:20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
- 1:21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

- 1:22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,
1:23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
1:24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
1:25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.
1:26 Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.
1:27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;
1:28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are,
1:29 so that no one might boast in the presence of God.
1:30 He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
1:31 in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Matthew 5:1-12 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 5:1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
5:2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
5:10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
5:11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
5:12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Please be seated)*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

Lord and Creator,

let us embrace the costly blessings which you desire for us,

blessings that confound the wisdom and strength of this world.

Teach us to be your agents of preservation in a world touched by death,
and beacons of hope in a world shrouded in darkness.

Transform us into your image through the crucible of the cross,

writing your mandates upon our hearts, made pure by your perfect love.

Embolden us to be your ambassadors,

Living as representatives of your holy kingdom,

stirring in us your love for others,

especially for those who would seek to destroy us because of you.

Make us decrease so that you might increase,

as a watching world sees you, not us.

Daily we declare that your priorities are ours,

even before our own needs and desires.

Every moment we live, we live for your glory—

the glory of a loving Father and a just King.

Free us of any distraction, craving or anxiety

that would keep us from fully following you.

For we acknowledge that everything we could possibly need
is yours to give us.

Remind us of our sinful brokenness and your gift of grace

as we encounter brokenness in others.

You are the answer to our every question.

You are the treasure that we desperately seek,

and it is you who invite us into your salvation,

as prodigals returning to the Father's embrace.

Keep us upon your path of righteousness and justice,

bearing the good fruit of your Spirit,

for it is on you, Lord Jesus, that all hope is built,

For all of creation, now and forever more. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The God of blessing and love be with all of us.

We embrace God's blessing and love and proclaim:

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #884 *(The Korean Creed – Please stand)*

We believe in the one God, creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations, the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love. We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the Savior of the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength. We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every need. We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice. We believe in the church, those who are united in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service. We believe in the reign of God as the divine will realized in human society, and in the family of God, where we are all brothers and sisters. We believe in the final triumph of righteousness and in the life everlasting. 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 #472

Near to the Heart of God
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Pastorale Robert J. Powell

DOXOLOGY #95 *(Please be stand)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of all blessings, your Beloved Son teaches all we need to know to claim the life you have hoped for us, yet we live like the rest of the world, eager to accumulate and reluctant to give, showering adoration on the rich and powerful and ignoring the poor and powerless. And we bring to you our gifts, which are the result of your blessings, help us to remember who Jesus called truly blessed! We pray in the name of our Teacher and Savior. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please be seated)*

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 #451

Be Thou My Vision

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude in F major Johann Krebs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LTUMC Survey Results:

Thank you to the 107 individuals who completed our recent short survey regarding the future direction of Lake Toxaway UMC. Of those who had an opinion, approximately 60% wished to remain affiliated with the United Methodist Church. The Administrative Council will use these results as we chart the future course of LTUMC. Thank you again.

Administrative Council Meeting:

*The next Administrative Council meeting will be **Friday, February 10th at 9:00 AM.** Please reach out to Tom Blackstock with any questions.*

Combined February & March Potluck:

*The next potluck will be combined of both February & March and will be held on **Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:00 PM.***

Ash Wednesday – February 22nd:

*The Ash Wednesday service will be on **Wednesday, February 22nd around 7:00 PM** immediately following the potluck.*

2022 Year End Giving Statements:

The 2022 giving statements have been mailed out last week, and you should receive it by the end of January. If you have not received it by the end of the first week of February. Please email Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org.

New sign-up sheets:

The 2023 sign-up sheets for flowers and coffee hour are in the Fellowship Hall.

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 Stephen Wood's mother, Shirley who is recovering well. Katherine Jeter is also recovering well. Please pray for Ed Byrd who is recovering from hip surgery.

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

Please continue to pray for our student scholars, 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: Tom Blackstock

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

Come, Thou Almighty King

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1. Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy
 2. Come, thou in - car - nate Word, gird on thy
 3. Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred
 4. To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to sing, help us to praise! Fa - ther all
 might - y sword, our prayer at - tend! Come, and thy
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour. Thou who al -
 prais - es be, hence, ev - er - more. Thy sov - reign

glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;
 might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,
 maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days!
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend!
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power!
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore!

WORDS: Anon.
 MUSIC: Felice de Giardini, 1769

ITALIAN HYMN
 664.6664

Alt. tune: AMERICA

Near to the Heart of God

D B⁷/D[#] Em A A⁷ D

1. There is a place of qui-et rest, near to the heart of God;
 2. There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God;
 3. There is a place of full re-lease, near to the heart of God;

D D B⁷/D[#] Em A D/A A⁷ D

a place where sin can - not mo - lest, near to the heart of God.
 a place where we our Sav-ior meet, near to the heart of God.
 a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

Refrain G G/D D D/A A⁷ D/A A⁷ A D

O Je-sus, blest Re-deem-er, sent from the heart of God,

G D A A⁷ D

hold us who wait be - fore thee near to the heart of God.

United Methodist Hymnal 472

WORDS: Cleland B. McAfee, 1903

MUSIC (McAFEE, CM with Refrain): Cleland B. McAfee, 1903

Be Thou My Vision

451

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

WORDS: Ancient Irish; trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.
 MUSIC: Trad. Irish melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1963

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