



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Community Worship Service**  
**Baptism of the Lord, January 8th**

**9:30 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S\\_Cfg1sWCg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg)

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

**PRELUDE**

Fairest Lord Jesus    Richard Peek

**GREETING**

*L: In the very beginning, God separated the darkness and the light. God called the Light, "Day," and the Darkness, God call "Night."*

***P: We were once people who dwelt in darkness, but God has given us the true Light, Jesus Christ.***

*L: God has blessed us and adopted us as God's own beloved children through the sacrament of Baptism.*

***P: The water of baptism brings to us healing and reconciliation; it is a symbol of nourishment and cleansing.***

*L: This day is the day of the remembrance of Jesus' baptism.*

***P: As we hear the words of his baptism, let us be reminded of our own adoption by God and celebrate the joyous connection to the Almighty God.***

**HYMN #57**

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

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

**OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)***

***Spirit of righteousness, God of power and might,  
help us to be a light to the nations  
and a reflection of your glorious salvation.***

***Work in our lives and in our ministries,  
that the world might know  
the power of your love and grace.***

***As you alighted upon Jesus as his baptism,  
descend upon us this day,  
that we may be a people of hope and possibility.***

***Wash us clean and renew our spirits,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord we pray. Amen.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Isaiah 42:1-9

- 42:1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- 42:2 He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;
- 42:3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- 42:4 He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
- 42:5 Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:
- 42:6 I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,
- 42:7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.
- 42:8 I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.
- 42:9 See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

### Psalm 29 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 29:1 Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 29:2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.
- 29:3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.**
- 29:4 The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
- 29:5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.**
- 29:6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 29:7 The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.**
- 29:8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 29:9 The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"**
- 29:10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
- 29:11 May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!**

**Acts 10:34-43 (Epistle Reading)**

- 10:34 Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,  
10:35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.  
10:36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all.  
10:37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:  
10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.  
10:39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;  
10:40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,  
10:41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.  
10:42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.  
10:43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

**Matthew 3:13-17 (Please stand for the Gospel)**

- 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.  
3:14 John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"  
3:15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.  
3:16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.  
3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

*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.)*

***We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again, let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*The love of God is always offered to us, freely, joyfully, for all eternity. Rejoice, dear friends, this is the Good News of our Lord!*

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

## **HOMILY**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH #885 (A Modern Affirmation)**

***Pastor:***

*Where the Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is the one true church, apostolic and universal,  
whose holy faith let us now declare:*

***Pastor and People***

***We believe in God the Father,  
infinite in wisdom, power and love,  
whose mercy is over all his works,  
and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.***

***We believe in Jesus Christ,  
Son of God and Son of man,  
the gift of the Father's unfailing grace,  
the ground of our hope,  
and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit  
as the divine presence in our lives,  
whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance  
of the truth of Christ,  
and find strength and help in time of need.***

***We believe that this faith should manifest itself  
in the service of love  
as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord,  
to the end***

***that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. 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 #175**

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

**OFFERING**

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

**OFFERTORY**

Prayer Douglas E. Wagner

**DOXOLOGY**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

***God of the water that cleans us, the land that feeds us, and the air that allows us to breathe your Spirit in and out of us; you claim us in our baptism, but too few of us even remember our own baptism. And if we remember (or imagine) our baptism, we too rarely grasp its meaning and power. As we present our tithes and offering in worship and witness Christ's baptism once again, may we remember that in that water we were, like Christ, commissioned to go: to teach, preach, heal, and even to take up a cross. In Christ, we pray. 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 #157**

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

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

O For a Thousand Tongues Alicie Jordan

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LTUMC Winter 2022 Newsletter:**

*Our Winter 2022 newsletter will be e-mailed to you with a goal of 1/8/22.*

### **Next Potluck/Covered Dish:**

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

### **2022 Year End Giving 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 giving statement to be mailed out in time for your taxes. Saunders Grommesh: [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto:administrator@laketoxawayumc.org)*

## **PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY**

***Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions. Especially for Jack Matthews. Meriam says he was admitted to the hospital last week and are running tests on him.***

***Please pray for those having or had a surgery and their recovery. We also lift Katherine Jeter up in prayer as she a broken hip and a cracked rib and is waiting to hear if surgery is needed.***

***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. Especially for Ed Castle who died last week. Please pray for the Castle family as well.***

***Please continue to pray for our student scholars, our local students, teachers and staff as the start a new semester.***

## **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)

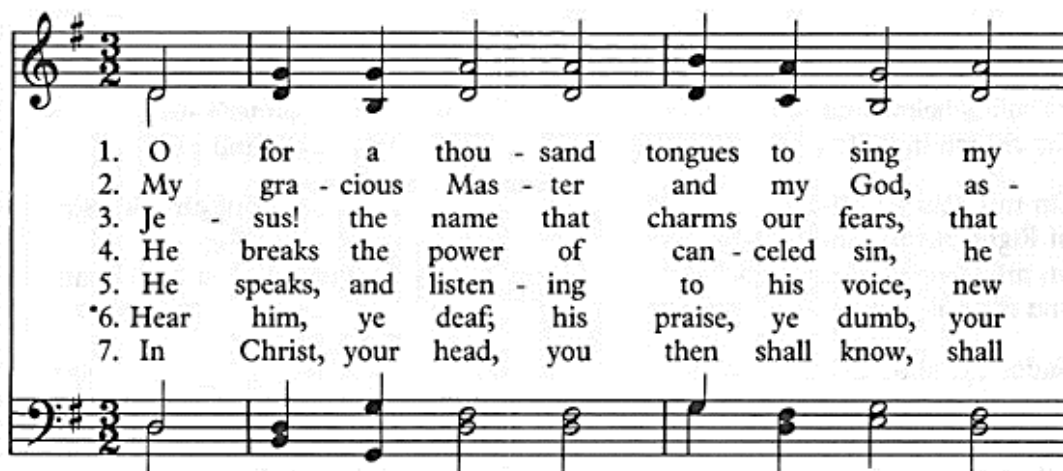
Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434 & Scott Walter: 314-374-2969

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

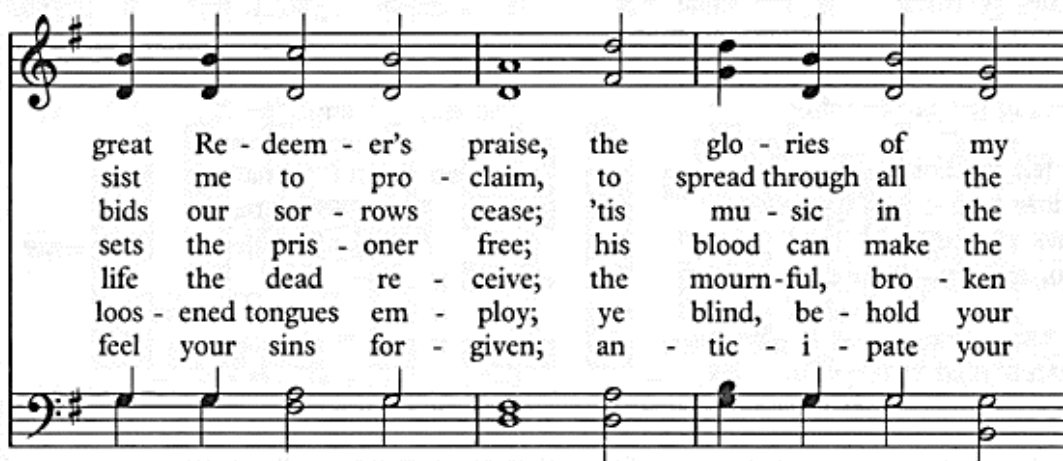
Liturgist: Carole Guffey

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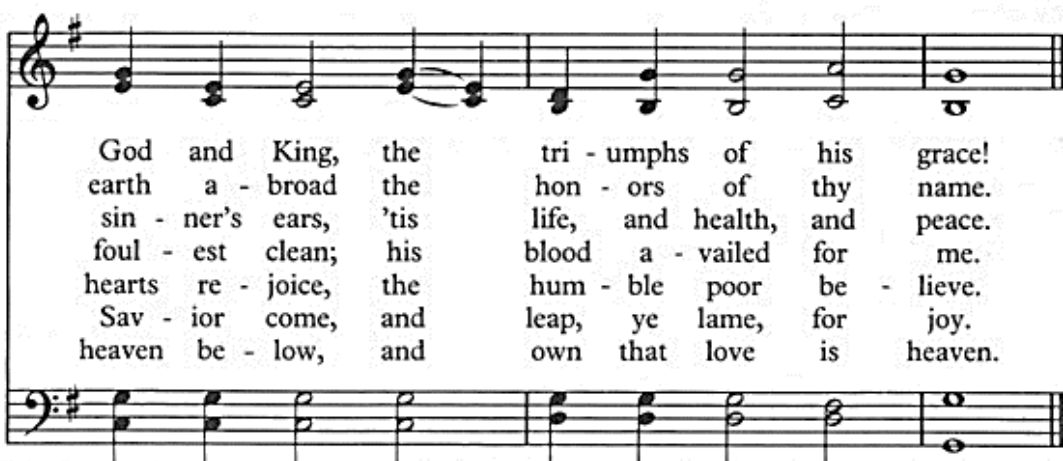
## O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing 57



1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my  
 2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -  
 3. Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, that  
 4. He breaks the power of can - celed sin, he  
 5. He speaks, and listen - ing to his voice, new  
 \*6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your  
 7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall



great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my  
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the  
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis mu - sic in the  
 sets the pris - oner free; his blood can make the  
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful, bro - ken  
 loos - ened tongues em - ploy; ye blind, be - hold your  
 feel your sins for - given; an - tic - i - pate your



God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!  
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.  
 sin - ner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.  
 foul - est clean; his blood a - vailed for me.  
 hearts re - jice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.  
 Sav - ior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.  
 heaven be - low, and own that love is heaven.

\*May be omitted

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739  
 MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser, arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON  
 CM

Alt. tune: RICHMOND



# Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee 175

1. Je - sus, the ver - y thought of thee  
 2. O hope of ev - ery con - trite heart,  
 3. But what to those who find? Ah, this  
 4. Je - sus, our on - ly joy be thou,

with sweet - ness fills the breast; but sweet - er far thy  
 O joy of all the meek, to those who fall, how  
 nor tongue nor pen can show; the love of Je - sus,  
 as thou our prize wilt be; Je - sus, be thou our

face to see, and in thy pres - ence rest.  
 kind thou art! How good to those who seek!  
 what it is, none but his loved ones know.  
 glo - ry now, and through e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Attr. to Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th cent.; trans. by Edward Caswall, 1849  
 MUSIC: John B. Dykes, 1866

ST. AGNES  
 CM

# Jesus Shall Reign

157

1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
2. To Je - sus end - less prayer be made, and end - less  
3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his  
4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; all pris - oners  
5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom spread from  
prais - es crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
leap and loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -  
cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men!

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 72)  
MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793

DUKE STREET  
LM