



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, October 15th, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 15th

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

Great is Thy Faithfulness Dan Miller

GREETING (*Please stand as you are able*)

L: Good morning! God's morning!

C: Every morning is God's morning, followed by God's afternoon and God's evening.

L: All time is held in the arms of God.

C: We wake; we work; we rest and sleep; we live and learn; we share and die in the time God has made.

L: Come, let us worship our Creator on God's good morning.

C: Thanks be to God for this day, for this good morning, on which we worship the One through Whom all good things come. Amen.

HYMN #140

Great is thy Faithfulness

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

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

Lord of a world wounded by our human desires to control, to injure and to retaliate, we call upon you this day to open our hearts to your love, our ears to your words, our eyes to see the needs of those both near and far, and our spirits to do your will. Be with us and give us courage and inspiration for the future of your world, O Lord Jesus, the Christ. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 32:1-14

- 32:1 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."
- 32:2 Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me."
- 32:3 So, all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron.
- 32:4 He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"
- 32:5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD."
- 32:6 They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.
- 32:7 The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely;
- 32:8 they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"
- 32:9 The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are.
- 32:10 Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."
- 32:11 But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?
- 32:12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.
- 32:13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'"
- 32:14 And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 106:1 Praise the LORD! O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.
- 106:2 Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD, or declare all his praise?
- 106:3 Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.**
- 106:4 Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your people; help me when you deliver them;
- 106:5 that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that I may glory in your heritage.**
- 106:6 Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.
- 106:19 They made a calf at Horeb and worshiped a cast image.**
- 106:20 They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass.
- 106:21 They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt,**
- 106:22 wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.
- 106:23 Therefore, he said he would destroy them-- had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him, to turn away his wrath from destroying them.**

Philippians 4:1-9 (Epistle Reading)

- 4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.
- 4:2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.
- 4:3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.
- 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
- 4:5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
- 4:6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- 4:8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
- 4:9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 22:1-14 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 22:1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying:
- 22:2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.
- 22:3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.
- 22:4 Again, he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.'
- 22:5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business,
- 22:6 while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.
- 22:7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.
- 22:8 Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.
- 22:9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.'
- 22:10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.
- 22:11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,
- 22:12 and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless.
- 22:13 Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
- 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen."

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.)*

God of infinite forgiveness, we implore you this day to forgive those many times in which we have turned our backs on you by turning away from the needs of the voiceless, the hopeless, the helpless. We let ourselves get distracted by schedules and activities which drain us of energy and enthusiasm. Light a fire under us, O God, that we may again feel the exciting challenge of being your people. Heal our wounds of indifference and apathy; bring us together in harmony and joy to serve you and your creation with peace, care, and hope. It is in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, that we offer this prayer. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Feel the powerful warmth of God's love for you! God is with you, healing and restoring your lives and bringing you peace. This is the good news from our persistent and patient God. AMEN.

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 #398

Jesus Calls Us

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Wonderful Words of Life Robert J. Powell

DOXOLOGY #95 *(Please be stand)*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Mighty and righteous God, as we bring our tithes and offerings to your altar, we confess we see ourselves in the stiff-necked Israelites in the wilderness. We are quick to lose sight of you, especially when our focus is turned in the direction of gold. Your anger and disappointment are so justified, and as Moses intervened for the Israelites, Jesus has advocated for us with his very life. Help us to keep our focus as you light the pathway you would have us walk. We pray this with gratitude for your love and in the name of your son, our 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 #467

Trust and Obey

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *(Please be seated)*

Trumpet Tune Sam Batt Owens

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

*The flowers on the altar are given by **Mary Pat and Fred Martin to the Glory of God in memory of Ruth Cech, in honor of Marcus Dodson and the church family.***

Fall flowers planted

*Thank you to **Paula and Fred Markert for planting Fall flowers** in the Memorial Garden and around the outside of the sanctuary.*

No Coffee Hour

*We will no longer have coffee hour due to the new Fellowship Hall construction. However, **Jon Finstrom & Brenda Morris are hosting a coffee hour** at their home after church on **Sunday, November 5th.** Details to follow closer to the date.*

Flower Sign-up calendar

The sign-up calendar for flowers will go electronic due to the Fellowship Hall construction. Flowers for the altar will be posted on the calendar on our LTUMC website.

***We currently have availability on 10/22, 10/29, and 11/26.** The month of December is full. Please reach out to Saunders to sign up.*

Out Reach Prayer Request for The Haven, a homeless shelter in Brevard

The Haven of Brevard is one of the ten outreach non-profits your general LTUMC contributions support. This month the outreach committee asks for continued prayer for The Haven's efforts meeting the needs of the homeless in our area. For more information see: <https://havenoftc.org/> - Many Blessings.

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 Marcus as he recovers from knee 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: Fred Markert: 828-553-3303

Liturgist: Drew Prusiecki

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

1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en - dur-eth, thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man-i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy

hand hath pro - vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923 (Lam. 3:22-23)
 MUSIC: Willem M. Runyan, 1923

FAITHFULNESS
 11 10.11 10 with Refrain

© 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

Jesus Calls Us

398



1. Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult of our
2. As of old the a - pos - tles heard it by the
3. Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
4. In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
5. Je - sus calls us! By thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to



sweet voice sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me!"
 toil and kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more!"
 cares and plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these!"
 thine o - be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.



WORDS: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1852 (Mt. 4:18-22)
 MUSIC: William H. Jude, 1874

GALILEE
 87.87

467

Trust and Obey

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,
 2. Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share,
 3. But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of his love
 4. Then in fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at his feet,

what a glo - ry he sheds on our way!
 but our toil he doth rich - ly re - pay;
 un - til all on the al - tar we lay;
 or we'll walk by his side in the way;

While we do his good will, he a - bides with us still,
 not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
 for the fa - vor he shows, for the joy he be - stows,
 what he says we will do, where he sends we will go;

and with all who will trust and o - bey.
 but is blest if we trust and o - bey.
 are for them who will trust and o - bey.
 nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.

WORDS: John H. Sammis, 1887 (1 Jn 1:7)
 MUSIC: Daniel B. Towner, 1887

TRUST AND OBEY
 669 D with Refrain