



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, October 8th, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 8th

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

GREETING *(Please stand as you are able)*

L: From dens of slavery, through burning deserts, people of faith came forth.

P: From lives encompassing both wealth and impoverishment, we come to this place of worship.

L: Hear the great lessons of faith, offered to you through the centuries. We have not hidden the struggles from you, but invite you to place yourselves on the pathways of hope.

P: Though our individual lives may differ, we all come seeking God's loving guidance and forgiveness.

L: Welcome to this house of God, a place of continuing hope and courage.

P: Bless each one of us, O Lord, that we may fully receive your word and seek your will for our lives. AMEN.

HYMN #64

Holy Holy Holy

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

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

Lord, from the mountaintop in ancient Israel, you gave your people ways in which to live in harmony with all creation. As time has progressed the power of those words seems to have faded in our lives and we often succumb to base temptations of power and greed. Bring us back to your words of compassion and hope, offered to all creation by your Son Jesus. Open our hearts to receive your love and your direction in our lives. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

- 20:1 Then God spoke all these words:
- 20:2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;
- 20:3 you shall have no other gods before me.
- 20:4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
- 20:7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
- 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.
- 20:9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work.
- 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
- 20:13 You shall not murder.
- 20:14 You shall not commit adultery.
- 20:15 You shall not steal.
- 20:16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 20:17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.
- 20:18 When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance,
- 20:19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die."
- 20:20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Psalm 19 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 19:1 The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- 19:2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**
- 19:3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
- 19:4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**
- 19:5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
- 19:6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.**
- 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

- 19:8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;**
- 19:9 the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- 19:10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**
- 19:11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
- 19:12 But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.**
- 19:13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
- 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

Philippians 3:4b-14 (Epistle Reading)

- 3:4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:
- 3:5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;
- 3:6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
- 3:7 Yet whatever gains I had; these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.
- 3:8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ
- 3:9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.
- 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,
- 3:11 if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
- 3:12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.
- 3:13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
- 3:14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 21:33-46 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 21:33 "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.
- 21:34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce.
- 21:35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.

- 21:36 Again, he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way.
- 21:37 Finally, he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'
- 21:38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'
- 21:39 So, they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.
- 21:40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"
- 21:41 They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."
- 21:42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"
- 21:43 Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.
- 21:44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."
- 21:45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them.
- 21:46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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.)

Loving and gracious God, you are so patient with us.

We run away, and you seek us.

We make foolish choices, and you teach us the better way.

We hurt you and others, and instead of hurting us back, you forgive us.

Help us, we pray; help us reveal your glory and goodness in our living,

That we will bear the imprint of Christ throughout the world. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the words of hope! Though the days seem to darken quickly, the brilliant light of your love and presence will always be a guide and comfort to us. This is the Good News of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #880 (The Nicene Creed)

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.*

Through him all things were made.

*For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.*

*On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.*

*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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

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

*Generous and giving God, you have offered us a deep and soul-satisfying relationship with you, one that extends far beyond our earthly journey; and too many of us have opted for a "faith-lite" experience. One day a week or a couple of times a month has been a better fit. We have rejected what you so generously offer us, even as we dwell in and are sustained by your vineyard. As we offer our gifts this day, may we better receive the relationship you offer us and may we walk more closely. In Christ's holy name, we pray.
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 #529

How Firm a Foundation
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *(Please be seated)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest Pastor

Please welcome Rev. Andrew Crimmins back as our pastor today. He is the pastor of St. Timothy in Brevard for just over a year now.

Flowers on the Altar

*The flowers on the altar are given by **Kay and Tom Blackstock to the glory of God.***

Annual Charge Conference

*The annual WNC UMC Charge Conference is **today, October 8th at 4:00 PM at Etowah UMC.***

Sign-up calendars

The sign-up calendars for coffee hour and flowers and sign-up sheet for ushers are going electronic due to the Fellowship Hall construction. The last coffee hour we will have is on Oct 15th. 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.

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: Brian Singleton

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

64 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

WORDS: Reginald Heber, 1826 (Rev. 4:8-11)
 MUSIC: John B. Dykes, 1861

NICAEA
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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

How Firm a Foundation

529

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
 2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
 3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
 4. "When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
 5. "The soul that on Je - sus still leans for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
 for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can he say than to you he hath said,
 I'll strength - en and help thee, and cause thee to stand
 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

WORDS: "K" in Rippon's *Selection of Hymns*, 1787 (2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5; Is. 43:1-2)
 MUSIC: Early USA melody; harm. from *Tabor*, 1866

FOUNDATION
 11 11.11 11