



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, November 12th, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 12th

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)*

God is great, and greatly to be praised!

***We thank you, God, for families and friends. We thank you for the warmth of
kitchens, quilts, and good neighbors.***

God, how great is your name throughout the earth!

***We thank you, God, for newborn kittens and faithful dogs, for pine trees and
sunlight and crisp, clean air.***

Blessed be God, the rock of our salvation!

***We thank you, God, for the sound of laughter and the touch of love, for brand new
mornings and for dreams held close.***

*Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise with songs of
praise.*

Come! Let us worship God.

HYMN #715

Rejoice, the Lord is King
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

***Creator God, who claims us as your own, we bring our full selves to worship
today. Our happiness and our sorrow, our singing and our crying, our
strengths, and our failures—we carry it all. Teach us to trust that your
faithfulness endures in all the seasons and circumstances of our lives. Help
us to know that all that we are is bound to you and teach us to rest on your
steadfast love as the source of our gratitude and joy as we, your sheep,
follow you wherever you lead. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

- 24:1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.
- 24:2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors--Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor--lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.
- 24:3a Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.
- 24:14 "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.
- 24:15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."
- 24:16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;
- 24:17 for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed;
- 24:18 and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."
- 24:19 But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins.
- 24:20 If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good."
- 24:21 And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!"
- 24:22 Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses."
- 24:23 He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel."
- 24:24 The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey."
- 24:25 So, Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Psalm 78:1-7 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 78:1 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,
78:3 things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.
78:4 We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.
78:5 He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;
78:6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,
78:7 so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (Epistle Reading)

- 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
4:14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.
4:15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.
4:16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
4:17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.
4:18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Matthew 25:1-13 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.
25:2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
25:3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;
25:4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
25:5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.
25:6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'
25:7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.
25:8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'
25:9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'

25:10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.

25:11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.'

25:12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.'

25:13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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.)

Merciful God,

We confess that we neglect to acknowledge you as God in our lives.

We live like we have complete control over our own future.

We forget that you created us and that we are the sheep of your pasture.

We separate ourselves from the flock and abandon our bonds with one another as we try to do it all on our own.

We have traded gratitude for individualism and thanksgiving for self-reliance.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us to live as your grateful people. We humbly pray in Jesus' holy name.

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Receive the good news:

God's steadfast love endures forever!

*While we were yet sinners, God made a way for us
to return to God and to return to one another.*

By God's grace, we are a forgiven and reconciled people.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #883 *(United Church of Canada)*

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

***We are called to be the church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. 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 #405

Seek Ye First
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

Holy Shepherd of all generations, we bring our gifts this morning with thanksgiving and praise! We present these tithes and offerings not from hearts of obligation or debt, but with the confidence and joy that through your love made incarnate in your son Jesus, you've forever removed our debt. Our joy and gratitude are hard to contain. Use our gifts and our lives to do your work of compassion, mercy, and redemption. In Christ's 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 #540

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (*Please be seated*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

*The flowers on the altar are given by **Kellie and Drew Prusiecki** in loving memory of **Kellie's father, Malcolm Applegate, and Drew's parents, Walter and Lillian Prusiecki.***

LTUMC Mailing Address

For those of you who mail your gifts in, please use our mailing address: P.O. Box 83, Lake Toxaway, NC 28747 to ensure proper delivery. We have had backup postal carriers who do not know we do not have a physical mailbox at the church.

Construction pictures

Things are progressing with construction. We have a link under the Building Update menu on our website with the top link bringing you to pictures taken. The Fellowship Hall is bare with only one set of lights available, trees have been removed, footings are being worked on and water and electrical lines have been dug. Please [click here](#) to see the pictures on our website. We will continue to upload pictures so you may follow the progress.

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 Marilyn Beck.

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: Stephen Wood

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

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

715

1. Re - joice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore;
 2. Je - sus the Sav - ior reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3. His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
 4. Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Je - sus the Judge shall come,

mor - tals, give thanks and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.
 the keys of earth and hell are to our Je - sus given.
 and take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
 We soon shall hear th'arch - an - gel's voice;

re - joice; a - gain I say, re - joice.
 re - joice; a - gain I say, re - joice.
 re - joice; a - gain I say, re - joice.
 the trump of God shall sound, re - joice!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1746 (1 Cor. 15:51-52)
 MUSIC: John Darwall, 1770; harm. from *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, alt.

DARWALL'S 148th
 66.66.88

Seek Ye First

405

Al - le - lu - ia, Al -

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and his
 2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and

le - lu - ia, Al - le -

righteous - ness, and all these things shall be
 ye shall find; knock, and the door shall be

lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 opened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Karen Lafferty, 1972 (Mt. 6:33; 7:7)
 MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1972

SEEK YE
 Ira.

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

540

1. I love thy king-dom, Lord, the house of thine a - bode, the
 2. I love thy church, O God! Her walls be-fore thee stand dear
 3. For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers as-cend, to
 4. Be - yond my high-est joy I prize her heaven-ly ways, her
 5. Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zi - on shall be given the

church our blest Re - deem-er saved with his own pre-cious blood.
 as the ap - ple of thine eye, and grav - en on thy hand.
 her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.
 sweet com - mu-nion, sol - emn vows, her hymns of love and praise.
 bright-est glo - ries earth can yield, and bright-er bliss of heaven.

WORDS: Timothy Dwight, 1801
 MUSIC: Aaron Williams, *The New Universal Psalmist*, 1770

ST. THOMAS
 SM