

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 3rd, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service & Communion
First Sunday of Advent, December 3rd

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

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

The Sussex Carol arr. Charles Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather again at the end of the year to wait for the Christ child anew.

We wait in the hope of the coming of the Messiah.

We wait, and we remember the astounding things God has done to save God's people.

We wait in the hope of the coming of the Messiah.

We wait, and we pay attention for signs of God's justice and mercy turning the world upside down.

We wait in the hope of the coming of the Messiah.

We wait, and in our waiting, we learn to live as people of God's promise.

Let us worship in the hope of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.

HYMN #211

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Stanzas 1-4)

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

THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader 1: *In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out:*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Reader 2: *In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come" (Mark 13:35).*

Congregation: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of our hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

(Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.)

OPENING PRAYER

***O Holy God,
maker of every thought and thing,
open our hearts this day,
that we may know your presence
in this time and place.
Restore us now,
so we may see the special gift and calling
that you have for each of us.
Masterful potter of life,
mold us into the vessels
you would have us be.
Help us be ready for your promised return,
when you will be among us and within us
with new, creative, healing energy. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 64:1-9

- 64:1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
- 64:2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
- 64:3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
- 64:4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
- 64:5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.
- 64:6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
- 64:7 There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

64:8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

64:9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

80:1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

80:2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

80:3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

80:4 O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

80:5 You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

80:6 You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

80:7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

80:17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

80:18 Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

80:19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (Epistle Reading)

1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1:4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,

1:5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-

1:6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you--

1:7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13:24-37 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 13:24 "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,
- 13:25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
- 13:26 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.
- 13:27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
- 13:28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.
- 13:29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.
- 13:30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.
- 13:31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
- 13:32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
- 13:33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.
- 13:34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.
- 13:35 Therefore, keep awake--for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,
- 13:36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.
- 13:37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #881 (The Apostles' Creed)

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

THE GLORIA PATRI #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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Gesu Bambino Pietro Yon

DOXOLOGY #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Our God, architect of this world and all others: we know you had a vision for all your creation to dwell together. With the creatures of the air, earth, and sea, you long for us to live in respect and with one another. We give this morning, understanding that we have denied you that desire. We ask you to help us use who we are and what we have to heal this abused and broken world. In Christ, our Savior. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION # 203

Hail to the Lord's Anointed
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks and remembers God's acts of salvation, and concludes:...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:...and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering

for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #196

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed with permission)

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Amen.

POSTLUDE (Please be seated)

The Wexford Carol arr. Douglas E. Wagner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest musician

We welcome **Kristine Candler** as our guest musician today. Kristine is a graduate of the prestigious Eastman School of Music and serves as concert master of the Brevard Philharmonic Orchestra.

Flowers of the Altar for December The flowers on the altar for December are given by the Klines and Dodsons for the Glory of God.

Our Daily Bread Devotionals

The next quarter: December – February of Our Daily Bread devotionals are available. They are located at both entrances of the sanctuary.

Building Update

The concrete for the footings has been poured and the duct work has been redone in the existing Fellowship Hall this week.

Year-End Gifts

If you are planning on making a year-end gift, please ensure to use our mailing address:

LTUMC, P.O. Box 83, Lake Toxaway, NC 28747.

Please email Saunders at administrator@laketoxawayumc.org if your winter address has changed to ensure your 2023 giving statement gets to you for your taxes. Giving statements will be mailed in the early part of 2024.

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 Sherry Minnich's recovery & Marcus Dodson's upcoming surgery.

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

Please continue to pray for our student scholars preparing for final exams, 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: Carole Guffey

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

211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive
 2. O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, and or-der all things
 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on
 4. O come, thou Root of Jes - se's tree, an en-sign of thy

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show
 Si - nai's height in an-cient times once gave the law
 peo - ple be; be - fore thee ru - lers si - lent fall;

Refrain

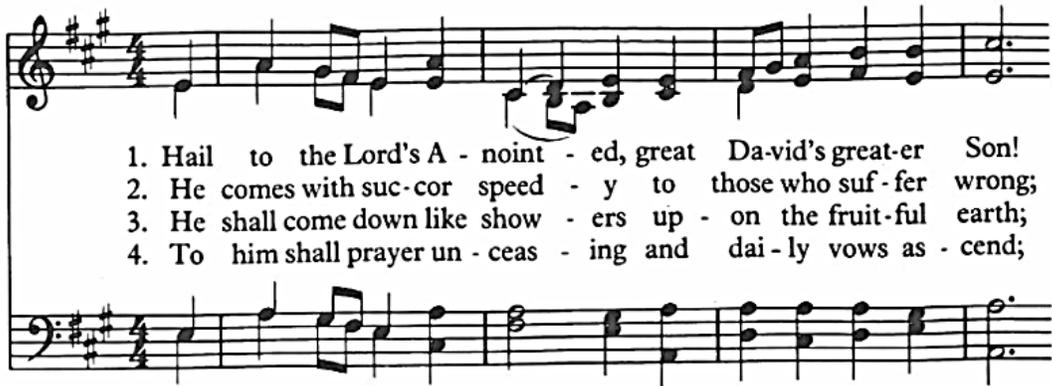
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and cause us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-
 in cloud and maj-es - ty and awe.
 all peo-ples on thy mer - cy call.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

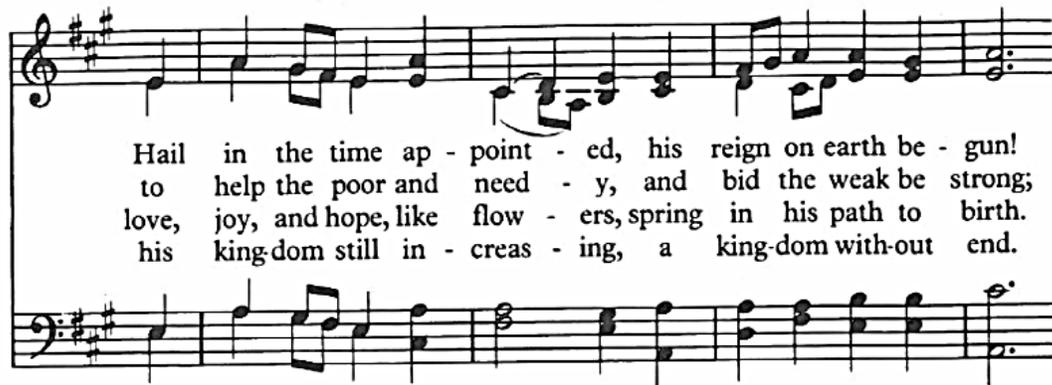
WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. st. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2, Henry VENI EMMANUEL
 Sloane Coffin, 1916; st. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986 LM with Refrain
 MUSIC: 15th cent. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854

Sts. 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund; trans. sts. 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd © 1989 The United
 Methodist Publishing House; antiphons © 1962 Sisters of St. Benedict

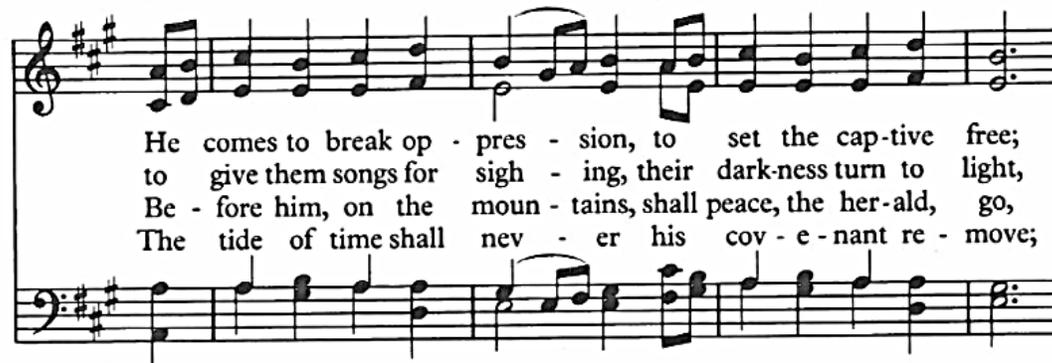
Hail to the Lord's Anointed



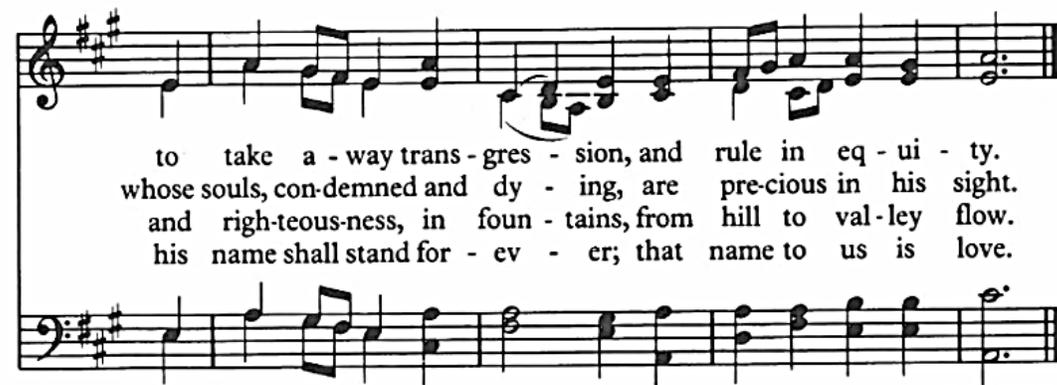
1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da-vid's great-er Son!
 2. He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong;
 3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;



Hail in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.
 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
 Be - fore him, on the moun - tains, shall peace, the her - ald, go,
 The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight.
 and righ - teous - ness, in foun - tains, from hill to val - ley flow.
 his name shall stand for - ev - er; that name to us is love.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1821 (Ps. 72)
 MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle*, 1784, alt;
 adapt. and harm. by W. H. Monk, 1868

ELLACOMBE
 76.76 D

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 196

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
 2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,
 yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
 now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
 spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744
 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

HYFRYDOL
 87.87 D

393

Spirit of the Living God

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

WORDS: Daniel Iverson, 1926; adapt. (Acts 11:15)
 MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

LIVING GOD
 75.75.875

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