



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, March 19th, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 19th

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

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us Dale Wood

GREETING

*When the world is dark and full of hate and fear,
when we cannot see God*

we will turn on the light.

When we cannot find our way back to love and peace

we will turn on the light.

When our vision dims due to the darkness within

we will turn on the light.

Christ opens our eyes with the gift of sight.

The light of the world is Jesus Christ.

*Come and worship the one
who brings sight to the blind.*

Hallelujah! Praise God, the light of the world!

HYMN #61

Come, Thou Almighty King

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

OPENING PRAYER (*Please be seated*)

***Gracious God, who created us in God's own image,
we are grateful for all that you have done for us,
for all that you are doing in us,
and for all that you will do through us.***

***Open our eyes to see your presence among us,
moving in powerful ways at all times
and in all places.***

***Open our ears to hear familiar words in new ways—
ways that will change us and challenge us
to become the people you created us to be.***

***Grant us the power and the courage
to come out of the darkness***

*and into the light of Jesus Christ,
that we may serve you by serving others.
We love you with all our heart, soul, mind,
and strength. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Samuel 16:1-13

- 16:1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."
- 16:2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'
- 16:3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."
- 16:4 Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"
- 16:5 He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.
- 16:6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD."
- 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."
- 16:8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."
- 16:9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."
- 16:10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."
- 16:11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."
- 16:12 He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one."
- 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Psalm 23 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

23:3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff-- they comfort me.

23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Ephesians 5:8-14 (Epistle Reading)

5:8 For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light-

5:9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

5:10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

5:12 For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly;

5:13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,

5:14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

John 9:1-41 (Please stand for the Gospel)

9:1 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.

9:2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

9:3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.

9:4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

9:6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes,

9:7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

9:8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"

9:9 Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man."

9:10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

9:11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

9:12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

9:13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

9:14 Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.

9:15 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

9:16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.

9:17 So, they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

9:18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight

9:19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

9:20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;

9:21 but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

9:22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

9:23 Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

9:24 So, for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."

9:25 He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

9:26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

9:27 He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

9:28 Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

9:29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

9:30 The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.

9:31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.

9:32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

9:33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

9:34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

9:35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

9:36 He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

- 9:37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."
9:38 He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.
9:39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."
9:40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"
9:41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

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.)

***Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain,
we would rather shut our eyes and be blind
than see things as they really are.***

***Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world,
and give us the strength to bring your light
to those who walk in darkness.***

***Help us see others as you see them,
and forgive us when we do not trust you enough
to open our eyes to the possibilities before us.***

***Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God,
and lead us in the footsteps
of the Light of the World,
who reveals your glory in his life,
his teachings, and his love.***

In his holy name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Christ came to lead us in paths of righteousness
and to guide us through our lives.*

Christ is with us in times of danger and times of peace.

*The goodness and mercy of God
are given to us each and every day of our lives.*

*God forgives us for our failings, upholds us in love,
and leads us to the place*

that Christ has prepared for us.

*Believe in your heart that God loves you
and forgives you.*

***We believe! God help our unbelief!
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 #454

Open My Eyes, That I May See
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Wondrous Love John Carter

DOXOLOGY #95 (Please be stand)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Generous God, you tenderly care for each person you have created. You miraculously restore people to health and shine light into the lives of those who are discouraged. Guide us so that we will not regard others according to outward appearances but seek to find your love in their hearts. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves to contribute to the work of your kingdom on earth until Christ returns in glory. 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 #381

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude in E minor Johann Krebs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome our new LTUMC Members:

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members to our LTUMC family. Please introduce yourself to Louise Miller of Lake Toxaway, Joe & Liz Haraschak of Lake Toxaway, Michael & Stephanie Taylor of Burlingame, Eleanor Wall & Janet English of Sapphire.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions. Especial for Arthur Shealy, who has become ill. He is the brother and brother-in-law of Carl & Donna Shealy.

Please pray for those having or had a surgery and their recovery.

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: Andy Harvill: 828-884-3548

Liturgists: Beth Holimon

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Come, Thou Almighty King

61

1. Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy
 2. Come, thou in - car - nate Word, gird on thy
 3. Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred
 4. To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to sing, help us to praise! Fa - ther all
 might - y sword, our prayer at - tend! Come, and thy
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour. Thou who al -
 prais - es be, hence, ev - er - more. Thy sov - reign

glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;
 might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,
 maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days!
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend!
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power!
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore!

WORDS: Anon.
 MUSIC: Felice de Giardini, 1769

ITALIAN HYMN
 664.6664

Alt. tune: AMERICA

454 Open My Eyes, That I May See

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth thou
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth

hast for me; place in my hands the won - der - ful key
 send - est clear; and while the wave - notes fall on my ear,
 ev - ery - where; o - pen my heart and let me pre - pare

Refrain
 that shall un - clasp and set me free.
 ev - ery - thing false will dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I
 love with thy chil - dren thus to share.

wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy will to see.

O - pen my eyes,
 O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
 O - pen my heart,

WORDS: Clara H. Scott, 1895
 MUSIC: Clara H. Scott, 1895

OPEN MY EYES
 88.98 with Refrain

381 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we
 2. We are thine, thou dost be - friend us, be the
 3. Thou hast prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and
 4. Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly

need thy ten - der care; in thy pleas - ant pas - tures
 guard - ian of our way; keep thy flock, from sin de -
 sin - ful though we be; thou hast mer - cy to re -
 let us do thy will; bless - ed Lord and on - ly

feed us, for our use thy folds pre - pare.
 fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 lieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.
 Sav - ior, with thy love our bos - oms fill.

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! Hear, O
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! We will
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast

WORDS: Attr. to Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836 (Jn. 10:1-29)
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1859

BRADBURY
 87.87 D

bought us, thine we are. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 hear us when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 ear - ly turn to thee. Bless - ed Je - sus,
 loved us, love us still. Bless - ed Je - sus,

bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 bless - ed Je - sus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.
 bless - ed Je - sus! We will ear - ly turn to thee.
 bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

ASSURANCE, *see further:*

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|--|
| 128 | He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought | 292 | What Wondrous Love Is This |
| 622 | There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood | 342 | Where Shall My Wondering Soul
Begin |