



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, March 26th, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 26th

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

Prayer Douglas E. Wagner

GREETING

*Coming from places that have seen better days,
**God bids us to celebrate this day,
a day full of new possibilities.***

*Coming with our breath taken away by grief,
**the Holy Spirit breathes new life within us,
renewing our connection with God
and with one another.***

*Coming to worship seeking a hope that will endure,
**Christ unbinds the fetters that hold us in death,
speaking in word and sacrament,
and building community for holy service.***

HYMN #384

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

***God of life, present and promised,
you are the One to whom we call:
for you are the One who hears,
and you are the One who acts,
bringing us new life
with your grace and love and power.
Lead us in our time of worship,
that we may be prepared to follow your lead
in places where life is at risk—
places where hope seems far away,
places where dreams die during sleep.
When we leave these walls,
help us live the teachings we proclaim***

*within this place of worship,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ezekiel 37:1-14

- 37:1 The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.
- 37:2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.
- 37:3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."
- 37:4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.
- 37:5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.
- 37:6 I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."
- 37:7 So, I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.
- 37:8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.
- 37:9 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."
- 37:10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.
- 37:11 Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'
- 37:12 Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.
- 37:13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.
- 37:14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

Psalm 130 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 130:1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
- 130:2 Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!**
- 130:3 If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
- 130:4 But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.**
- 130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
- 130:6 my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.**

130:7 O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

130:8 It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Romans 8:6-11 (Epistle Reading)

8:6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

8:7 For this reason, the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot,

8:8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

8:9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

John 11:1-45 (Please stand for the Gospel)

11:1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

11:2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.

11:3 So, the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

11:4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

11:5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,

11:6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

11:7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

11:8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?"

11:9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world.

11:10 But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them."

11:11 After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him."

11:12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."

11:13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.

11:14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead.

11:15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

11:16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

11:17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

11:18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,

11:19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

11:20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

11:21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

11:22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."

11:23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

11:24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,

11:26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

11:27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

11:28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

11:29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

11:30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

11:31 The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

11:32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

11:33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

11:34 He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

11:35 Jesus began to weep.

11:36 So, the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

11:37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

11:38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

11:39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days."

11:40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

11:41 So, they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me.

11:42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me."

11:43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

- 11:44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."
11:45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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.)

***Forgive us, O God,
when we see the world
through rose-colored glasses
rather than as it really is,
much less the way you seek it to be.
Forgive us, Holy One,
when we forsake lively and risky faith
calling us to be agents of change in our world
for the bland conviction that all will be well.
Renew us with your grace
and ground us with your Spirit,
that we might be empowered to live,
in word and deed,
as testimonies to the power
of your love over the grave.
In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.***

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*The God we serve is the God of life,
the God of hope, the God of new beginnings—
even for dried-up bones and shattered dreams.
That rattling of bones in Ezekiel's vision
may be heard as the shackles that once held us down
in fear, sin, prejudice, and guilt.
God defies these deadly entanglements
with the power of life.
This we trust, and by this we live.
Thanks be to God!*

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 #420

Breathe on Me, Breath of God
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Wondrous Love Don Hustad

DOXOLOGY #95 (*Please be stand*)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***Almighty and restoring God, we have been living through some difficult days,
as churches and as individuals. We experience days when we rise, wondering
if we will make it through one more day, whether the church will survive for***

another generation; and we feel like those dry bones in the valley. As we offer our tithes and offerings, help us to hear the word of hope the prophet shares, not just with our ears but with our hearts. May it call us back to life and service, out of the graves of despair in which we have buried ourselves. In Christ's holy name. 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

Prelude in A minor Johann Krebs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers are in loving memory of John & Betsy's daughter, Elaine.

Palm Sunday

We will celebrate Palm Sunday next Sunday, April 2nd at 9:30 A.M.

Come to the Cross and Remember

Presented by the Cashiers Valley Community Chorus Sunday, April 2nd at 2 P.M. Free admission Lewis Hall at the Village Green in Cashiers. (See last page of this bulletin for the flyer)

Tenebrae & Communion Service

We will be having our Tenebrae & Communion service on Thursday, April 6th. (Maundy Thursday) at 7:00 PM. Marcus is looking for volunteer readers.

WNC UMC Charge Conference

There will be a WNC UMC Charge Conference on May 5th to discuss our Fellowship Hall renovation.

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.

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: Tom Blackstock

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

384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down; fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing;
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in thee in - her - it;
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,
 let us be. Let us see thy great sal - va - tion

all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, thou art
 let us find that sec - ond rest. Take a - way our
 nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be
 per - fect - ly re - stored in thee; changed from glo - ry

all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it
 bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of
 al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray and
 in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER
 87.87 D

Alt. tune: HYFRYDOL

us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

420

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Breathe on Me, Breath of God'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
till all this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Edwin Hatch, 1878 (Jn. 20:22)
MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM
SM

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

PRAYER, TRUST, HOPE

Refrain

Trust and o - bey, for there's no oth - er way to be

hap - py in Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey.

COME *to the* CROSS
and
REMEMBER



PRESENTED BY
CASHIERS VALLEY COMMUNITY CHORUS
SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND 2P.M. FREE ADMISSION
LEWIS HALL AT THE VILLAGE GREEN
160 FRANK ALLEN ROAD, CASHIERS, NC 28717