



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Community Worship Service & Communion**  
**Second Sunday in Lent, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30 A.M. Livestream is now available via the LTUMC YouTube channel:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S\\_Cfg1sWCg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg)

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRELUDE**

Prelude on "Foundation" Sam Batt Owens

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Please stand)*

*God calls with a blessing.*

***Our help is in God.***

*God calls with a promise.*

***Our help is in God.***

*God calls through our questions.*

***Our help is in God.***

*God calls through the Spirit.*

***Our help is in God.***

**HYMN #98**

To God be the Glory

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

**OPENING PRAYER** *(Please be seated)*

***Spirit of help and hope, be with us this day.***

***Breathe into our prayers and praise.***

***Breathe into our spirits.***

***Breathe into our worship with your promise of help,  
your promise of rebirth,***

***and your promise of blessing.***

***In faith and trust, we pray. Amen.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Genesis 12:1-4a

- 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.
- 12:2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.
- 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
- 12:4a So, Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

### Psalm 121 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 121:1 I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come?
- 121:2 My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**
- 121:3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
- 121:4 He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**
- 121:5 The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
- 121:6 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**
- 121:7 The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
- 121:8 The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

### Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 (Epistle Reading)

- 4:1 What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?
- 4:2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.
- 4:3 For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."
- 4:4 Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.
- 4:5 But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.
- 4:13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.
- 4:14 If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.
- 4:15 For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.
- 4:16 For this reason, it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,
- 4:17 as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") -- in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

### **John 3:1-17 (Please stand for the Gospel)**

- 3:1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.
- 3:2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."
- 3:3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."
- 3:4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"
- 3:5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.
- 3:6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- 3:7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'
- 3:8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."
- 3:9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"
- 3:10 Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"
- 3:11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.
- 3:12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?"
- 3:13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.
- 3:14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
- 3:15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
- 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
- 3:17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

***P: Thanks be to God.***

**SERMON**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #880 (*The Nicene Creed – Please stand*)**

***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.***

## **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 (*Please be seated*)**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
(Let us offer our silent confessions.)***

***God of salvation,  
you shower our lives and our world with love,  
yet we too often turn away from your blessing.  
It is just so easy to complain!  
There are little annoyances each day,  
but they pile up into a mountainous burden  
that becomes a curse on our lives.***

***Free us from our unwise choices, O God.  
When we are distracted and confused,  
redirect our attention to the abundant opportunities  
to experience you love.  
During this Lenten journey, focus our hearts on you,  
that we may choose the blessing of salvation  
offered us each day through Jesus Christ,  
in whom we pray. Amen.***

#### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn it,  
but that the world might be saved through him.  
Through the saving love of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven and blessed!*

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

#### **OFFERING**

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

#### **OFFERTORY**

Dearest Jesus, We are Here. David Cherwien

#### **DOXOLOGY #95**

#### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

***God of unwavering love, you have held nothing back in your love for us, not even your Son. How we marvel at that kind of love, and how we long to reflect a portion of that devotion back to you. As we dedicate our offerings to you, lead us away from our tendency to hold back and worry that there will not be enough. Help us to live as the people of love and abundance you have called us to be. In Christ we pray. Amen.***

#### **HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION #452**

My Faith Looks Up to Thee  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

#### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Please be seated)***

*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**

***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.***

#### **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 #369**

Blessed Assurance

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)***

Prelude in G minor Johann Krebs

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Memorial Service for Renée Alexander:**

*A memorial service is scheduled for March 11, 2023 at 2 PM at St. Giles Chapel at Deerfield 1617 Hendersonville Hwy., Asheville, 28803.*

### **Outreach update – The Haven**

*Thank you to the volunteers who signed up to feed those at The Haven, the homeless shelter LTUMC assists throughout the year.*

### **Our Daily Bread Devotionals:**

*New devotionals for March, April, and May are available in the Sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall.*

## **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](mailto:marcus61dodson@gmail.com)

Organist: Charlie Steele: [cwsorgan@comporium.net](mailto:cwsorgan@comporium.net)

Church Administrator: Saunders Grommesh, 469-569-2314, [administrator@laketoxawayumc.org](mailto: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: John Lefler

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



98 To God Be the Glory

1. To God be the glo - ry, great things He hath done; So loved He the  
 2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood, To ev - 'ry be -  
 3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, And great our re -

world that He gave us His Son, Who yield - ed His life an a -  
 liev - er the prom - ise of God; The vil - est of - fend - er who  
 joic - ing thro' Je - sus the Son; But pur - er, and high - er, and

tone - ment for sin, And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.  
 tru - ly be - lieves, That mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.  
 great - er will be Our won - der, our vic - t'ry, when Je - sus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord,

praise the Lord, Let the peo - ple re - joice! O come to the Fa - ther, thro'

Je - sus the Son, And give Him the glo - ry, great things He hath done.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915  
 MUSIC: William H. Doane, 1832-1915

TO GOD BE THE GLORY  
 11.11.11.11, with Refrain

# 452 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of  
 2. May thy rich grace im-part strength to my  
 3. While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a -  
 4. When ends life's tran-sient dream, when death's cold,

Cal - va - ry, Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me  
 faint - ing heart, my zeal in - spire! As thou hast  
 round me spread, be thou my guide; bid dark - ness  
 sul - len stream shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior,

while I pray, take all my guilt a - way,  
 died for me, O may my love to thee  
 turn to day, wipe sor - row's tears a - way,  
 then in love, fear and dis - trust re - move;

O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
 pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!  
 nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
 O bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

WORDS: Ray Palmer, 1875  
 MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1831

OLIVET  
 664.6664

## Blessed Assurance

1. Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine!  
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light,  
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest;

O what a fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine!  
 vi - sions of rap - ture now burst on my sight;  
 I in my Sav - ior am hap - py and blest,

Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God,  
 an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove  
 watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove,

born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.  
 ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.  
 filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

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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