



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, April 30th, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Fourth Sunday after Easter, April 30th

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

Partita on "O Sons and Daughters"

INTRODUCTION

Rev. Kerry Purselle

GREETING

L: Welcome!

P: Thank you.

L: For some of you, it has been a good week and for others difficulties abound.

P: We need peace and healing for our souls.

L: Rest. Open your hearts and lives to the Good Shepherd.

P: Lord, pour your balm of healing rest over our lives. AMEN.

HYMN #140

Great is Thy Faithfulness

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

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

***Risen Savior, Reliable Shepherd,
we hear your voice calling us to follow.
We remember our ancient brothers and sisters
who gathered in prayer and praise.
Today, we too gather in prayer and praise.
Enliven us with your resurrection power—
a power that frees us from despair.
Enliven us with your abundant life.
May your living power flow through us
in all we are and do! Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 2:42-47

- 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- 2:43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.
- 2:44 All who believed were together and had all things in common;
- 2:45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.
- 2:46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,
- 2:47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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.**

1 Peter 2:19-25 (Epistle Reading)

- 2:19 For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly.
- 2:20 If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval.
- 2:21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.
- 2:22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."
- 2:23 When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.
- 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.
- 2:25 For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

John 10:1-10 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 10:1 Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.
- 10:2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.
- 10:3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
- 10:4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
- 10:5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."
- 10:6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.
- 10:7 So again, Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.
- 10:8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them.
- 10:9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.
- 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

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.)

***Loving Savior, Shepherd with the voice we know,
be with us when we stray.***

***For we often hear the voices of strangers
and follow them to dry pastures
and dark valleys.***

***We forget your voice of love
and begin to feel small and lost.***

***We fear that we will not have enough to go on,
much less have a surplus to offer others.***

And yet you know us by heart and by name.

Call us once again.

Restore our souls.

***Walk ahead of us on the right paths,
and we will follow you.***

Remembering your voice, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Jesus restores our souls,
and makes us whole.
Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow us all the days of our lives.
And we will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.*

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT 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.***

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 #381

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Prelude on "Dove of Peace" Gilbert M. Martin

DOXOLOGY #95 (Please be stand)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Caring and compassionate God, we feel like we have been through so much. Battered by division, perceived by some as too judgmental and by others as too accommodating, and we know our witness to the world has suffered. Bless the gifts we give and help them to be used to sow seeds of kindness, healing, hope, and love. When we as a church falter, remind us that Christ, our Good Shepherd, never falters. In Christ, 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 #415

Take Up Thy Cross

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Victory" Alec Wyton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Rev. Kerry Purselle

We are grateful to have Rev. Kerry Purselle with us again to celebrate today's service. She is a retired minister from the Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC. She has preached several times for us and it is a joy to welcome her again to Lake Toxaway UMC.

Western NC UMC Charge Conference

*Our Western NC UMC Charge Conference will be held on **May 5th** to discuss our Fellowship Hall future renovation.*

Monthly Potluck/Covered Dish

Our next potluck will be Tuesday, May 8th at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great time to see others in a smaller gathering, and we encourage to bring your friends and neighbors. There is no sign-up.

Future potluck dates*: 6/13/23, 7/11/23, 8/8/23, 9/12/23, 10/10/23, 11/14/23, 12/12/23 (*subject to change).

Sign-up Sheets in the Fellowship Hall

If you would like to volunteer as an usher, sign up to sponsor, bring food for a coffee hour after our Sunday service, or have flowers/plant on the altar please look at the sign-up sheets or reach out to Saunders.

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. Especially for passing of Anne Vickery, mother and mother-in-law of Saunders & Matt Grommesh.

Please continue to pray for our student scholars, our local students, teachers and staff. Especially for our student scholars who are completing their last month of college classes and looking for work during the summer.

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: Bobbi & Stan Moore

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

140 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923 (Lam. 3:22-23)
 MUSIC: William M. Runyan, 1923

FAITHFULNESS
 11 10.11 10 with Refrain

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PROVIDENCE

morn-ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the upper staff.

hand hath pro - vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

The second system of music also consists of two staves in the same key signature and time signature as the first system. The lyrics are written below the upper staff. The system concludes with a double bar line.

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

ASSURANCE

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.

Take Up Thy Cross

415

1. "Take up thy cross," the Sav - ior said, "if thou wouldst
 2. Take up thy cross, let not its weight fill thy weak
 3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame, nor let thy
 4. Take up thy cross and fol - low Christ, nor think till

my dis - ci - ple be; de - ny thy - self, the
 spir - it with a - larm; his strength shall bear thy
 fool - ish pride re - bel; thy Lord for thee the
 death to lay it down; for on - ly those who

world for - sake, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 spir - it up, and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.
 cross en - dured, to save thy soul from death and hell.
 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

WORDS: Charles W. Everest, 1833 (Mt. 16:24-25; Mk. 8:34-35; Lk. 9:23-24)
 MUSIC: William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

GERMANY
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