



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Community Worship Service**  
**Ascension of the Lord, May 21st**

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

**RINGING OF THE BELL – *Please observe silence as we prepare for the service.***

**PRELUDE**

Partita on "St. Denio"    Austin C. Lovelace

**GREETING *(Please Stand)***

*Beloved, let us worship God!*

***Let us give praise to God, the one who rides upon the clouds!***

*Parent to orphans and Protector of widows,*

***God gives the desolate a home and leads the imprisoned into prosperity.***

*As God led the Israelites through the wilderness and provided for them,*

***we too find our dwelling in God's goodness and provision.***

*The Rider in the heavens speaks throughout creation;*

***We gather to listen and ascribe power to God!***

***Awesome is God in the sanctuary of creation!***

***Blessed be God! Amen.***

**HYMN #103**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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

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

***Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that we, who believe your only begotten Son,  
our redeemer,***

***ascended this day to heaven,  
may also in heart and mind there continually dwell;***

***through Jesus Christ  
who is alive with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.***

***Amen.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Acts 1:1-11

- 1:1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning
- 1:2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.
- 1:3 After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.
- 1:4 While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me;
- 1:5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."
- 1:6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"
- 1:7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.
- 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- 1:9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.
- 1:10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.
- 1:11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

### Psalm 47 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 47:1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.
- 47:2 For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.
- 47:3 He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.**
- 47:4 He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah
- 47:5 God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**
- 47:6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

**47:7 For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.**

47:8 God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

**47:9 The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.**

**Ephesians 1:15-23 (Epistle Reading)**

1:15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason

1:16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

1:17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,

1:18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,

1:19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

1:20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

1:22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,

1:23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**Luke 24:44-53 (Please stand for the Gospel)**

24:44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

24:45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,

24:46 and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,

24:47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

24:48 You are witnesses of these things.

24:49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

24:50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

24:51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

24:52 And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;

24:53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*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.)*

***God, we confess that we rarely recognize the Holy Spirit at work, even when He smacks us in the face. Worse yet, even when we do recognize this work of the Spirit, we don't acknowledge that it is you at work in our lives and in the world.***

***This week, you sent angels to watch over us. We barely uttered our thanks. We hurried on our way. Forgive us our inattentiveness and reluctance to credit you loudly and joyously. Teach us to tell our children and our children's children of your goodness. Teach us to tell our parents of your goodness. Teach us to tell even the supermarket clerk of your goodness!***

***We long to hear the good news of the resurrecting love of Christ Jesus. Still our hearts long enough for us to hear that you are with us.***

***Forgive us and restore us to the joy of our salvation. Amen.***

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*Easter people, God has done great things for you! Go, now, knowing the story of God's work in your lives that in all things, good and difficult, you can ask with confidence, "How will God show up now?" knowing all the while that God will, indeed, remove our sin and forgive us, and then take all our caring and point us toward joy.*

***In the Name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.***

***Thanks be to God. Amen.***

### **HOMILY**

#### **STATEMENT OF FAITH #887** *(Affirmation from Romans 8:35, 37-39)*

*Leader:*

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*

*Shall tribulation or distress,*

*or persecution or famine,*

*or nakedness or peril or sword?*

***People:***

***No,***

***In all things we are more than conquerors  
Through the One who loved us.  
We are sure that neither  
death nor life,  
nor angels, nor principalities,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Thanks be to God! 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 #396**

O Jesus, I Have Promised  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

**OFFERING**

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

**OFFERTORY**

Prelude on "Foundation" Sam Batt Owens

**DOXOLOGY #95 (Please be stand)**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him, all creatures here below  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost***

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

***God of wisdom and guidance, steer us, we pray, through our anxious times. The gifts we bring this day are a small part of all we have received. We push back our inclination to be more generous because of our anxiety about the economy. We hold back on sharing our faith. We hold back on inviting neighbors to church out of anxiety about how they might view the church right now. Remind us that it is Jesus we offer to the world, not us. Help us to cast the anxiety on Jesus, for the one the tomb could not hold can carry our anxiety with ease. In the name of Jesus, who broke the hold of death once and for all. 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 #529

How Firm a Foundation  
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

We Have Heard the Joyful Sound Robert J. Powell

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Memorial Services:**

*A memorial service for **Ed Castle**, a long time LTUMC church member is scheduled for **Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 2 PM.***

*A memorial service for **Anne Vickery**, Saunders Grommesh's mother is scheduled for **Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 2 PM.***

#### **June Potluck/Covered Dish**

*Our next potluck will be **Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your friends and neighbors.*

***Future potluck dates\***: 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.*

#### **Capital Campaign Thermometer**

*Please look at our Capital Campaign progress thermometer poster in the fellowship hall & on our website. We will be updating our status.*

## **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.***

***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: Tom Blackstock

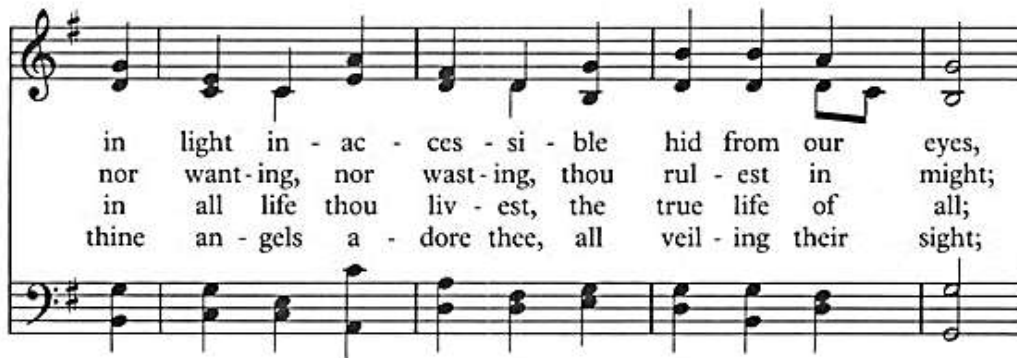
***Hymns are located on the next few pages and used with permission via One License #737113-A***



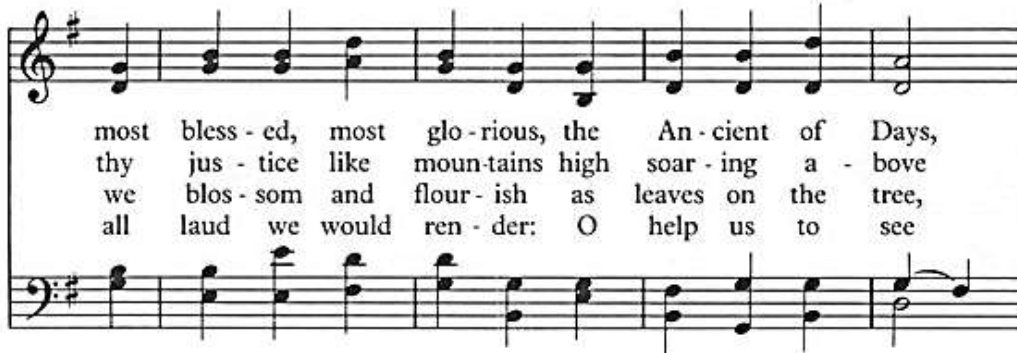
## Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 103



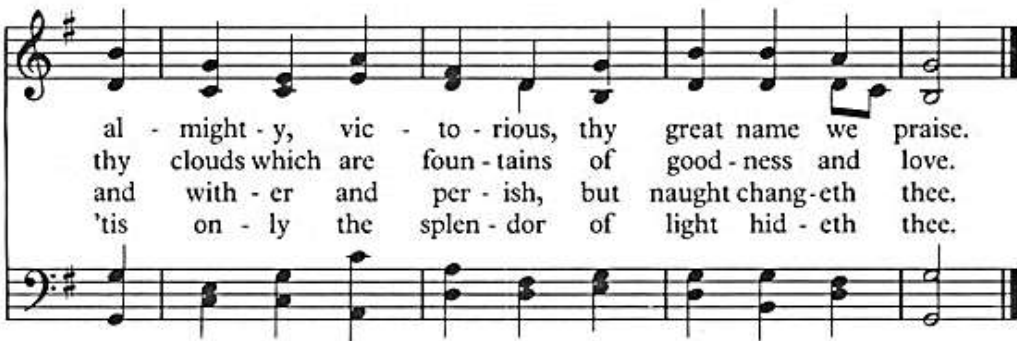
1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867 (1 Tim. 1:17)  
 MUSIC: Welsh melody from *Cantidau y Cyssegr*, 1839; adapt. by John Roberts

ST. DENIO  
 11 11.11 11

## O Jesus, I Have Promised

396

1. O Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;  
 2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near;  
 3. O let me hear thee speak-ing in ac - cents clear and still,  
 4. O Je - sus, thou hast prom-ised to all who fol - low thee

be thou for-ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend.  
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear;  
 a - bove the storms of pas-sion, the mur-murs of self - will.  
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser-vant be.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,  
 my foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
 And Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan-der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.  
 but Je - sus, draw thou near - er, and shield my soul from sin.  
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard-ian of my soul.  
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my Friend.

WORDS: John E. Bode, ca. 1866 (Lk. 9:57)  
 MUSIC: Arthur H. Mann, 1881

ANGEL'S STORY  
 76.76 D

## How Firm a Foundation

529

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
 2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
 3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
 4. "When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,  
 5. "The soul that on Je - sus still leans for re - pose,

is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!  
 for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;  
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
 I'll strength - en and help thee, and cause thee to stand  
 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - ni - po - tent hand.  
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

WORDS: "K" in Rippon's *Selection of Hymns*, 1787 (2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5; Is. 43:1-2)  
 MUSIC: Early USA melody; harm. from *Tabor*, 1866

FOUNDATION  
 11 11.11 11