

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, July 16th, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 16th

9:30 A.M. Livestream is available on the LTUMC YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCq

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

PRELUDE

What a Friend We Have in Jesus Dale Wood

GREETING *(Please Stand)*

Come, let us worship God!

Come, let us worship our Creator!

God is the great Sower, scattering seeds of life and abundance across the earth.

We are the soil the Sower plants, created to nurture and sustain the seeds of God's life-giving love.

God is the great Gardener, tilling and cultivating our soil with love and grace.

We notice the rocks and thorns in our soil and call on the Gardener's love and grace to transform us into good soil.

God is the great Life-giver, sowing seeds and tending the soil to produce the fruit of abundant life.

May we nurture and grow God's new reality, bearing the fruit of flourishing and abundance for all God's creation. Amen.

HYMN #139

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

Lord, you know us so well. We thank you for your presence in our lives, even when we don't recognize it. This day we have gathered, coming from a week of unexpected happenings and events which have surprised us. Make us ready to become stronger witnesses for your love as we receive your word and find our spirits and lives healed. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 25:19-34

- 25:19 These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac,
- 25:20 and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean.
- 25:21 Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.
- 25:22 The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So, she went to inquire of the LORD.
- 25:23 And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger."
- 25:24 When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb.
- 25:25 The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so, they named him Esau.
- 25:26 Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so, he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.
- 25:27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents.
- 25:28 Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.
- 25:29 Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished.
- 25:30 Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore, he was called Edom.)
- 25:31 Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright."
- 25:32 Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?"
- 25:33 Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So, he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.
- 25:34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus, Esau despised his birthright.

Psalm 119:105-112 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- 119:106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.**
- 119:107 I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word.
- 119:108 Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances.**

119:109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

119:110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

119:111 Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

119:112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

Romans 8:1-11 (Epistle Reading)

8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

8:3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

8:4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

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.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (Please stand for the Gospel)

13:1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.

13:2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

13:3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow.

13:4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.

- 13:5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.
- 13:6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.
- 13:7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.
- 13:8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
- 13:9 Let anyone with ears listen!"
- 13:18 "Hear then the parable of the sower.
- 13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.
- 13:20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;
- 13:21 yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.
- 13:22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.
- 13:23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SOLO It is Well With My Soul arr. Brenda C. Reep

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Please be seated)*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Let us offer our silent confessions.)

Seed-scattering God, we come to you this day with so many things on our hearts and minds. Some of the events this week have been very positive and have caused us to celebrate; but we are constantly besieged by worries, doubts and fears. These negative things crowd out your word and we become like the useless soil, unable to receive and grow. Slow us down. Continue to pour your love on us because we really hunger and thirst for it. Forgive us when we allow all the negativity to drown out your word. Scatter again the seeds of peace, love, hope and joy that we may be better disciples for you in this world which is in so much pain. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Here's the Good News! God is never going to stop showering us with God's love.....all the time, everywhere.....always for us. Hallelujah!

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #884 (Korean Methodist Church)

We believe in the one God, creator and sustainer of all things, Father of all nations, the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love. We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example, and Redeemer, the Savior of the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength. We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer, and in grace equal to every need. We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice. We believe in the church, those who are united in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service. We believe in the reign of God as the divine will realized in human society, and in the family of God, where we are all brothers and sisters. We believe in the final triumph of righteousness and in 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 #600

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY SOLO

Be Thou My Vision arr. Susan W. Henry

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

Creator God from whom all blessings grow: as we dedicate our tithes and offerings, we acknowledge that you have blessed us to be the fertile soil from which the good news of your kingdom will spring forth. Move us, we pray, beyond seeing our role as passive or powerless, depending totally on the quality of the seed and the expertise of the planter. Remind us that you are counting on us for fruitfulness, demonstrating for the world your love, grace, and power as we bear fruit that eases the suffering sick, feeds the hungry, brings justice to the oppressed and love and compassion to those who feel disconnected or forgotten. 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 #732

Come, We that Love the Lord
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Johann Walther

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest Soloist

We welcome back **Doug Grimm** as our guest soloist today. Doug has shared his God given talent with us in the past and recently in June. We hope he will be joining us again in August. Doug is a graduate of Brevard High School and holds degrees in music from UNC-G and Ohio University.

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by **Bill and Kay Ogburn in loving memory of their parents, Frank and Martha Ogburn and Lonie and Bethel Farmer.**

Sign-up Sheets in the Fellowship Hall

We have sign-up sheets for ushers, flowers and coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.

New Scholarship Prayer Bookmarks

We have the new 2023 -2024 LTUMC scholarship prayer bookmarks at both entrances of the church. Please pray for our new scholars as they are starting to head off to a new semester.

Audio-Visual (AV) Volunteers needed to help with the weekly livestream

We have many participating in our Sunday services either live or watching later at your convenience. If you would like to help with the livestream, please contact **Marcus** at [**marcus61dodson@gmail.com**](mailto:marcus61dodson@gmail.com).

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Please pray for those who have long-term illness, health concerns and special intentions. Marilyn Beck is asking for healing of all skin cancer and that the surgery beginning July 25th in Atlanta would be successful. She is also asking for a Christ like attitude during this time.

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 John and Char Holbrook's niece, Anwen and her four children. Joe, her husband had a heart attack and died while at a lake this past week.

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

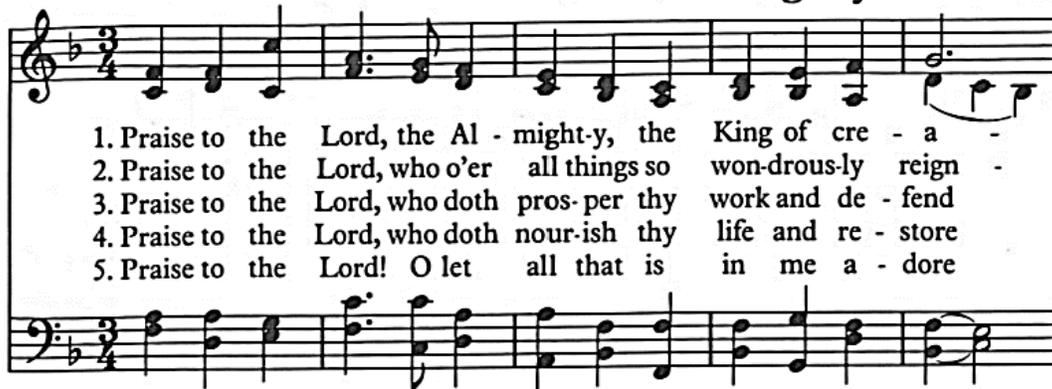
Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434 & Scott Walter: 314-374-2969

Audio/Visual for Livestream Chair: Fred Markert: 828-553-3303

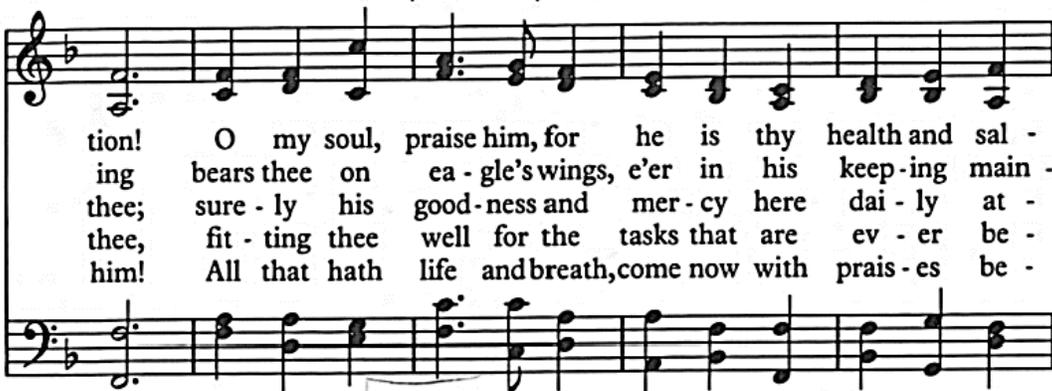
Liturgist: Lysa Riggs

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

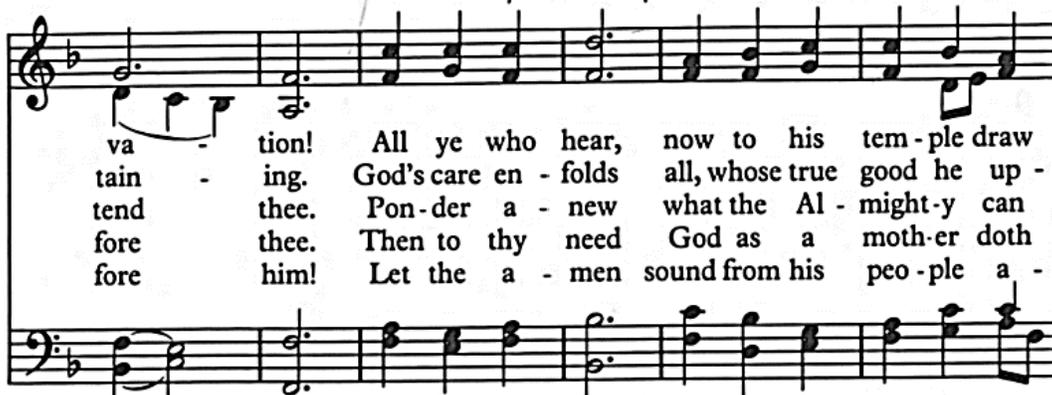
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 139



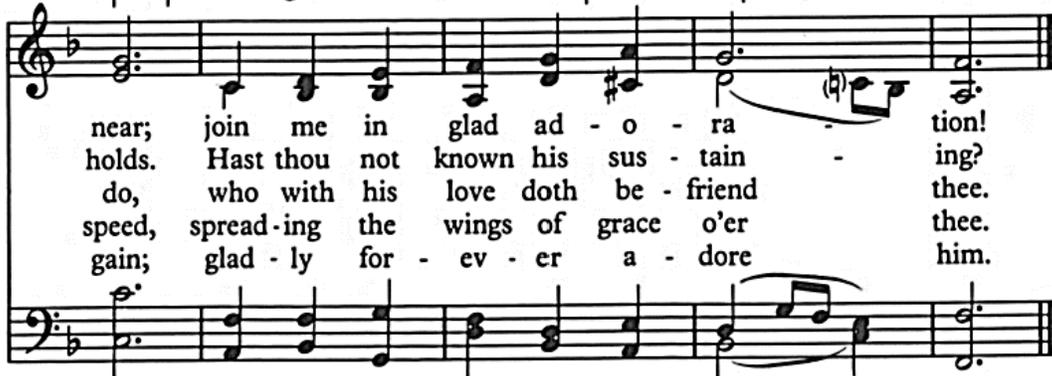
1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - mighty, the King of cre - a -
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign -
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de - fend
 4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nour-ish thy life and re - store
 5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore



tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -
 ing bears thee on ea - gle's wings, e'er in his keep-ing main -
 thee; sure - ly his good-ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at -
 thee, fit - ting thee well for the tasks that are ev - er be -
 him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be -



va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his tem - ple draw
 tain - ing. God's care en - folds all, whose true good he up -
 tend thee. Pon - der a - new what the Al - mighty can
 fore thee. Then to thy need God as a moth - er doth
 fore him! Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a -



near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 holds. Hast thou not known his sus - tain - ing?
 do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
 speed, spread - ing the wings of grace o'er thee.
 gain; glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him.

Wonderful Words of Life



1. Sing them o - ver a - gain to me, won - der - ful words of life;
 2. Christ, the bless - ed one, gives to all won - der - ful words of life;
 3. Sweet - ly ech - o the gos - pel call, won - der - ful words of life;



let me more of their beau - ty see, won - der - ful words of life;
 sin - ner, list to the lov - ing call, won - der - ful words of life;
 of - fer par - don and peace to all, won - der - ful words of life;



words of life and beau - ty teach me faith and du - ty.
 all so free - ly giv - en, woo - ing us to heav - en.
 Je - sus, on - ly Sav - ior, sanc - ti - fy for - ev - er.



Refrain



Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life.



Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, won - der - ful words of life.



WORDS: Philip P. Bliss, 1874
 MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss, 1874

WORDS OF LIFE
 86.86.66

Come, We That Love the Lord

732

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our
 2. Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er
 3. The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand
 4. Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - ery

joys be known; join in a song with
 knew our God; but chil - dren of the
 sa - cred sweets be - fore we reach the
 tear be dry; we're march - ing through Em -

sweet ac - cord, and thus sur - round the throne.
 heaven - ly King may speak their joys a - broad.
 heaven - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets.
 man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1707
 MUSIC: Aaron Williams, *The New Universal Psalmist*, 1770

ST. THOMAS
 SM