



*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*  
*Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church**  
**Community Worship Service**  
**Nineth Sunday after Pentecost, July 30th**

**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**

Seek Ye First    arr. Douglas Wagner

**GREETING *(Please Stand)***

*On this day of worship, we call on God's name,  
**and hear our own invitation to work for the good of all.**  
Gathered with neighbors and strangers, we call on God's hope,  
**and discover that a lifetime of service seems but a few days.**  
In this place of praise and prayer, we call on God's love,  
**and receive that grace which is as old as creation,  
yet as fresh as each morning.***

**HYMN #61**

Come, Thou Almighty King

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

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

***O God, teach us not to despise small things.  
Remind us that the kingdom of heaven is like a tiny mustard seed.  
Turn our attention to the small things that bless others.  
You have planted seeds of great potential in our souls.  
Help us develop our potential so that you and others can depend on it.  
Turn our attention to what is small but potent.  
O God, you have entrusted us with gifts and graces that can bless many people.  
Help us not to overlook the smallest ability.  
O God, you have placed the destiny of the kingdom of heaven inside of us.  
Turn our attention to the small things that this congregation can do to make  
a tremendous difference in human lives. Amen.***

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Genesis 29:15-28

- 29:15 Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?"
- 29:16 Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.
- 29:17 Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful.
- 29:18 Jacob loved Rachel; so, he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel."
- 29:19 Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me."
- 29:20 So, Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.
- 29:21 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed."
- 29:22 So, Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast.
- 29:23 But in the evening, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her.
- 29:24 (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.)
- 29:25 When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?"
- 29:26 Laban said, "This is not done in our country--giving the younger before the firstborn.
- 29:27 Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years."
- 29:28 Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

### Psalm 105:1-11, 45b (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 105:1 O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 105:2 Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.**
- 105:3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- 105:4 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.**
- 105:5 Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,
- 105:6 O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**
- 105:7 He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.
- 105:8 He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,**

- 105:9 the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac,  
**105:10 which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,**  
105:11 saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance."  
**105:45b Praise the LORD!**

**Romans 8:26-39 (Epistle Reading)**

- 8:26 Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
- 8:27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
- 8:28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.
- 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.
- 8:30 And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.
- 8:31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?
- 8:32 He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?
- 8:33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.
- 8:34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.
- 8:35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
- 8:36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."
- 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
- 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
- 8:39 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.

**Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (Please stand for the Gospel)**

- 13:31 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;
- 13:32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

- 13:33 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."
- 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
- 13:45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;
- 13:46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.
- 13:47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind;
- 13:48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.
- 13:49 So, it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous
- 13:50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- 13:51 "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes."
- 13:52 And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

*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.)*

***Diligent Lord, who watches over us at all times, be with us all these days. We confess that we have allowed a host of worries and frustrations to crowd out your word for us. As you give us peace and your transforming love, also forgive all those times when we have been less than faithful disciples. Gently visit us again with your healing powers. Restore our hope and courage and joy for all the times ahead. We ask this in the name of the Master Healer, Jesus Christ. AMEN.***

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

*Here is some wonderful news! While we were worrying and fretting, God has been at work in our lives offering healing and peace. Receive these gifts in the name and love of the Lord our God. AMEN.*

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

## **HOMILY**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH #882 (Ecumenical Apostles' 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 #405**

Seek Ye First

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

## OFFERING

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

## OFFERTORY

Prayer Douglas Wagner

### 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 all blessings, Jesus inspired us through his teaching to see your kingdom as a place where small things can have a mighty impact: a tiny mustard seed planted, or a bit of yeast mixed into the flour. We ask you this day to bless the gifts we offer, so that they may have a powerful impact when used according to your purposes. Bless us that we might see glimpses of your kingdom through our giving and grow in generosity in the process. In name of Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer, 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 #540

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

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

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart Robert A. Hobby

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Flowers on the Altar**

*The plant arrangement on the altar is given by **Bob & Jane Toney** in loving memory of their parents.*

### **Scholarship Partners**

*We have new scholars who need an adult to pray and be there for him/her as they further their advanced education or certification. If interested, please email **Bobbi Moore** at **bbolden1@hotmail.com**.*

### **August Potluck**

*Our next potluck will be **Tuesday, August 8th at 6:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.*

### **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**.*

### **Sign-up Sheets in the Fellowship Hall**

*We have sign-up sheets for ushers, flowers and coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. We need ushers during the summer months to hand out bulletins.*

### **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.*

## **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 Marilyn Beck who had surgery last week.***

***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 as they prepare for the next school year.***

## **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: Fred Markert: 828-553-3303

Liturgist: Arlene Hendrix

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



## Come, Thou Almighty King

61

1. Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy  
 2. Come, thou in - car - nate Word, gird on thy  
 3. Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred  
 4. To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to sing, help us to praise! Fa - ther all  
 might - y sword, our prayer at - tend! Come, and thy  
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour. Thou who al -  
 prais - es be, hence, ev - er - more. Thy sov - ereign

glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,  
 peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;  
 might - y art, now rule in ev - ery heart,  
 maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days!  
 Spir - it of ho - li - ness, on us de - scend!  
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power!  
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore!

WORDS: Anon.  
 MUSIC: Felice de Giardini, 1769

ITALIAN HYMN  
 664.6664

Alt. tune: AMERICA

# Seek Ye First

405

D F#m G D G  
*Al - le - lu - ia, Al -*

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and his  
 2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and

D Em7 A7 D F#m  
*le - lu - ia, Al - le -*

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be  
 ye shall find; knock, and the door shall be

G D G D A7sus A7 D  
*lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!*

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Karen Lafferty, 1972 (Mt. 6:33; 7:7)  
 MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1972

SEEK YE  
 lrr.

# I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

540

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1. I love thy king-dom, Lord, the house of thine a - bode, the  
2. I love thy church, O God! Her walls be-fore thee stand dear  
3. For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers as - cend, to  
4. Be - yond my high-est joy I prize her heav-en-ly ways, her  
5. Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zi - on shall be given the  
church our blest Re - deem-er saved with his own pre-cious blood.  
as the ap - ple of thine eye, and grav-en on thy hand.  
her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.  
sweet com - mu-nion, sol - emn vows, her hymns of love and praise.  
bright-est glo - ries earth can yield, and bright-er bliss of heaven.

WORDS: Timothy Dwight, 1801  
MUSIC: Aaron Williams, *The New Universal Psalmist*, 1770

ST. THOMAS  
SM