



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, July 9th, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 9th

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

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love arr. Robert J. Powell

GREETING *(Please Stand)*

Christ calls those who are weary and heavy laden.

In Christ, we find rest.

Christ calls us to bear his yoke and learn from him.

In Christ, we see God's ways.

Christ is gentle and humble in heart.

In Christ, we know God's love.

Come, for Christ calls us here.

HYMN #181

Ye Servants of God

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

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

***Holy Jesus, In times of weakness and hour of need,
yours is the strength by which we carry on,
the shoulder we rest our head upon.***

***When our load is heavy and too much to bear,
yours are the arms stretched out to help us
the grace that we depend on.***

***In times of weakness and hour of need,
your voice is heard,***

'Come... find rest.'

***This is grace divine,
the path we tread to wholeness
of body and spirit,***

***the path that leads to you,
and for which we offer our offering of praise. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

- 24:34 So, he said, "I am Abraham's servant.
- 24:35 The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys.
- 24:36 And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has.
- 24:37 My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live;
- 24:38 but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'
- 24:42 "I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going!
- 24:43 I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,"
- 24:44 and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" --let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'
- 24:45 "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.'
- 24:46 She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So, I drank, and she also watered the camels.
- 24:47 Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So, I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms.
- 24:48 Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son.
- 24:49 Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."
- 24:58 And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will."
- 24:59 So, they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men.
- 24:60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes."
- 24:61 Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus, the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.
- 24:62 Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb.

- 24:63 Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming.
- 24:64 And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel,
- 24:65 and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So, she took her veil and covered herself.
- 24:66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.
- 24:67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So, Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Psalm 45:10-17 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 45:10 Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear; forget your people and your father's house,
- 45:11 and the king will desire your beauty. Since he is your lord, bow to him;**
- 45:12 the people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts, the richest of the people
- 45:13 with all kinds of wealth. The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes;**
- 45:14 in many-colored robes she is led to the king; behind her the virgins, her companions, follow.
- 45:15 With joy and gladness, they are led along as they enter the palace of the king.**
- 45:16 In the place of ancestors, you, O king, shall have sons; you will make them princes in all the earth.
- 45:17 I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations; therefore, the peoples will praise you forever and ever.**

Romans 7:15-25a (Epistle Reading)

- 7:15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.
- 7:16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good.
- 7:17 But in fact, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.
- 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.
- 7:19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.
- 7:20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.
- 7:21 So, I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.
- 7:22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self,

- 7:23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.
- 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?
- 7:25a Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 11:16 "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,
- 11:17 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'
- 11:18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon';
- 11:19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."
- 11:25 At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants;
- 11:26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.
- 11:27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
- 11:28 "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
- 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
- 11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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.)*

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our Partner in grace, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.

We love with condition.

We judge and condemn.

***We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes.
We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.
Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of
Christ in love and service. Amen.***

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #883 (United Church of Canada)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

***who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.***

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

***to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.***

***In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.***

We are not alone.

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 #432

Jesu, Jesu

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

Hymn Douglas E. 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 compassion and mercy, you claim each one of us as your children. Like a parent, you are joyful when we find joy and your heart aches when we fall, fail, or feel less than the beloved heirs to the kingdom you meant us to be.

The yoke the Bible describes doesn't burden us but reminds us that you yearn for us to be a church, a community, that supports, steadies, and sustains when life makes us weary. The gifts we give this day we give in gratitude for this yoke that helps us finish the race in faithfulness. Bless our giving and its use, we pray in Christ's name. 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 #428

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude in C Gordon Young

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest Pastor

We are excited to have Rev. Shelly Webb with us this Sunday. Shelly is a native of Hendersonville, NC and is a graduate of Wofford College (BA in Sociology) and Duke University Divinity School (MDiv). She is an ordained elder in WNC Conference of The United Methodist Church. Shelly currently serves our community as the Executive Director of Transylvania Christian Ministry, also known as Sharing House. Sharing House offers basic life necessities such as food, clothes, utility and rent assistance, empowerment programs and advocacy.

Sign-up Sheets in the Fellowship Hall

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

July Potluck/Covered Dish

*Our next potluck will be **Tuesday, July 11th at 6:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your friends and neighbors.*

Administrative Council Meeting

*Our next Administrative Council meeting will be **Friday, July 14th at 3:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Please e-mail **Tom Blackstock at tom.blackstock@gmail.com** with questions.*

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. We are averaging 45 weekly views (~ double that for couples). If you would like to help with the livestream, please contact **Marcus at marcus61dodson@gmail.com**.*

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

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

Liturgist: Stephen Wood

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

Ye Servants of God

1. Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
 2. God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save,
 3. "Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne!"
 4. Then let us a - dore and give him his right,

and pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful name;
 and still he is nigh, his pres - ence we have;
 Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son;
 all glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might;

the name all - vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol,
 the great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
 the prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 all hon - or and bless - ing with an - gels a - bove,

his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all.
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our King.
 fall down on their fac - es and wor - ship the Lamb.
 and thanks nev - er ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love.

432

Jesu, Jesu

Refrain (Unison)

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2. Neigh-bors are rich and poor, neigh-bors are black and
 3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
 4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we are
 5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

feet, Mas-ter who acts as a slave to them.
 white, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
 slaves, this is the way we should live with you.
 feet, this is the way we should live with you.

WORDS: Tom Colvin, 1969 (Jn. 13:1-17)
 MUSIC: Ghana folk song; adapt. by Tom Colvin, 1969; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988

CHEREPONI
 Irr. with Refrain

428 For the Healing of the Nations

1. For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
 2. Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3. All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4. You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing of the things that
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred, all may come and
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing, dog - mas that ob -
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness bring the life of

earth af - fords; to a life of love in ac - tion help us
 go in peace. Show us how through care and good - ness fear will
 sure your plan. In our com - mon quest for jus - tice may we
 Christ to mind, that by our re - sponse and ser - vice earth its

rise and pledge our word, (pledge our word) help us rise and pledge our word.
 die and hope in - crease, (hope in - crease) fear will die and hope in - crease.
 hal - low life's brief span, (life's brief span) may we hal - low life's brief span.
 des - ti - ny may find, (may find) earth its des - ti - ny may find.