



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, August 20th, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 20th

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

GREETING *(Please Stand)*

L: What joy we feel when we are called together to celebrate God's love.

P: God's love flows through our lives!

L: This is what it means to be the body of Christ!

P: this is what it means to be faithful witnesses to God.

L: Let us rejoice on this day!

P: Lord, we thank you for the blessings you pour on us. AMEN.

HYMN #140

Great is Thy Faithfulness

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

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

God of incredible surprises, as we gaze into the clouds, remind us that we are standing on holy ground. Place our feet on the pathways of peace and hope. Draw our attention from the vision of the Lord rising to the heavens to be with you and help us to focus on the ministries that you would have us do. Keep us ready and willing always to serve you all our days. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 45:1-15

- 45:1 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So, no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.
- 45:2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.
- 45:3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.
- 45:4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.
- 45:5 And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.
- 45:6 For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.
- 45:7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.
- 45:8 So, it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.
- 45:9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.
- 45:10 You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.
- 45:11 I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.
- 45:12 And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you.
- 45:13 You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."
- 45:14 Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck.
- 45:15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Psalm 133 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 133:1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
- 133:2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**
- 133:3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.**

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 (Epistle Reading)

- 11:1 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.
- 11:2a God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.
- 11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
- 11:30 Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience,
- 11:31 so, they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy.
- 11:32 For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 15:10 Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:
- 15:11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."
- 15:12 Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?"
- 15:13 He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.
- 15:14 Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit."
- 15:15 But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us."
- 15:16 Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding?
- 15:17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?
- 15:18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.
- 15:19 For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.
- 15:20 These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."
- 15:21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

- 15:22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."
- 15:23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."
- 15:24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
- 15:25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."
- 15:26 He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."
- 15:27 She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."
- 15:28 Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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.)

Forgiving and gracious God, you have called us to be the church, to live out our Resurrection faith. You have asked us to place our trust in you and to bring to all the good news of your saving love. But we have failed to do this. We have given our faith a back seat to the troubles of the world and to the stresses in our own life. We look for the quick and easy answers. Forgive us for the smallness of our faith. You, who raised Christ from the dead, have promised to raise our spirits and bring us to new life. You have done this and yet, we remain static in our response to you. Clear our spirits of the clutter of everyday living. Help us to be open always to your word and your love. Challenge us to move in directions of peace and hope for all people. These things we pray in the name of our risen Lord. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Forgiveness and love have been poured out upon you, to offer hope to all nations. You are called and blessed to be messengers of God's good news to all people. AMEN.

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 #452

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

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 and architect of the universe, we want to believe that your love for us means you will go before us on life's path and clear the way, making it easy to travel, but our experience doesn't always bear that out. We know you see a bigger picture than we do. As we bring you our offerings this day, we affirm your presence with us in the pits of despair as well as in the palaces of plenty. We give with gratitude, in Christ's holy 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 #368

My Hope is Built

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

*The arrangement on the altar is given by **Judy and John Lefler** with thanks to the Lord for their 55th wedding anniversary.*

Welcome Scholar

*Please extend a warm welcome to **Chesney Perry**, a rising Sophomore at East Tennessee State University. She graduated from Rosman High school, and is earning her Bachelors in Radiologic Science. She is a highly skilled photography where she is often booked for special events. For the past two summers Chesney has worked 3rd shift at College Walk and works there over the holidays. She starts classes August 28th.*

Building Committee Update

Your building committee is pleased to announce that after Labor Day construction on the new Fellowship Hall begins. The construction will not affect services and it will not affect fellowship at coffee hour after services. Please continue to attend and watch as we grow in the Lord's service.

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 Charlie Steele whose brother, Homer Steele, of Pensacola, FL passed away week before last.

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

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: Cynthia Wood

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

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 witness 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

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

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

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

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FAITHFULNESS
 11 10.11 10 with Refrain

SANCTIFYING AND PERFECTING GRACE

452 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of
 2. May thy rich grace im - part strength to my
 3. While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a -
 4. When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold,

Cal - va - ry, Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me
 faint - ing heart, my zeal in - spire! As thou hast
 round me spread, be thou my guide; bid dark - ness
 sul - len stream shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior,

while I pray, take all my guilt a - way,
 died for me, O may my love to thee
 turn to day, wipe sor - row's tears a - way,
 then in love, fear and dis - trust re - move;

O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
 nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 O bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

WORDS: Ray Palmer, 1875
 MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1831

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 664.6664

My Hope Is Built

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1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than
 2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup -
 4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness. I dare not trust the
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace. In ev - ery high and
 port me in the whelm - ing flood. When all a - round my
 may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righ - teous -

sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

On Christ the sol - id rock I stand, all oth - er ground is
 sink - ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

WORDS: Edward Mote, 1834
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1863

THE SOLID ROCK
 LM with Refrain