



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, September 10th, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service & Communion
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 10th

9:30 A.M. Livestream is now available via the LTUMC YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgtuJe20i8DN7S_Cfg1sWCg

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

What a Friend We Have in Jesus arr. Dale Wood

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please stand)*

L: Come out of the darkness of despair into the brightness of God's transforming love.

P: We praise God for God's presence with us!

L: Prepare your hearts and spirits to receive God's mercy and healing.

P: We thank God for God's mercy toward us.

L: Come, let us praise and worship God who is always with us.

P: Thanks be to God at all times and in all places. AMEN.

HYMN #89

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

***Ancient of days, we enter your presence
to remember and rejoice.***

***We come looking for your steadfast faithfulness
and your loving care.***

***May we be a people who seek reconciliation
and genuine forgiveness with one another.***

***In remembrance and gratitude for your mercy
and your grace, we pray. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 12:1-14

- 12:1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt:
- 12:2 This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you.
- 12:3 Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household.
- 12:4 If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.
- 12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.
- 12:6 You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight.
- 12:7 They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.
- 12:8 They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
- 12:9 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs.
- 12:10 You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.
- 12:11 This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD.
- 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.
- 12:13 The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.
- 12:14 This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Psalm 149 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 149:1 Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
- 149:2 Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.
- 149:3 Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.**
- 149:4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory.
- 149:5 Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches.**
- 149:6 Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands,
- 149:7 to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,**
- 149:8 to bind their kings with fetters and their nobles with chains of iron,
- 149:9 to execute on them the judgment decreed. This is glory for all his faithful ones. Praise the LORD!**

Romans 13:8-14 (Epistle Reading)

- 13:8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.
- 13:9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself."
- 13:10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.
- 13:11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;
- 13:12 the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;
- 13:13 let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.
- 13:14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18:15-20 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 18:15 "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.
- 18:16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.
- 18:17 If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
- 18:18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
- 18:19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.
- 18:20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

P: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #881 (The Apostles' Creed – Please stand)

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

THE GLORIA PATRI #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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please be seated)

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
(Let us offer our silent confessions.)*

Forgiving and loving God, our hearts are filled today with pain and concern for the future of humankind. Words of anger assail our airways — we cannot escape from the threats being thrown about. In our fear, we cry "Where are you, O Lord?" We wander around in the darkness of the spirit, seeking light and hope. Forgive us when we forget that you are always with us, through times of peace and times of war. Heal our souls. Help us to reach out to others with the assurance of your love and presence, for we ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God hears our prayers and our cries. God leads us out of the darkness of the past into the bright promise of today. We are called to stand strong and confident in God's Love. Rejoice, dear friends, for that love which began before creation flows in and through you this day! AMEN.

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

The Gift of Love arr. John Carter

DOXOLOGY #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of love and compassion, we ask you to dedicate the tithes and offerings we bring to worship. We do this in the hope that you will do more with them than we could ever do on our own to heal the brokenness and division in our world. Remind us that the work of reconciliation does not get removed from our list because we put something in the offering and that mission field is within our arms' reach. This we pray in the redeemer's holy name, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION #395

Take Time to be Holy

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Please be seated)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks and remembers God's acts of salvation, and concludes:...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled.

The pastor concludes:...and so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering

for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

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.

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #384

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed with permission)

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #393

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Amen.

POSTLUDE *(Please be seated)*

Hymn to Joy arr. Albert L. Travis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Administrative Council Meeting

*The next Administrative Council meeting will be on **Friday, October 6th**. Location and time TBD.*

Annual Charge Conference

*The annual WNC UMC Charge Conference is **Sunday, October 8th at 4:00 PM at Etowah UMC.***

Mobile Meals Volunteer Driver Opportunities

*WNC Source (formally WCCA) provides meals to seniors at Quebec Community Center and to homebound seniors in Lake Toxaway and Rosman M-F. We have been asked for Fall/Winter Mobile Meals delivery volunteers. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays are available for drivers along with being an emergency backup driver. **Please reach out to Lauren Street, the Nutrition Site Manager at (828) 556-1766 (cell) or lstreet@wncsource.org.***

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: Fred Markert: 828-553-3303

Liturgist: Drew Prusiecki

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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, bind - ing all with - in its span.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;
 Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day!
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine.
 joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward, in the tri - umph song of life.



Take Time to Be Holy

1. Take time to be ho - ly, speak oft with thy Lord;
 2. Take time to be ho - ly, the world rush - es on;
 3. Take time to be ho - ly, let him be thy guide,
 4. Take time to be ho - ly, be calm in thy soul,

a - bide in him al - ways, and feed on his word.
 spend much time in se - cret with Je - sus a - lone.
 and run not be - fore him, what - ev - er be - tide.
 each thought and each mo - tive be - neath his con - trol.

Make friends of God's chil - dren, help those who are weak,
 By look - ing to Je - sus, like him thou shalt be;
 In joy or in sor - row, still fol - low the Lord,
 Thus led by his spir - it to foun-tains of love,

for - get - ting in noth - ing his bless - ing to seek.
 thy friends in thy con - duct his like - ness shall see.
 and, look - ing to Je - sus, still trust in his word.
 thou soon shalt be fit - ted for ser - vice a - bove.

384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down; fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing;
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in thee in - her - it;
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,
 let us be. Let us see thy great sal - va - tion

all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, thou art
 let us find that sec - ond rest. Take a - way our
 nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be
 per - fect - ly re - stored in thee; changed from glo - ry

all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it
 bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of
 al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray and
 in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we

us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1747
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER
 87.87 D

Alt. tune: HYFRYDOL

393

Spirit of the Living God

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

WORDS: Daniel Iverson, 1926; adapt. (Acts 11:15)
 MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

LIVING GOD
 75.75.875

© 1935. renewal © 1963 Birdwing Music