



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, September 17th, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 17th

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 as you are able)*

Family of God, as we gather today, Jesus asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"

You are our Messiah, the Son of the living God!

Family of God, as we gather today, the Holy Spirit asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"

You are our Comforter, Advocate, and Sustainer!

Family of God, as we gather today, God the Father asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"

You are our Creator, Provider, and Healer!

Family of God, as we gather today, the Triune God asks us, "Who do you say that I am?"

You are Love that creates, saves, and enfolds us into the family of God! May we be instruments of Love in all that we are and all that we do. Amen.

HYMN #101

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

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

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

***Gracious and loving God, bless us with your presence
as we worship this day.***

***Bless us with your love
as we grow in love and mature faith.***

***Bless us with your guidance
as we give ourselves to you, to your church,
and to your work in the world. Amen.***

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 14:19-31

- 14:19 The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them.
- 14:20 It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so, the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.
- 14:21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.
- 14:22 The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
- 14:23 The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.
- 14:24 At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic.
- 14:25 He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."
- 14:26 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers."
- 14:27 So, Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea.
- 14:28 The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained.
- 14:29 But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
- 14:30 Thus, the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.
- 14:31 Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So, the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Psalm 114 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

114:1 When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

114:2 Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.

114:3 The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

114:4 The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.

114:5 Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?

114:6 O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?

114:7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

114:8 who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.

Romans 14:1-12 (Epistle Reading)

14:1 Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

14:2 Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.

14:3 Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them.

14:4 Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

14:5 Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.

14:6 Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also, those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

14:7 We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.

14:8 If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

14:9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

14:10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

14:11 For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

14:12 So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Matthew 18:21-35 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 18:21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"
- 18:22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.
- 18:23 "For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.
- 18:24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him;
- 18:25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.
- 18:26 So, the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'
- 18:27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.
- 18:28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.'
- 18:29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'
- 18:30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.
- 18:31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.
- 18:32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.
- 18:33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?'
- 18:34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.
- 18:35 So, my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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.)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #880 (The Nicene Creed)

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 #170

Oh, How I Love Jesus
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

*Ever-giving God, help us give as fully
to you and to your world
as you have given to us.
Transform our gifts with your love,
that they may become vessels
of your love for others.
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 #127

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
Located in the back of the bulletin - (printed w/permission)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *(Please be seated)*

Praise His Name in the Dance Douglas E. Wagner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by **Barbara and Doug Hill** in loving memory of **Mary Ellen and John Williams** on what would have been their wedding anniversary.

Administrative Council Meeting

The next Administrative Council meeting will be on **Friday, October 6th at 3:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.

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.**

Fall & Winter Liturgists needed

The liturgist calendar for Oct., Nov. & December is being created. If you have been a Fall & Winter liturgist in the past or if you are interested in being a new liturgist, please reach out to Saunders by 9/25.

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: Scott Walter

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From All That Dwell Below the Skies 101

1. From all that dwell be - low the skies,
 2. E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord;
 3. Your loft - y themes, ye mor - tals, bring,
 4. In ev - ery land be - gin the song;

let the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise; let the Re - deem - er's
 e - ter - nal truth at - tends thy word. Thy praise shall sound from
 in songs of praise di - vine - ly sing; the great sal - va - tion
 to ev - ery land the strains be - long; in cheer - ful sounds all

name be sung, through ev - ery land by ev - ery tongue.
 shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more.
 loud pro - claim, and shout for joy the Sav - ior's name.
 voic - es raise, and fill the world with loud - est praise.

WORDS: Sts. 1-2, Isaac Watts; sts. 3-4, anon., ca. 1781 (Ps. 117)
 MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793

DUKE STREET
 LM

O How I Love Jesus

1. There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
 2. It tells me of a Sav-ior's love, who died to set me free;
 3. It tells of one whose lov- ing heart can feel my deep-est woe;

it sounds like mu- sic in my ear, the sweet-est name on earth.
 it tells me of his pre-cious blood, the sin-ner's per-fect plea.
 who in each sor-row bears a part that none can bear be- low.

Refrain

O how I love Je - sus, O how I love Je - sus,

O how I love Je - sus, be - cause he first loved me!

WORDS: Frederick Whitfield, 1855
 MUSIC: 19th cent. USA melody

O HOW I LOVE JESUS
 CM with Refrain

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 127

1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on

power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en, feed me
 jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer, be thou
 Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will

till I want no more; (want no more) feed me till I want no more.
 still my strength and shield; (strength and shield) be thou still my strength and shield.
 ev - er give to thee; (give to thee) I will ev - er give to thee.

WORDS: William Williams, 1745; trans. from the Welsh by Peter Williams and
 the author, 1771
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 87.87.87