



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, September 24th, 2023

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 24th

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)*

Come! Now is the time to worship!

We come to worship God who provides!

When the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, God provided manna and quail.

God provides in unexpected ways.

Jesus tells a story of vineyard workers, some who work all day and some who work mere hours, yet the generous landowner paid all of them equally.

God provides in unexpected ways.

God does provide in unexpected ways, yet manna, quail, and grapes need gathering and harvesting.

We respond to God's provision by gathering and harvesting all that God provides.

Come! Now is the time to worship!

We come to worship and partner with God who provides for the long haul!

HYMN #145

Morning Has Broken

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

OPENING PRAYER *(Please be seated)*

***Guide our way, Caretaker God,
in the wilderness of our lives.***

***Offer us the bread of heaven,
that we may taste your Spirit
and be nourished in body and soul.***

***Reveal your presence among us
and show us the tender mercies of your love.***

In joy and jubilation, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 16:2-15

- 16:2 The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.
- 16:3 The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."
- 16:4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.
- 16:5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."
- 16:6 So, Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
- 16:7 and in the morning, you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?"
- 16:8 And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him--what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."
- 16:9 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'"
- 16:10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.
- 16:11 The LORD spoke to Moses and said,
- 16:12 "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning, you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"
- 16:13 In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.
- 16:14 When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground.
- 16:15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 (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.
- 105:37 Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold, and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.**
- 105:38 Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it.
- 105:39 He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night.**
- 105:40 They asked, and he brought quails, and gave them food from heaven in abundance.
- 105:41 He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.**
- 105:42 For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.
- 105:43 So, he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.**
- 105:44 He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,
- 105:45 that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the LORD!**

Philippians 1:21-30 (Epistle Reading)

- 1:21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.
- 1:22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer.
- 1:23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better;
- 1:24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.
- 1:25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith,
- 1:26 so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.
- 1:27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel,
- 1:28 and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.
- 1:29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well--
- 1:30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20:1-16 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 20:1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.
- 20:2 After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.
- 20:3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace;
- 20:4 and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So, they went.
- 20:5 When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.
- 20:6 And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?'
- 20:7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'
- 20:8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.'
- 20:9 When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.
- 20:10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.
- 20:11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,
- 20:12 saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'
- 20:13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?'
- 20:14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.
- 20:15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'
- 20:16 So, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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.)*

You know how fickle we are, O Lord. We proclaim your presence with us and then we behave in ways which run counter from your word. We get caught up in our own needs and whine about the injustices we feel in our lives. Help us to place our trust in your mercy and your compassionate love. Forgive us

when we stray from your ways and wander into paths of self-pity and self-destruction. Lift us from the deep morass and put us back on track. Give us confidence in your presence and your direction throughout our lives, for we ask these things in Jesus' name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Feel the comforting power of God's love and mercy in your lives. God is with us through all our experiences. Though we try we cannot stray from God's love. Rejoice! This is the good news for all of us! AMEN.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH #883 (United Church of Canada Statement)

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 #396

O Jesus, I Have Promised
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

God of endless patience, we know that the sound of our complaining is not the music that pleases your ears. We complain about the food that is under or overcooked, and you hear the stomachs that have no food. We whine about the bed being too soft, and you see instead those whose bed is the sidewalk or the floor of a cell. May the offering we bring today be an act of praise that drowns out the noise of our complaining. May it find its way to bring comfort to your children who have little or nothing; and when that happens, may it be joy for your eyes and ears. In Christ, 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 #415

Take Up Thy Cross

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 **Kay and Tom Blackstock** in honor of a blessed gift from God, their granddaughter, **Maya Downey**.*

Interment of Emil Gasperoni

*After the Sunday service and Coffee Hour on **October 1st**, **Emil Gasperoni** will be interred in the Memorial Garden.*

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**.*

Building Committee Update

Due to minor permitting requirements that require some new engineering drawings, construction should begin in mid-October. The current Fellowship Hall will be closed at that time.

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: Stephen Wood

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

Morning Has Broken

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Unison
C Am Dm G F C

1. Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en,
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

Am Em/G F Em Dm G

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
born of the one light E - den saw play!

C F C Am Dm/F

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

D7/F# C/G F G7 C

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931 (Lam. 3:22-23)

MUSIC: Trad. Gaelic melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1988

BUNESSAN

53.54 D

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O Jesus, I Have Promised

396

1. O Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;
 2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near;
 3. O let me hear thee speak-ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4. O Je - sus, thou hast prom-ised to all who fol - low thee

be thou for-ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear;
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,
 my foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.
 but Je - sus, draw thou near - er, and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my Friend.

WORDS: John E. Bode, ca. 1866 (Lk. 9:57)
 MUSIC: Arthur H. Mann, 1881

ANGEL'S STORY
 76.76 D

Take Up Thy Cross

415

1. "Take up thy cross," the Sav - ior said, "if thou wouldst
 2. Take up thy cross, let not its weight fill thy weak
 3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame, nor let thy
 4. Take up thy cross and fol - low Christ, nor think till

my dis - ci - ple be; de - ny thy - self, the
 spir - it with a - larm; his strength shall bear thy
 fool - ish pride re - bel; thy Lord for thee the
 death to lay it down; for on - ly those who

world for - sake, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 spir - it up, and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.
 cross en - dured, to save thy soul from death and hell.
 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

WORDS: Charles W. Everest, 1833 (Mt. 16:24-25; Mk. 8:34-35; Lk. 9:23-24)
 MUSIC: William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

GERMANY
 LM