



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 4th, 2022

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service & Communion
2nd Sunday of Advent, December 4th

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

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People Michael Burkhardt

CALL TO WORSHIP

Prepare the way of the Lord.

God's kingdom has drawn near.

Prepare the way of peace.

God's salvation is at hand.

Prepare the way of righteousness.

God's Spirit moves among us.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

HYMN #211

O Come Emmanuel (Stanzas 5-7)

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

THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader One: "They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious" (Isaiah 11:9-10 NRSV).

Reader Two: We are the followers of that root of Jesse Isaiah spoke of. We are the ones who are now called to stand as a signal to the world, to all of creation, that peace is the will of the one who created us. Peace is the knowledge of the Lord that we proclaim from sea to shining sea.

Reader One: "In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea proclaiming. "Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near." And "bear fruit worthy of repentance"
(Light two candles of the Advent wreath.)

OPENING PRAYER

*God in this season
suspended between hope and fulfillment,
let us never forget what you have done.
May we be overwhelmed by your mercy,
which flows in wave after wave.
May we be honest about the darkness within us,
and perceptive of the light around us.
May we make straight the path for the Lord,
that together we may see God's glory revealed.
May we worship you fully,
and let us receive your Holy Presence
in communion today. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 11:1-10

- 11:1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- 11:2 The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- 11:3 His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;
- 11:4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- 11:5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- 11:6 The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
- 11:7 The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 11:8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- 11:9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
- 11:10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (Psalter Lesson ~ Please read the bold text)

- 72:1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.
- 72:2 May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.
- 72:3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.**
- 72:4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.
- 72:5 May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.**
- 72:6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.
- 72:7 In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.**
- 72:18 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
- 72:19 Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.**

Romans 15:4-13 (Epistle Reading)

- 15:4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.
- 15:5 May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,
- 15:6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 15:7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.
- 15:8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,
- 15:9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name";
- 15:10 and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";
- 15:11 and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";
- 15:12 and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."
- 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:1-12 (Please stand for the Gospel)

- 3:1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
- 3:2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."
- 3:3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"
- 3:4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.
- 3:5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan,
- 3:6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
- 3:7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
- 3:8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance.
- 3:9 Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.
- 3:10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
- 3:11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- 3:12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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)

***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

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

***Lord of mercy and peace, open our hearts to receive your words of hope. We
live far too much in darkness and fear. We have let the fears invade the very
center of our lives and find ourselves changing, moving from your light to the
darkness of despair. It seems that this world and its people are more pleased
to fight and destroy than they are to have peace and harmony. We become
part of that crowd when we wallow in anger, resentment, apathy, and greed.
Forgive us, patient and merciful God. Help us be people who will look at the
ways in which we have blocked your presence; ways in which we have truly
failed to be your people. Give us courage and strength to change our lives,
that your peace may become a reality in this world, right now, this day. For
we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. AMEN.***

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Though the darkness seems so deep, do not fear. God is with us. Repent! Turn your lives to God. God's love is being poured out for you, always. Amen.

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

O Come Emmanuel Kenneth Koche

DOXOLOGY #95

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Our God, architect of this world and all others: we know you had a vision for all your creation to dwell together. With the creatures of the air, earth, and sea, you long for us to live in respect and with one another. We give this morning, understanding that we have denied you that desire. We ask you to help us use who we are and what we have to heal this abused and broken world. In Christ, our Savior. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN #218

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Located in the back of the bulletin - (Printed w/ permission)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 #196

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

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)

Prepare the Royal Highway John Behnke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Concert:

*A Weary World Rejoices by Joseph Martin, featuring the Cashiers Valley Community Chorus, Accompaniment: Bryan Heller, and Director: Betty Morris **December 4th at 2:00 PM** at the Lewis Hall at The Village Green in Cashiers.*

Next Potluck/Covered Dish:

*Our next potluck will be **Tuesday, December 6th at 6:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.*

Christmas Around the World Concert:

Featuring the Cashiers Valley Children's Chorale December, 10th at 3:00 PM at the Albert Carlton – Cashiers Community Library: 249 Frank Allen Rd., Cashiers.

Our Daily Bread Devotionals

The next quarter: December – February of Our Daily Bread devotionals are available. They are located at both entrances of the sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall.

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. Especially for Frank Tindall, Kitty Neff's son. Frank is having surgery on December 8th in Charlottesville.

We lift up those who are actively searching for employment and pray for perseverance for them.

Our heartfelt prayers for all who have experienced the recent passing of a loved one.

Please continue to pray for our student scholars preparing for final exams, 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: John Lefler

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

211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Stanza 5:

**O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode. Refrain**

Stanza 6:

**O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light. Refrain**

Stanza 7:

**O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace. Refrain**

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

218 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,

from an - gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav-en-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told

"Peace on the earth, good will to men,* from heaven's all-gra-cious King."
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains, they bend on hov-ering wing,
 look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift-ly on the wing.
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!
 and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.

*"all" may be substituted

WORDS: Edmund H. Sears, 1849 (Lk. 2:8-14)
 MUSIC: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

CAROL
 CMD

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 196

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
 2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,
 yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
 now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
 spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -

ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744
 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

HYFRYDOL
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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

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