



# LENT 1

*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Community Worship Service  
February 22, 2026



*We have a closed hearing loop system.  
You may be able to turn your hearing device to the "T" setting.*

***To allow all worshippers to reflect and prepare for the service,  
please observe silence during the prelude.***

***1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent***

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRELUDE** Sinfonia J.S. Bach

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Please respond with words in bold)*

The dust that shapes the journey,  
**the cross that guides it,**  
the color that surrounds it,  
**the light that fades through it,**  
the word that foretells it,  
**the wilderness that invites it.**

This is Lent,  
**and into its wilderness God calls us.**  
Come, brothers and sisters,  
**Christ is heading for Jerusalem.**

**HYMN #357 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Holy God, by the grace of Jesus Christ, you know the tests and trials we face. Journey with us through this wilderness. Come to us with ministers of healing and visit us with messengers of hope, so that we may return to you in faith, believing the good news of the gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7** *Humanity turns from God*

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

**3** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

**Psalms 32 UMH 766** *Confession is met with mercy*  
(Please respond with the words in bold.)

### **Romans 5:12-19** *Righteousness found through Christ*

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's

sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification.

<sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

**Matthew 4:1-11** *The temptation of Jesus*  
(Please stand as you are able.)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

<sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' " <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' " <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*(Let us offer our silent confessions.)*

**Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are**

**confronted with our true selves. In the places where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you, and when our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will, forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you. When we are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others, forgive us, O God, and increase our faith in you. When we are tempted to use sensational means to increase people's faith, rather than being guided by the humility of Christ, forgive us, O God, and increase our confidence in you. When we are tempted to manipulate your message, O God, to satisfy our own needs, forgive us, O God, and increase our belief in you. Merciful God, save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. Forgive our sinful attitudes and actions and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation. So strengthen us with your Spirit during this Lenten season, that we may come to put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Just as Jesus was sustained in his time of temptation and weakness, so God is with us in our times of struggle. Christ shared our human life that in him we might be restored to life in God.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. And through him, we are freed to full and faithful living. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **HOMILY**

#### **STATEMENT OF FAITH # 881 The Apostles' Creed**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

#### **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.**

## **HYMN #382 Have Thine Own Way, Lord**

**OFFERTORY** Nocturn #1

David Kirby

### **OFFERING**

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

### **DOXOLOGY #95**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**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. Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Surprising God of Mercy, you meet us in wilderness places and walk beside us through trial and temptation. Even when we feel alone, your grace is never far, your presence never absent. In this moment of giving, we offer not just our resources, but our trust that you are already at work, shaping us through challenge, strengthening us through sacrifice, and surrounding us with unseen angels. Use these gifts to bring hope where there is hunger, healing where there is pain, and light where there is despair. May what we give reflect our desire to walk more closely with you, even in the hard places.**

**In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **CLOSING HYMN #127 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**BENEDICTION** O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing arr. John Carter

*(Please be seated)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The flowers on the altar** are offered by Fred & Paula Markert and Jim & Beth Holimon in praise of the glory of God and all his wonderful works.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** meets at 8:45am in the Minnich Conference Room on Sundays, prior to worship. All are welcome! This is a 'come as you can' Bible Study and a study guide is provided. Don Henderson facilitates this group. Please reach out to him if you have questions at [bacpac@comporium.net](mailto:bacpac@comporium.net).

**The Prayer Ministry** meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM. Prayer requests may be mailed to [LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com](mailto:LTUMCPrayerRequests@gmail.com).

**AA Meets Every Thursday Night** at 4:45pm in the Dice Hall. To honor anonymity, please do not go to the Parish building from 4:00-6:00pm.

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## **PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Katie Monkus, daughter of Stan & Bobbie Moore,  
Charlotte Gilmore, Cody Collins, Sherry Minnich, Tacia Butz

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## **STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS**

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, [marcus61dodson@gmail.com](mailto:marcus61dodson@gmail.com)

Pianist: Kathy Palmer Organist: Bob Kintner: 828-329-2457

Lay Leaders: Paula Markert: 828-553-9434, Maria Buehler: 828-553-2128

Audio/Visual & Livestream: Joe Haraschak: 813-918-1916

Ushers: Maria Buehler, Joe Haraschak

Liturgist: Kim Dodson

Coffee Hour: John & Judy Lefler\*

***\*Coffee Hour hosts needed in March and April, including next Sunday. Please see sign-up sheets on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Thank you to all who volunteer!***

*Some liturgical selections are adapted from umcdiscipleship.org and Re:Worship.*

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