



LENT 5

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church

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



*We have the 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.***

5th Sunday in Lent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE Trust in Jesus Setting by Raymond Haan

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

We gather in this waning winter season when everything seems dead.

There is no life anywhere.

We gather in these warring, chaotic times
when our hopes have perished.

We see no future.

But we cry out in hope that you will send
the power of your spirit upon us.

Breathe new life into us and our world.

We continue on this long Lenten journey,
waiting anxiously for your transforming love.

We wait in faith and hope that we will find our life in you.

HYMN #707 Hymn of Promise

OPENING PRAYER

We cry to you, O God. It is so easy to be overwhelmed with all that is going on. It is so hard to see any hope. Everywhere we look, we see struggles and loss. We feel our world is failing, and that we have failed. But where we see death, you breathe new life. Where we see failure, your forgiving love redeems. You alone, O God, have the power to bring forth new life, new hope, and new beginnings. Be with us as we wait for you. Teach us to place our trust in your faithful and transformative love. In the name of Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ezekiel 37:1-14 *Can these bones live?*

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

Psalms 130 UMH 848 *Hope for redemption* *(Please respond with the words in bold.)*

Romans 8:6-11 *Life in the Spirit*

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

John 11:1-45 *The raising of Lazarus*
(Please stand as you are able.)

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."
⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."
⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep.
¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."
¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him."
²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in 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.)

Out of the depths of despair, we cry to you, O God. We are lost in a world of pain and suffering. When we put our trust in weapons of war, we find no peace. When we put our faith in our own resources, we feel the ache of our true need. When we put our hope in the health of our bodies, we suffer pain and find no healing. Come to us, O God. Forgive our doubts and fears. Heal our brokenness, that we may rejoice in your steadfast love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus promises, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever trusts in me will live." Let us trust the promise of new life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Glory to God! Amen.

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH # 884

Statement of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church

(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 # 534 Be Still, My Soul

OFFERTORY Love Came Down *(Irish melody)* Roberta Rowland-Raybold

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

Spirit of God, you breathe new life into the dead and stuck places of our daily living. We are so grateful for the power of your transforming love. We bring these gifts, hoping that they will breathe new life into barren places of our world. We bring our lives, filled with new life in your Spirit, ready to serve all your creation. We pray that you will bless these meager gifts and infuse them with power that the world may be renewed. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Improvisation

(Please be seated)

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, marcus61dodson@gmail.com

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

Usher: Joe Haraschak

Liturgist: Scott Walter

Coffee Hour: Amanda & Ryan Stahl

Some liturgical selections are adapted from umcdiscipleship.org and MinistryMatters.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the altar are offered by John & Judy Lefler to the glory of God and with prayers for all those in need.

HOLY WEEK begins with Palm Sunday next week. We will reflect on the events of Jesus' final days leading to his death at a service of remembering the last supper and the extinguishing of the light on Good Friday, April 3 at a service at 6 PM.

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 8:45 am 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, bacpac@comporium.net, facilitates this group. Please reach out to him if you have questions.

Website Revamp

"A picture is worth a thousand words!" Work is underway revamping our current website and we would love to include more pictures! If you have any photos of the church, fellowship hall, the church grounds or events that have occurred there in the past two years, please send the JPG photo link with an explanation if necessary (who is in the photo, what the event was, etc.) to Cynthia Wood at cmwood50@gmail.com with an explanation if necessary. We appreciate your submissions.

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.

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

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

Katie Monkus, daughter of Stan & Bobbie Moore,
Sherry Minnich, Tacia Butz, Dee Seropian, Marti Hughes, Maud Lipscomb (mother of Elizabeth Dice), Grady Price, Leslie Brown