



# LENT 3

*Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church*

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church  
Community Worship Service  
March 8, 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.***

***3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent***

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**PRELUDE**                      Meditation                                      Arthur Foote

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

Listen, all who are thirsty!

**God will make water to spring forth in our desert places.**

Take heed, all who are weary and heavy laden.

**Christ offers us living waters to drink.**

Pay attention, all who need the healing of God's Spirit.

**In Christ's baptismal water our lives are renewed.**

Listen for the word of God.

**As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you,  
O God. Come to us and fill our longing.**

**HYMN #139 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Wellspring of salvation, quench our thirst this day.**

**When our souls are parched, we long to taste the healing  
waters of your grace. When our spirits are as dry as desert  
sands, we yearn to find renewal in the well of your mercy**

**and your love. Shower us in your living water that we may be  
washed clean in the river of your forgiveness and your grace.**

**We come to you today, to be refreshed and made whole.**

**Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **Exodus 17:1-7** *Water from a rock*

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

### **Psalms 95 UMH 814** *The rock of our salvation* (Please respond with the words in bold.)

### **Romans 5:1-11** *Reconciled to God through Christ*

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## **John 4:5-42** *Christ, the living water*

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

<sup>5</sup> So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> *(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)* <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" *(Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)* <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" *(who is called Christ)*. "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done."

<sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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.)*

**God of endless renewal, God who calls us to lives restored, God who rescues the lost and saves the afflicted, there are times when our way grows confused. We struggle to know what to do. Or worse, we know what needs to be done and find it easier to stay on the wrong path. Forgive us for failing to heed the call to follow a better way. Remind us that you stand more ready to forgive than we are to confess those aspects of our lives that stand in need of your grace. Help us to lean in to what you would teach us about how we are to be. We pray all these things in Jesus' name, and for his sake. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Those whose souls drink of Christ's living water will never thirst again. Those who refresh themselves in Christ will have an eternal spring of water from which to draw. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and restored to new life. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **HOMILY**

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH # 880 The Nicene 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 # 369 Blessed Assurance**

**OFFERTORY** The King of Love Arr. by 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**

**Steadfast God of Hope, you have called us to rejoice—not in ease or achievement—but in the grace that sustains us through suffering, the love that meets us in struggle, and the hope that does not disappoint. You pour your Spirit into our hearts, shaping us into a people who give not out of obligation, but out of gratitude. As we bring these gifts, may they testify to your presence among us and to the promise of reconciliation you offer the world through Christ. Make us bold in our sharing, joyful in our worship, and confident in your grace. In the name of the one who died for us and lives within us, we pray. Amen.**

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

## **CLOSING HYMN #361 Rock of Ages**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Improvisation

*(Please be seated)*

## **PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Katie Monkus, daughter of Stan & Bobbie Moore,  
Cody Collins, Sherry Minnich, Tacia Butz, Dee Seropian

We express our sympathy to the family of Fred Jones, a former member of LTUMC. Condolences can be sent to his wife, Lynn @ 1984 Heidelberg Dr., Mount Pleasant, SC 29464.

---

## **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.

 Calling all Leprechauns! Bring your good luck and **join us on March 16th at 6pm for our next potluck dinner**. Dress in green with your favorite Irish swag. Sign-up sheets are in the fellowship hall. \*\*Future potluck dinner dates: 4/20, 5/18, 6/8, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, 10/12, 11/9 and 12/7.

**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](mailto:bacpac@comporium.net), facilitates this group. Please reach out to him if you have questions at

**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 4:45 PM in the Dice Hall. To honor anonymity, please do not go to the Parish building from 4:00-6:00 PM.

---

## **STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS**

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

Liturgist: Amanda Stahl

Coffee Hour: Louise Miller\*

*Some liturgical selections are adapted from [umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org) and [MinistryMatters.com](http://MinistryMatters.com).*