



5th Sunday after Epiphany

**Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church
Community Worship Service with Holy Communion
February 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.***

5th Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE O Holy City, Seen of John Seth Bingham

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

If the human body of flesh and bone, is to live, it needs salt.

**If the body of Christ, a body of peace, love, and justice,
is to live, it needs us!**

If the earthly creation, bustling and blooming, is to flourish,
it needs light.

**If the new creation in Christ is to flourish, it needs the Spirit's
light shining through us!**

Jesus says we are the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

**Our faith, our love, our hope are as essential as salt and light in
a suffering world.**

Briny and bright, we are God's faithful people.

**We shall be who we are meant to be in Christ: a welcoming
oasis, a compassionate community, a justice-making people,
giving glory to God!**

HYMN #577 God of Grace and God of Glory

OPENING PRAYER

**Creator God, who has made us to be salt and light in a tasteless,
shadowed world, be present and guide us in this time of
worship. Grant us understanding, compassion, wisdom, and
spiritual discernment so that others may see your good works
through us, give you the glory, and be moved to follow you. We
pray in the Spirit of Christ. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 58:1-9a *The fast that God chooses*

Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. ³"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

Psalm 112 UMH 833 *The blessings of righteousness*
(Please respond with the words in bold.)

1 Corinthians 2:1-16 *God's revealed through the Spirit*

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear

heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— ¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. ¹⁶ "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Matthew 5:13-20 *Called to be salt and light to the world*
(Please stand as you are able.)

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

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 glory, you sent Jesus among us as light to the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. Forgive us, God. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, so that, as forgiven and renewed people, we may reflect the love and light of Jesus Christ into our world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Spirit of God has been revealed to us in Christ, a Spirit of truth and love and forgiveness.

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

HOMILY

STATEMENT OF FAITH United Church of Canada UMH 883

(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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY Sarabande Seth Bingham

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

Gracious God, You call us to a fast not of silence, but of service; not of hiding, but of healing. You ask that our worship be more than words, that our offerings be more than ritual. Receive these gifts as signs of our willingness to share bread with the hungry, to break chains of injustice, to repair what is broken. May our generosity reflect your mercy and mirror your love. Use us and these gifts, so that light might shine through the darkness and hope take root where despair has sought to reign. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN #629 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Please respond with words in bold)

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, concluding:

"...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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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 #664 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

(Please stand as you are able)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE The Heavens Declare the Glory of God Benedetto Marcello
(Please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



In what year was the first Valentine's Day celebrated? **You will have to attend the Potluck Dinner TOMORROW EVENING, Monday, February 9th at 6pm to find out!** Bring a dish to share and your Valentine Trivia skills. Look forward to seeing you there!

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 facilitates this group. Please reach out to him if you have questions at bacpac@comporium.net.

The next meeting on the Administrative Council will take place this Friday, February 13 at 10:00am here at the church.

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 4-6PM.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY

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

STAFF & LAY VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: Marcus Dodson: 828-553-0282, marcus61dodson@gmail.com
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Audio/Visual & Livestream: Joe Haraschak: 813-918-1916
Ushers: Fred Markert, Andrew Butz
Liturgist: Scott Walter
Coffee Hour: Barbara Kline