



June 13, 2021

## LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday after Pentecost  
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

*God writes His Word on our Lives, building us into a Family engaged  
in Spirit-filled Service.*



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Eatonton, GA 31024  
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Sonya Plunkett Church Secretary  
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Pastor Steven Hayden  
Pastor's Cell: 515-360-5081  
Pastor's email: [revshayden@gmail.com](mailto:revshayden@gmail.com)

Aids for hearing, children's activity bulletins, and large print bulletins are  
available from the ushers



WE OFFER NURSERY & CHILDCARE  
*If you need childcare, please see one of the ushers  
and we will happily accommodate you.*

*Elder of the Month: Kathie Kueven  
Scripture reader: Robert Elkins*

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*Pre-Service Music: This is time to turn our hearts & minds toward God in preparation of worship.*

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**Instrumental Prelude**  
**Welcome**

**Lev Ryabinin**

*Please Stand*

*(You are invited to wish those around you God's peace. Please remain standing for the invocation.)*

**Invocation**

**Confession and Absolution**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated*

# Congregational Hymn #811

## “Oh that I Had a Thousand Voices”



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es To praise my  
2 O all you pow'rs that He im - plant - ed, A - rise, keep  
3 You for - est leaves so green and ten - der That dance for  
4 All crea - tures that have breath and mo - tion, That thron'g the



God with thou - sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -  
si - lence now no more; Put forth the strength that God has  
joy in sum - mer air, You mead - ow grass - es, bright and  
earth, the sea, the sky, Come, share with me my heart's de -



joic - es, Would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs To all, wher -  
grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore. O soul and  
slen - der, You flow'rs so fra - grant and so fair, You live to  
vo - tion, Help me to sing God's prais - es high. My ut - most



ev - er I might be, What great things God has done for me.  
bod - y, join to raise With heart - felt joy our Mak - er's praise.  
show God's praise a - lone. Join me to make His glo - ry known.  
pow'rs can nev - er quite De - clare the won - ders of His might.

5 Creator, humbly I implore You  
To listen to my earthly song  
Until that day when I adore You,  
Together with the angel throng  
And learn with choirs of heav'n to sing  
Eternal anthems to my King.

## **Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **The First Lesson:           Ezekiel 17:22-24**

R: <sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. <sup>24</sup>And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

R: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## **The Epistle Lesson:       2 Corinthians 5:1-10**

R: <sup>1</sup>For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we

would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. <sup>6</sup>So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

*Please Stand*

### Common Alleluia and Verse

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

R: The Holy Gospel according to Mark chapter 4

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

R: <sup>26</sup>And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. <sup>29</sup>But when

the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. <sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## Sermon Hymn # 500

### "Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid"



1 Cre - a - tor Spir - it, by whose aid The world's foun - da - tions  
2 O Source of un - cre - at - ed light, The bear - er of God's  
3 Giv - er of grace, de - scend from high; Your sev'n - fold gifts to  
4 Im - mor - tal hon - or, end - less fame At - tend the al - might - y



first were laid, Come, vis - it ev - 'ry hum - ble mind; Come,  
gra - cious might, Thrice - ho - ly fount, thrice - ho - ly fire, Our  
us sup - ply; Help us e - ter - nal truths re - ceive And  
Fa - ther's name; The Sav - ior - Son be glo - ri - fied, Who



pour Your joys on hu - man - kind; From sin and sor - row  
hearts with heav'n - ly love in - spire; Your sa - cred, heal - ing  
prac - tice all that we be - lieve; Give us Your - self that  
for all hu - man - kind has died; To You, O Par - a -



set us free; May we Your liv - ing tem - ples be.  
mes - sage bring To sanc - ti - fy us as we sing.  
we may see The glo - ry of the Trin - i - ty.  
clete, we raise Un - end - ing songs of thanks and praise.

Public domain

**The Message**

**Pastor Steve Hayden**

*Please Stand*

**Apostles' Creed**

**C: 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, died and was buried. He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven**



**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Offering**

*To Our Guests: We do not charge for any of our services. All our services, programs, and expenses are freely supported by the gifts and offerings of our members. As our guests, you have not been invited for what you can give, but for what God can give you. The Offering is collected at the door when you enter.*

## **Prayer of the Church**

*\* Prayer of The Church*

*(After the pastor ends each petition with, "Lord in Your Mercy, the congregation responds with, "Hear our prayer.")*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**C: 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 and ever. Amen.**

## **Benediction**

**P: The Lord bless you and keep you.**

**The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.**

**The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.**

**C: Amen.**

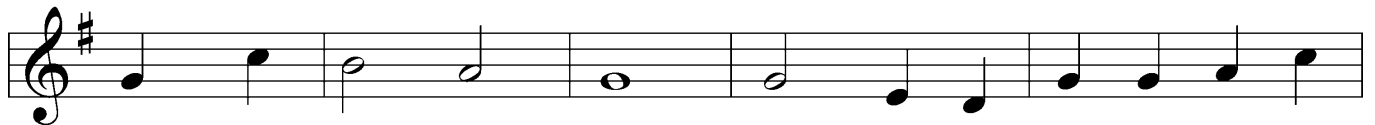
*Please be seated*

# Congregational Hymn #652

## “Father, We Thank Thee”



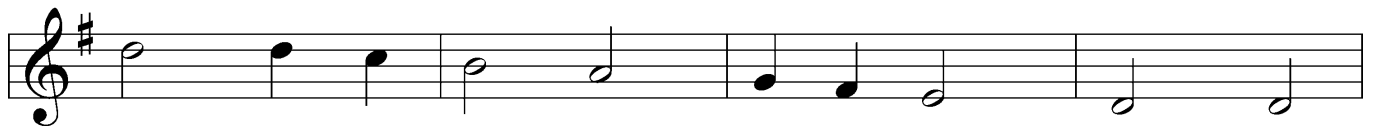
1 Fa - ther, we thank Thee who hast plant - ed Thy ho - ly  
2 Watch o'er Thy Church, O Lord, in mer - cy, Save it from



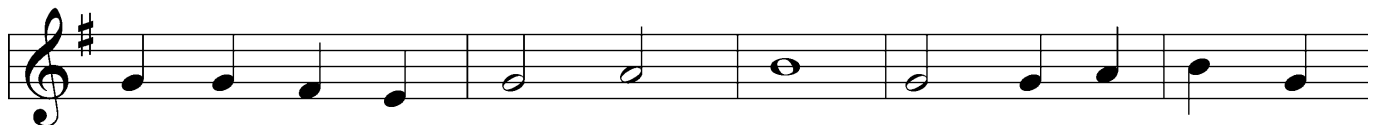
name with - in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im -  
e - vil, guard it still, Per - fect it in Thy love, u -



mor - tal Je - sus, Thy Son, to us im - parts.  
nite it, Cleansed and con - formed un - to Thy will.



Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy plea - sure, Didst  
As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides, Was



give us food for all our days, Giv - ing in Christ the  
in this bro - ken bread made one, So from all lands Thy



Bread e - ter - nal; Thine is the pow'r, be Thine the praise.  
Church be gath - ered In - to Thy king - dom by Thy Son.

## Announcements

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### The Dismissal

P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

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#### Post-service Music

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#### **GOD'S BLESSINGS to all those celebrating birthdays this week:**

- June 13<sup>th</sup> David Heimer
- June 17<sup>th</sup> Joan Lucas

#### **and anniversaries**

- June 14<sup>th</sup> Ed & Lillian Blosser

Best wishes!

#### **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Sunday	Council Meeting	After Worship
Tuesday	Women's Bible Class	10am
Tuesday	Community Center Meeting	2 pm
Wednesday	ZOOM Bible Class	10:30am
Saturday	Episcopal Church worship	5 pm
Sunday	Bible Class (In Person)	9 am
Sunday	Worship Service	10:30 am

**Sunday Morning Bible Class** St. Paul's letter to the Romans is the first epistle in the New Testament because it is the longest, but it could also occupy that position because of its importance. It has always played an important role in the church because it summarizes so well the essential emphases of the apostle's theology. Throughout the letter Paul emphasizes that God's mercy comes to undeserving people who stand under the Law. In the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God freely gives righteousness through faith alone, not on the basis of their own accomplishments. This unconditional promise is the sole basis of people's relationship with God.

Martin Luther wrote, "This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and it is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should

know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day...we can never read it or ponder over it too much." **Join us on Sunday mornings at 9 as we read the Letter to the Romans.**

**Wednesday Zoom Bible Class** The religious leaders in Judea had questioned the ministry of John the Baptist and worried about his influence. But after they heard Jesus' teaching, they knew they were in for trouble. Jesus taught with great boldness and challenged people's assumptions in simple language. Yet, many of Jesus' sayings invite the deepest reflection because they expound the eternal mysteries of the faith. The central purpose of the Gospel of John is stated by John himself: "This is written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name."(20:31) **Join us on Zoom every Wednesday at 10:30am** as we read through the **Gospel of John** and see that even now, Jesus--the Word made flesh--is working for your blessing (5:17) and preparing an eternal home for you (14:1-3).

**Women's Bible Study.** The devotional Life by Lisa Harper shows us the Gospel is truly Good News for your actual, every day, sometimes painful or difficult life. It's a reminder that God's faithfulness follows us through the harried, hard and humorous things in life. Join us anytime for this conversational series. Women's Bible Study meets **Tuesdays at 10 am** in the choir room.

**Blood Drive June 24th** from 1pm-6pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Pam Kunz at [Kunzpd3@outlook.com](mailto:Kunzpd3@outlook.com). If you would like to donate blood, please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use code lolc.

**The Church Council at their May meeting** approved several changes to our way of Worship together. These changes took effect **Sunday, June 6th.**

-As of June 6th, mask wearing will be optional during Worship and Bible class time. You may choose whether you would like to continue to wear your mask throughout the service, or not to wear one. As the percentage of complete vaccinations increases and with the introduction of coffee hour, the Council felt this was appropriate. We continue to encourage you to allow room for social distancing. Also, we will resume serving communion at the railing with some modifications.

1. There will be fewer people ushered to the railing each time, so we ask you to leave space between households.
  2. We are asking you not to kneel and remain standing for communion. This will avoid the spread of germs through the communion rail.
  3. The common cup will still not be used, only the individual cups will be offered.
  4. The self-contained communion cups and wafers that we have been using will continue to be available. If you desire to receive communion at your seat and not come forward, you may continue that practice.
  5. Pastor and the communion assistant will be masked during the distribution.
- Above all, we encourage you, in love, to be patient as we navigate these changes and iron out any unforeseen difficulties that we encounter. You may help us in this transition by signing up to serve as ushers for communion Sundays. If you have any questions, you are always invited to speak with Pastor Steve, Joe Peoples (Chair of the Board of Elders) or Tom Mathson (Congregational President). Thank you.

**We are in need of Volunteers.** We are looking for volunteers to sign up for Coffee fellowship, Camera Operators, and Communion Ushers.

Look for sign-up sheets in the kitchen for coffee fellowship. The remaining volunteer sign-up sheets are on the table near the side exit of the church next to the choir room.

**Operation Christmas child collections** are being split up into specific items for each month. We have created an Amazon wish list to make shopping easier for you. The specific items for the collection of the month will be on the wish list with the number of how many are needed in total. The direct link is emailed out in the church's Thursday email. If you do not receive those emails, you can contact the church office and we will email you a direct link. You can also purchase the items locally if you desire and bring them to church.

## **WORSHIP UPDATE**

Remember, we are now live streaming our Sunday Bible Class and Worship. This means both services will be broadcast live as they happen on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am and 10:30 am on Facebook. Join us as we all come together in worship. If you are unable to be online while they are live, do not worry. The recorded services will remain available for you to watch later as well. You may find it on the @lakeoconeelutheranchurch page on Facebook. God's blessings to each of you!



## **LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### ***We are Built for a Purpose***

#### **Built Through Word and Sacrament –**

...believing in and making faithful and frequent use of the Bible, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper as the means by which God gives and sustains faith and empowers and strengthens us for Christian living.

#### **Built Through Ongoing Learning –**

...providing quality, Bible based instruction to foster greater understanding of God's Word and to better equip members for their discipleship.

#### **Built For Service –**

...reaching out to others by word and deed to join in the sharing of God's blessings and grace, which is free to all believers.

#### **Built For Discipleship –**

...utilizing fully our time, talents, and resources to serve and love the Lord, furthering our commission of discipleship.

#### **Built For Fellowship –**

...caring for and sharing with our church family; fostering greater love, understanding, and concern for the physical and spiritual well-being of all brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

#### **The window behind the altar is our EASTER SUNRISE WINDOW.**

The cross hanging in front of the window is an empty cross, reminding us that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive now to be with us here and always. Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter. The symbol on the front of the ALTAR is a combination of two Greek letters: the "chi," which looks like our English "x," and the "rho," which looks like our "p." In the Greek, these letters are the first two of "Christ." Combined as they are, they suggest the cross. Superimposed on the cross is a heart, the reminder that God's love for us is the reason Jesus died on the cross. God's love for us empowers us to share his love with others.