

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 6, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude	Christopher A. McCroskey	
<i>(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)</i>		
Greeting		6
Call to Worship	<i>"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"</i>	Dan Greshel
Opening Prayer		6
<i>(Please register your attendance on the pew pads provided.)</i>		
Prayer for Illumination		6
Old Testament Reading	1 Samuel 8:4-20	Page 246 (O.T.)
New Testament Reading	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Page 171 (N.T.)
Psalter	Psalms 138	853-854
Gospel Reading	Mark 3:20-35	Page 39-40 (N.T.)
Sermon	"The Unforgivable Sin"	Rev. John D. Jordan
Response to the Word		7
Invitation		7
Confession and Pardon		8
Presentation of Tithes & Offerings		
Offertory	Christopher A. McCroskey	
*Doxology	<i>"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"</i>	95
Thanksgiving and Communion		9-11
*Hymn	<i>"Bread of the World"</i>	624
*Dismissal With Benediction		
*Benediction Response	<i>"God Be with You till We Meet Again"</i>	Dan Greshel
*Postlude	Christopher A. McCroskey	

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: *John D. Jordan* Time Together: *Gale Frady*
Choir Director: *Christopher A. McCroskey* AV Assistant: *K. C. Warble*
Church Musician

VISITORS ARE WELCOME in the service of worship! Please make use of the visitor's tags (located in the pew backs) to help us better welcome you as a visitor to Trinity this morning. We ask that you also please fill in the pew pad as it passes to register your attendance with us. **Large print hymnals** are available from the ushers.

You may join as a member into the life and work of this congregation by Confession of Faith or by Transfer of Membership from another church. If you would be interested in becoming a member, please speak to the pastor.

TODAY'S LOVELY FLOWERS are given to the **Glory of God.**

“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS ...

Ruth Frady Tom Lloyd Patsy Shuler Lynn Martin Kathy Aiello George Taylor
Ted Frady Oren Edwards Latson Lewis Steve Aiello Steve White

Shut-Ins: Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Carolyn Hardee; Francis & Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; Shirley Padgett; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; Wayne Tallon; Irvin Wells

Family and Friends: **Ghent Brewer** (brother-in-law of Jeanette Hornsby); **Beverly Graves** (friend of Becky Derrick); **Mitch Kelly** (Dale Wells' nephew); **Chip Hooker** (Wayne Hooker's father); **Robert Bradley** (Business Associate of Simon Ross); **Dave Burrell** (Business Associate of Tommy Gleaton); **Gene Odom** (grandfather of Mark Branham); **Gary Becton** (friend of Mark Branham); **Audrey Cassady** (sister-in-law of Mary Louise Robinson); **Rusty Browning** (friend of Erin Derrick); **Monnie Tiller, Mrs. Miles** (friends of Chris Derrick); **Donna Walker** (coworker of Jack Stevens); **Ruby Pennington** (friend of Laurie Knapp); **Rick Baldwin** (nephew of Tommy Johnson); **Judy Bauer** (cousin of Marty Johnson); **Betty Jean Newton** (sister-in-law of Mary Kamoroff); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Danielle Spotts** (co-worker of Kathy White); **Vickie Edwards** (neighbor of Kathy White); **George Duke, Brenda Grier** (friends of Lynn Martin); **Heather Stevens, Ty Moore, George Dorn** (friends of Kay Jordan); **Teddy Derrick** (uncle of Arvan Derrick); **Haidee Baehr** (friends of Ruth Frady); **Dianne Schmotzer** (sister-in-law of Gale Frady); **Denise Paul** (cousin of Gale Frady); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (friends of Gale Frady); **Ray Culbreth's Group House; Nellie Gantt** (mother of friend of Ray Culbreth); **Amelia Zinski** (great-niece of Linda Maloch); **Wayne Blair** (son of Dot Johnson); **Xavier Crane** (grandnephew of John Ballentine); **Janet Beck** (friend of Jo Ann Heiting); **Adam Lavender** (son of Phil Lavender)

OUR PRESENCE ...

Attendance 05/30 32

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 05/30 \$ 1,675.00

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Church Calendar

TODAY Birthday Celebration
06/07 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
06/10 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.



Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

The Congregation
John D. Jordan
Jonathan Holston
Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform



1201 Mohawk Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169
Telephone: 803.794.7777
E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com
Website: www.trinityumcwc.org

We want to believe that no matter what we may do, God will forgive us. The good news is that God forgives all our sins, no matter what they may be. We simply confess our sin, repent, and God will forgive us. God will remove all our unnecessary guilt and restore us into relationship with God. Jesus says that all sins will be forgiven, even blasphemy. All, that is, except one.

What is this unforgivable sin? It must be something terrible. Violence is terrible. So maybe it is some violent act, murder perhaps? Maybe multiple murders, because surely it would be difficult for God to forgive serial killers. Genocide, trying to eliminate a whole group of people, would be unforgivable. Yes, these may be unforgivable sins for us, but God can forgive these sins.

Deceit must be unforgivable. I don't think God would cotton to liars or thieves. God, who is truth, must not be able to tolerate anything that is untrue or anyone that spreads untruths. Again, God may forgive sins of deceit and stealing.

Well, God doesn't like oppression. Throughout the Bible the prophets rail against oppression. Isn't that why God punished Israel and Judah, because their leaders oppressed the people? Isn't the Messiah suppose to liberate people from oppression? Well, God may even forgive oppressors.

So, what is this unforgivable sin? Jesus states it explicitly in verse 29, "whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin." This is a sin that has never or never will be forgiven. No matter how gracious and merciful God is, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is unforgivable.

This leads us to a further question. What does Jesus mean when he says "blaspheme against the Holy Spirit"? If I should scream, "Curse you Holy Spirit!" am I blaspheming against the Holy Spirit? That is not it. What Jesus means when he speaks of blaspheming against the Holy Spirit is found in the passage we read from Mark.

The people come to see and hear Jesus. The crowd is so dense and persistent that Jesus and the disciple couldn't even eat. The people had been seeing all Jesus had been doing and saying. Some thought he was crazy, so they called the family to come to get him. Also, some scribes from Jerusalem came. They were saying that Jesus was possessed by Beelzbul and was casting out demons by the ruler of the demons. Note that the scribes were saying this to the crowd, not Jesus directly. They were trying to convince the crowd that Jesus' exorcisms were by the power of Satan, not God. The scribes were saying that Jesus was the one with an unclean Spirit.

There were two things the scribes were doing that blasphemed against the Holy Spirit. Most obviously, they were attempting to inhibit the power of the Spirit. They were outside the house, away from Jesus, and they were trying to convince those who were inside to come out. Remember last week we talked about the Trinity being a dance that drew people into it. Here the scribes were trying to pull people away from the dance. They were not letting the Spirit do its work of drawing people into the community, the family, of God.

The second way in which the scribes blasphemed against the Holy Spirit is that they attributed what God was doing through Jesus to Satan. They were saying that the authority Jesus had to cast out demons came from Satan, not God. Of course, Jesus points out this makes no sense. Why would Satan cast demons out from those who were possessed by his servants? The scribes failed to see that Jesus was from God. This is a bit ironic since the scribes, the religious leaders did not recognize that Jesus was from God, while all the demons that had been exorcised by Jesus proclaimed that he was the holy one from God, God's son. The scribes were ascribing evil to that which was good, Jesus exorcising demons.

Thus we see that to blaspheme the Holy Spirit is to work to inhibit the power of the Spirit to draw people into the family of God and to ascribe evil to that which is good. Whew! That is good. We would never do anything to inhibit the power of the Holy Spirit and we would never ascribe evil to that which is good. We would never blaspheme the Holy Spirit, so all our sins can be forgiven. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

But wait, can we say that we have never inhibited the power of the Holy Spirit? We may inhibit the power of the Holy Spirit to work within us. When we say, "Thank you, Jesus, for accepting me just the way I am and forgiving me, but don't change me," we blaspheme the Holy Spirit. When we do not respond to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to change us to be what God created us to be, we blaspheme the Holy Spirit. When we accept God's saving us from sin but reject what God is saving us for, God's purpose, we blaspheme the Holy Spirit.

We may ascribe evil to that which is good when we say that God can not use certain people, or things for his purposes. Kay and I have been watching *The Last Kingdom* on Netflix. The main storyline involves Uhtred, a Saxon who was raised by Danes and remains pagan, and Alfred the King of Wessex to whom Uhtred is sworn. Though Uhtred is Alfred's best warrior, he constantly questions if he, a Christian king, can use a pagan warrior for his purposes. Throughout the series, you see the goodness and loyalty of Uhtred, while others see him as evil because his ways are different. How often do we ascribe evil to people just because they are different from us or say that God can not use them? By the way, Alfred always seems to send Uhtred on the most sensitive negotiations and important battles with the Danes. When we say someone or something is evil while God is using them or it for Good, we blaspheme the Holy Spirit.

Now, You may be saying, "we are all doomed to hell", for we all may have blasphemed against the Holy Spirit in some way or time if we consider the above. But remember, part of the work of the Holy Spirit is to transform and change us. Our blasphemies against the Holy Spirit are most often unintentional and from lack of understanding. Therefore our sin of blasphemy may be forgiven.

The scribes were intentionally and actively working against the power of the Holy Spirit. Even though they saw Jesus exorcising and healing, they refused to believe that he was the Son of God, the Messiah. They actively and intentionally worked to pull people out of the crowd and away from Jesus, away from God.

When we accept the power of the Holy Spirit to change us, all our sins, even our blasphemies, may be forgiven.