

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 29, 2021

Leading in Worship Today

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Centering Words		
Call To Worship	<i>“I Love You, Lord”</i>	Dan Greshel
Opening Prayer		
*Hymn	<i>“The Lily of the Valley”</i>	2062 TFWS
Prayer of the Day		
The Lord’s Prayer		895

Proclamation of the Word:

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading	Song of Solomon 2: 8-13	596 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalm 72: 1-17	795-796
*Hymn	<i>“Fairest Lord Jesus”</i>	189
Epistle Reading	James 1:17-27	218 (N.T.)
*Hymn	<i>“Lord of the Dance”</i>	261
Gospel Reading	Mark 7: 1-8, 14-23	43-44 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>Outside In or Inside Out</i>	Rev. John Jordan

Response to the Word:

*Affirmation of Faith	<i>“The Apostles’ Creed”</i>	881
Presentation of Tithes & Offerings		
Offertory		Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology	<i>“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”</i>	95
*Hymn	<i>“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”</i>	402
*Dismissal With Benediction		
*Benediction Response	<i>“God Be with You till We Meet Again”</i>	Dan Greshel
*Postlude		Christopher A. McCroskey

*The Congregation May Stand

Pastor:	<i>John D. Jordan</i>	AV Assistant:	<i>K. C. Warble</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Christopher A. McCroskey</i>	Soloist:	<i>Dan Greshel</i>
Church Musician		Time Together:	<i>Mary Louise Robinson</i>

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 and in honor of Carolyn Hardee on her 91st birthday September 1, by her family.

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

Pauline Wenner Patsy Shuler Kathy Aiello Dale Wells Steve Aiello
Ted Frady Oren Edwards Latson Lewis George Taylor

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: **Matthews McCormick** (brother of Kelsey Tolliver); **Bert & Marie McCrackin** (friends of Oren & Hilda Edwards); **Stuart & Penny Lloyd** (son & daughter-in-law of Tom & Marilyn Lloyd); **Cindy Ellenberg** (friend of Ray Frady); **Mary Collard** (daughter of Jackie McNeill); **Megan Corby** (daughter of Carlis Edwards); **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); **Gary Becton** (friend of Mark Branham); **Wade Albert Payne** (friend of Mary Louise Robinson); **Audrey Cassady** (sister-in-law of Mary Louise Robinson); **Monnie Tiller** (friend of Chris Derrick); **Ruby Pennington** (friend of Laurie Knapp); **George Rentz** (father of Marty Johnson); **Mary Rentz** (sister of Marty Johnson); **John Bassett** (friend of Marty Johnson); **Shannon Bassett** (daughter-in-law of John Bassett); **Betty Jean Newton** (sister-in-law of Mary Kamoroff); **Beth Ann Feimster** (sister of Christopher McCroskey); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Katelyn Rose** (daughter of co-worker of Kathy White); **Vickie Edwards** (neighbor of Kathy White); **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); **Vera Von Glahn** (sister-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting); **Walt & Janet Beck** (friends of Jo Ann Heiting); **Adam Lavender** (son of Phil Lavender)

If you have a friend or family member on the Prayer List, we ask you to please keep us updated. If no word is received, we will trust that our prayers have been answered and remove the name. To update us, please call the office or e-mail us at trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com.

OUR PRESENCE ...

In-Person Attendance 08/22 SS: 9 Worship: 19

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 08/22 \$ 3,700.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Calendar for this Week

TODAY SPRC Meeting in Fellowship Hall following Worship

Upcoming Events

Lunch Bunch will meet on **Sunday, September 5**. Everyone is invited to bring a covered dish and join in this time of food and fellowship

The **Epworth Children's Home Work Day Offering** will be received on **Sunday, September 12**.

The **Finance Committee** will meet in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, September 12**, following worship.



Ministers	The Congregation
Pastor	John D. Jordan
Resident Bishop	Jonathan Holston
District Superintendent	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

There is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

Mark 7:15, NRSV



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Mark 7: 1-8, 21-23

What defiles? What makes one unclean, contaminated, polluted? What makes one unclean in the sight of God?

These are the basic questions being addressed in this passage. The Pharisees and Jesus present different views of what makes a person unclean. Is it what we put in from the outside or what comes out from the inside?

The Pharisees would contend that it is what we put in from the outside that defiles. They would say that it is our outer actions that make one unclean in the sight of God. They see Jesus' disciples eating without washing their hands and point out to Jesus that the disciples are not following the traditions of hand washing. (Of course, we know the importance of handwashing as a hygienic point, but in this case, it is a theological point.) Not only was it important for the hands to be washed but also all utensils had to be washed in a certain way.

The Pharisees would also argue that associating with certain people would make one unclean, people like gentiles, tax collectors, and sinners. Women who were menstruating or had just given birth were unclean. Lepers and people with any type of discharge were unclean. Touching a corpse would make one unclean. Touching any of these, dead or alive, would make one unable to go into the temple.

Eating certain foods was considered unclean. Pork, shellfish, catfish, reptiles, certain birds, and most insects were considered unclean. To eat any of these was considered to be going against the law of God, thus defiling them.

To the Pharisees, it was our outer actions that would defile. We would keep ourselves clean before God by what we did or avoided on the outside. What was important was strict adherence to their interpretation of the law. It was the outer actions that defiled.

From the Pharisees' point of view, let us look at some of the ways they may consider us defiled today.

We may become defiled by the people with whom we associate. We may be considered unclean if we associate with people who are homeless or poor. We may be considered unclean by associating with people of a different race, ethnicity, or religion. We may be considered unclean by associating with people who are infirmed, those with AIDS, mental illness, disabilities, or even CoVid. These are people we may try to avoid because we may be considered unclean before God.

We may be considered unclean by what we put into our bodies, alcohol or drugs. Some may consider that eating meat makes them unclean. Some may consider that taking medicines makes them unclean. To some, these things contaminate the body and make us unclean before God.

We may be considered unclean by certain activities. We may be considered unclean by doing yoga or Eastern meditation. We may be considered unclean by going to a rock concert or listening to secular music. We may be considered unclean by going to a mosque, synagogue, temple, or some other place of worship. We may be considered unclean by reading or studying different religions. We may be considered unclean by going to a bar or club. One may be considered unclean by going to Williams-Brice or Death Valley (depending on your perspective).

There are these and many more ways that people may be considered unclean, that keep one from being able to come to God.

Jesus presents a different perspective on what defiles and keeps one from coming to God. Jesus argues that it is not what we put into our bodies, it is not what we do, nor with whom we associate that defiles, but what is on the inside.

Jesus contends that it is one's thoughts and attitudes that defile. Jesus notes that all evil intentions come from the heart: fornication, murder, theft, adultery, avarice, deceit, and many more. Jesus claims that one's actions come from thoughts and attitudes. It is what is on the inside that leads to outer behavior which makes one unclean and unable to come to God.

It is fear of the other and the belief that people who are Black, homeless, or mentally ill are inherently more dangerous that has led to many if not all the recent cases of shootings.

It is hatred of people who are different that lead to tragedies like Mother Emmanuel, the Pulse nightclub shootings, and many others.

It is anger towards people that did not do or say what one wants them to that leads to murder, especially domestic murder.

It is the belief that one is superior because of their race, gender, religious standing, or political power, that leads one to treat others with disdain and abuse.

It is shame that leads one to be manipulated and used by others.

Jesus says it is our thoughts and attitudes that defile and make us unclean before God. God looks beyond any outer piety and actions in one's life and looks into the heart.

One of John Wesley's sermons was *The Almost Christian*. Wesley defined the "almost Christian" as one that did not break any of the commandments, and did all the right things: went to church, took communion, prayed, did service work, etc. The "almost Christian" had the outside of a real Christian but lacked one thing. The "almost Christian" lacked sincerity. By sincerity, Wesley meant, "a real inward principle of religion from whence all outward actions flow."¹

It is from our inner selves, our thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs from which our actions flow. This is borne out in modern psychotherapy where the emphasis has become changing the person's thought patterns which lead to changes in emotions and behaviors.

It is not our outer actions that defile us and make us unclean before God. We can be as clean, bright, and shiny as a new penny before others and still be as dirty as a pig wallowing in a mud bath before God. It is what is inside that makes us unclean. It is our thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs about ourselves and others that make us unclean and must be changed so we can come before God.

When we sincerely and humbly come before God, admitting that we are unclean and have no business before God, asking God to change our thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs, God will wash us clean. God will wash away all our hatred, anger, arrogance, shame, and prejudices. God will fill us with divine love, the love of the

¹ John Wesley, "The Almost Christian", In *The Sermons of John Wesley: A Collection for the Christian Journey*. eds. Kenneth J. Collins and Jason E. Vickers (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013) 98.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and we will become an “altogether Christian”. We come to know the perfect love of God and neighbor. Our thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs flow from this perfect love. We can stand before God clean and undefiled.