

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 19, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>“Majesty, Worship His Majesty”</i>	Choir
Centering Words		

Opening Prayer		
*Hymn	<i>“Blessed Assurance”</i>	369

Prayer of the Day		
The Lord’s Prayer		895

Proclamation of the Word:

Prayer of Illumination		
Old Testament Reading	Proverbs 31:10-31	586-587 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalm 1	738

*Hymn	<i>“Jesus Loves Me”</i>	191
Epistle Reading	James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a	219-220 (N.T.)
Anthem	<i>“Let All Things Now Living”</i>	Choir

Gospel Reading	Mark 9:30-37	46-47 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>Who Is the Greatest? A Little Child</i>	Rev. John D. Jordan

Response to the Word:

*Affirmation of Faith	<i>“The Apostles’ Creed”</i>	881
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Presentation of Tithes & Offerings		
Offertory		Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology	<i>“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”</i>	95

*Hymn	<i>“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”</i>	430
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*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response	<i>“May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You”</i>	Choir
	May the Lord, Mighty God bless and keep you forever, Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and see God’s face and God’s grace forever, May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever.	

*Postlude		Christopher A. McCroskey
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*The Congregation May Stand

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor:	<i>John D. Jordan</i>	AV Assistant:	<i>K. C. Warble</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Christopher A. McCroskey</i>	Time Together:	Dee Senn; Linda Maloch
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...

Dee Senn Peggy Nadler Patsy Zeigler Dale Wells George Taylor Oren Edwards
Ellen Matthews Dean Nadler Latson Lewis Irvin Wells Steve Aiello Patsy Shuler
Pauline Wenner

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: **Jane Bryant** (sister of Patsy Zeigler); **Wessli-Ann Hardee Singleton** (niece of Lynn Martin); **Addie Kinard** (cousin of coworker of Edwa Meek); **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); **George Rentz** (father of Marty Johnson); **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); **Jeff DuBrul** (son-in-law of Walt and Janet Beck); **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 09/12 SS: 10 Worship: 26

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 09/12 \$ 4,458.00 Epworth Children's Home 09/12 \$ 445.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Calendar for this Week

09/20 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
09/22 Choir, 6:30 p.m.
09/23 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
GLIA Articles Due

Upcoming Events

SPRC will meet on **Sunday, September 26**, immediately following Worship.

Charge Conference will be held on **Sunday, October 10**, immediately following Worship.

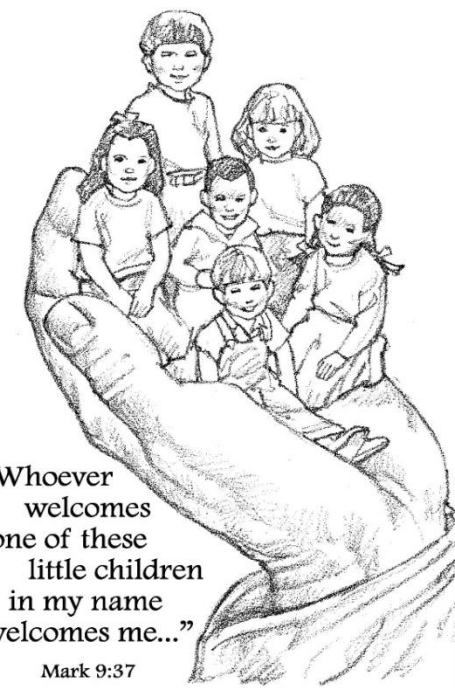


Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

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



Mark 9:37

1201 Mohawk Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169
Telephone: 803.794.7777

E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com
Website: www.trinityumcwc.org

Mark 9:30-37

The term GOAT has taken a different meaning in the sports world in the last few years. Until recently, the GOAT was the one who blew the game. Bill Buckner was the GOAT as he let an easy ground ball roll between his legs. Chris Webber was the GOAT for calling a time out, which Michigan did not have, costing them the NCAA basketball championship against Duke. Scott Norwood was the GOAT for missing the field goal that would have given the Buffalo Bills the Super Bowl Championship. The GOAT used to be the one who made the error which gave the other team the win.

However, in recent years GOAT has taken a different meaning. GOAT has become an acronym for Greatest Of All Time. Many consider Tom Brady the GOAT of NFL quarterbacks. Simone Biles wore a leotard in the Olympic Trials with GOAT emblazoned in sequins. Many think LeBron James is the GOAT of the NBA, though I would argue for Michael Jordan. Muhammed Ali proclaimed himself the GOAT even before it was popular to be the GOAT. Now we debate who is the GOAT in every sport. It is good to be the GOAT.

The disciples were arguing among themselves about who was the GOAT, the greatest disciple of all time. (Admittedly, there was a small pool at the time.) You can imagine them arguing about who has cast out the most demons or cured more sick people. Then there was Peter, James, and John, who saw the transfiguration. Who was the GOAT when it came to being Jesus' disciple?

In each synoptic Gospel this incident occurs after Jesus' second foretelling of his passion, death, and resurrection. Mark adds another ironic twist. The disciples argue about who is the GOAT after they are unable to cast a spirit out of a boy. They are arguing about who the GOAT is in the new sense of the word after they have been the GOAT in the old definition.

The argument continues until they arrive in Capernaum. Upon entering the house, Jesus asks why they are arguing. I imagine the disciples looking somewhat ashamed and guilty at this point, like Carmen, our dog, looks when we catch her in the bedroom. The disciples remain quiet.

First, Jesus tells them, "if you want to be the GOAT disciple, you must be the GOAT servant." To be the greatest disciple of all time, you must be the greatest servant of all time.

Then he does something very radical. In this room of men, his closest followers, Jesus takes a little child, places it in their midst, and says, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me." Whoa! Think about it. What Jesus is saying is whoever welcomes a little child welcomes God. Then to be the GOAT disciple is to receive and serve a little child.

The Greek word, *padion*, means a toddler or preschooler. Jesus takes a very young child and places it in the midst of these grown men.

We may think, "what is so radical about that?" It is not that hard to receive and serve a little child. Just look at our behavior around Lyla or any other baby. I remember when Ashton was a baby, Bruce Rayner would see us walking down the hall and go, "Oh, the baby." We place great value on children.

We have romanticized childhood. When we think of a small child, we think of innocence. We think of purity, a person unspoiled by the world. We may think of one that is dependant, as one recognizes dependence on God. We welcome God with innocence, to be made pure, and become dependant on God. These things are accurate depictions of what Jesus would mean in our modern perception.

But in the Greco-Roman world of Jesus' day, the value of a little child was much different. During Jesus' day, a third of all children died before their first birthday. One-half of all children died before their tenth birthday. This little child Jesus placed in the midst of these adult men would only have a 50% chance of reaching adulthood.

So, small children were of little to no value. To a peasant family, a little child would be a liability, not an asset. If someone had no heirs, they could adopt an heir, but this would usually be an adult, not a child. A little child was a liability at worst and worth nothing at best.

So to these men who have been arguing about who is the GOAT, who has the most status, Jesus says it is the one who receives and serves the one who has little or no value. If you want to receive God, you receive the little child, the one of no value. If you love God, you love the one of no value.

If Jesus came into our church today, I wonder who he would place in our midst, telling us to receive and serve if we want to be the GOAT in the Kingdom of God?

It might be:

The homeless person sleeping under the Gervais Street bridge,
woman without family in a nursing home,
woman who was sexually assaulted,
incarcerated, trapped in our prison system
seeking economic stability,

the "illegal" alien picking our peaches,
the child neglected or abused by parents or other adults,
the addict or alcoholic,
the refugee fleeing oppression and violence,
the physically, mentally or emotionally disabled.

the old
the
the
the immigrant

These are just some of the valueless ones in our society today. These are the ones that Jesus might place in our midst today. These are the ones by which we may receive God.

In the Kingdom of God, the GOAT is the least. The GOAT is the valueless, for all God's children are valuable. By the world's standards, the GOAT in any field - sports, politics, entertainment, religion, economics, business, science - is worthless in the Kingdom of God. To be the GOAT, we receive and serve the valueless in the world, for in them we receive and serve God.