

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 3, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey
(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

Call to Worship Choir
Greeting 6
*Hymn 368
“Surely the Presence of the Lord”
“My Hope Is Built”

Opening Prayer 6
(Please register your attendance on the pew pads provided.)

Prayer for Illumination 6

New Testament Reading Pages 208-209 (N.T.)
Psalter 756-757
Gospel Reading Page 47 (N.T.)
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Psalm 25:1-10
Mark 10:2-16

Anthem Choir
“Love Lifted Me”

Old Testament Reading Pages 444-445 (O.T.)
Sermon Rev. John D. Jordan
Job 1:1; 2:1-10
Who Knows Our Heart?

Response to the Word 7
“The Apostles’ Creed”

Invitation 7
Confession and Pardon 8
Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings
Offertory Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology 95
“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Thanksgiving and Communion 9-11

*Hymn 357
“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”

*Dismissal With Benediction
*Benediction Response Choir
“Three-Fold Amen”

*Postlude Christopher A. McCroskey

*The Congregation May Stand

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: *John D. Jordan* AV Assistant: *Marie Stiles*
Choir Director: *Christopher A. McCroskey* Time Together: *Mary Louise Robinson*
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 ...

Marie Stiles	Ted Frady	Jeanette Hornsby	Patsy Zeigler	Dale Wells	Charles McNeill
Pauline Wenner	Dean Nadler	Latson Lewis	Irvin Wells	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler
George Taylor	Oren Edwards				

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

Family and Friends: **Debbie Ranck, Jimmy Clark, Jonnie Clark** (*friends of Lynn Martin*); **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*); **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*)

OUR PRESENCE ...

Attendance 09/26 SS: 8 In-Person Worship: 25

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 09/26 \$ 2,038.50

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Church Calendar

TODAY Church Council Meets Immediately Following Worship

Lunch Bunch

10/04 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

10/06 Choir, 6:30 p.m.

10/07 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

10/08 Memorial Service for Maurice Robinson at Fort Jackson National Cemetery, 12 p.m.
Gathering at Cayce Riverwalk Pavilion following Service

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

Memorial Service for Maurice Robinson

A Memorial Service for **Maurice Robinson** will be held on Friday, October 8, at 12 p.m. at Fort Jackson National Cemetery, 4170 Percival Road, Columbia, SC. Face masks will be required.

The family will be gathering at the Cayce Riverwalk Pavilion after the service at Fort Jackson and would love for you to drop by and share this time with them. The Trinity Ladies are hosting this time together. The Cayce Riverwalk Pavilion is located at 201 Naples Avenue.



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



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Job 1:1; 2: 1-10

Job was a man, upright and blameless, who feared God. Job got caught in the middle of a cosmic bet. God points out to Satan, the Accuser, that Job was blameless and upright, a man who feared God and turned from evil. God said that Satan could find no accusation against Job.

Satan argues that Job was upright, blameless, and feared God because God had blessed Job with so much. The common theology of the time was that God blessed good people, and suffering was a sign of sin. Satan accuses God of being too good to Job, and asks if Job would curse God if Job experienced suffering instead of good.

God turns Job over to Satan with the limitation that Satan could not harm Job directly. Then Job loses his oxen and donkeys to the Sabeans. Fire from heaven, lightning, kills his sheep. The Chaldeans take his camels. Finally, a whirlwind hits the place where his children are feasting and kills all of them. All his servants, except the four messengers, die in these events. Job loses all the blessings he has received from God.

However, Job does not curse God. He affirms that God gave and God could take away, and he blesses God. Job does not blame God.

Now, Satan returns. God points out that Job remains upright and blameless. Satan agrees but notes that Job, while losing much, has not been affected directly. What would happen if Job's health and well-being were affected?

God permits Satan to afflict Job's health but not take his life. Now Job is covered with sores from head to foot. His wife tells Job to curse God and die, but Job maintains his integrity.

I want to point out a couple of things in the story of Job. The first is that God did not cause these events, which led to Job losing everything. Nor were these events out of the realm of possibility.

Job lost his oxen, donkeys, and camels to raids by the Sabeans and Chaldeans. A raid like this was a fairly common occurrence at the time of this story. Often one tribe would raid another for livestock, like cattle rustlers in the old westerns. Job lost his livestock because of the actions of others. His loss and suffering were due to someone else's actions.

At times, our suffering is due to the actions of others. Instead of stealing our livestock, someone may steal our identity and clean out our bank accounts. Someone whose loved one is killed in a shooting or by an impaired driver suffers because of the actions of another person. A victim of sexual assault suffers both short and long-term pain because someone took advantage of them. In these and similar situations, one suffers because of the actions of another person against them. Their suffering is not from their sin but someone else's sin.

Job lost his sheep and children in natural disasters. Lightning could strike a herd of sheep grazing on the top of a hill in an open country, killing all the sheep. A whirlwind could form rapidly without warning and destroy a structure, in this case, more than likely a tent. The force of a whirlwind could kill the inhabitants of a tent.

We have seen the destructive power of nature many times. This year we have seen the devastation from wildfires, tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods. These are the result of elements of creation coming together in a manner to form these events. When more water comes down a riverbed than it can hold, a flood occurs. When warm, humid air collides with cold, dry air, a tornado occurs. When there is enough static electricity in the air, there is lightning. These events happen in the creation, and if we are in the way, we may suffer loss.

Finally, Job suffered bodily affliction. This affliction sounds to me like chickenpox, smallpox, measles, or some similar virus. These viruses are out there, and if one comes in contact with it, they get it.

We know that most diseases come from viruses, bacteria, or some mutation in the body. We may not know how we came in contact with the pathogen that made us sick. Though Kay and I have no idea how Ashton got Pneumococccal Meningitis, we know she had it.

God did not cause Job's sufferings. Job's suffering came because of the acts of others, natural conditions in creation, and unexplainable disease. Regardless, Job maintained his integrity and did not curse God. Job kept his faith in the goodness of God.

Now I am not a betting man, so I wonder why God would make this bet with Satan? How could God know that Job would remain faithful when afflicted with all this suffering? How could Job remain upright and blameless and not curse God? One could find it to curse God if all this happened to them.

The key to this is that Job feared God. This fear is not Job being afraid of God, but Job holding God in awe and reverence. Thus, Job had a proper ethical relationship with God. Job knew, from this relationship, that God was superior to him and much more powerful.

And God knew this. God knew Job's heart, his innermost being. From Job's relationship with God, God knew Job would remain faithful and would not curse God. God had faith in Job.

We often think of faith going in one direction; we have faith in God. We do not consider that God has faith in us. We have trust and confidence in God, which grows as we become closer in our relationship with God. As that relationship grows, God trusts us to lean on divine power to get us through our times of pain and suffering.

We experience pain and suffering in this life. But God has faith in us. God has faith that we will lean on divine power to get through our pain and suffering. God knows our hearts and therefore knows how much we will trust God.

We come to the table today to experience God's grace and faith in us. God's faithfulness in us always remains. May we remain as faithful to God as God is faithful to us.