

***Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost***  
**October 10, 2021**

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>“Surely the Presence of the Lord”</i>	Choir
Centering Words		
Opening Prayer		
*Hymn	<i>“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”</i>	117
Prayer of the Day		
The Lord’s Prayer		895

**Proclamation of the Word**

Prayer of Illumination		
Old Testament Reading	Job 23:1-9, 16-17	460 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalms 22:1-18	752-753
*Hymn	<i>“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”</i>	452
Epistle Reading	Hebrews 4:12-16	210 (N.T.)
Anthem	<i>“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”</i>	Choir
Gospel Reading	Mark 10:17-31	47-48 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>Getting Through the Eye</i>	Rev. John D. 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>“Take My Life, and Let It Be”</i>	399
*Dismissal With Benediction		
*Benediction Response	<i>“Three-Fold Amen”</i>	Choir
*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: *Ruth Frady*  
 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*** in loving memory of her husband, ***Martin Senn***, by ***Dee Senn***.

“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	Bill Pearson	Latson Lewis	Irvin Wells	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler
George Taylor	Oren Edwards	Dean Nadler	Ellen Matthews		

**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:** **Bill Areheart** (*friend of Bonnie Ramsey*); **Debbie Ranck, Jimmy Clark, Jonnie Clark** (*friends of Lynn Martin*); **Jane & Bob Bryant** (*sister and brother-in-law 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 ...**

**In-Person Attendance 10/03 SS: 13      Worship: 26**

**OUR GIFTS ...**

**General Fund 10/03 \$ 4,547.00**

**OUR SERVICE ...**

**OUR WITNESS."**

**Calendar for this Week**

**TODAY Charge Conference in Sanctuary immediately following Worship**

**10/11** Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

**10/13** Wonderful Wednesday Meal, 5:30 p.m.

Devotional, 6:15 p.m.

Choir, 6:30 p.m.

**10/14** Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

**Wonderful Wednesday  
October 13 @ 5:30 p.m.**

Wonderful Wednesdays will meet on the second Wednesday of each month through December. The first Wonderful Wednesday will take place this Wednesday, October 13. The meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. and a devotional will begin at 6:15 p.m. **Dee Senn** and **Gale Frady** will prepare the meal:

Chicken Parmesan with Pasta  
Salad, Dessert

Please fill out the Reservation Form found in the bulletin or call the Church Office by noon on Monday, October 11.



**Ministers**  
**Pastor**  
**Resident Bishop**  
**District Superintendent**

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

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

***Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform***

**“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”**

Mark 10:17



**1201 Mohawk Drive  
West Columbia, SC 29169**

**Telephone: 803.794.7777**

**E-mail: [trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com)**

**Website: [www.trinityumcwc.org](http://www.trinityumcwc.org)**

Mark 10: 17-31

“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

In an attempt to understand this quote of Jesus, one proposal was the eye of the needle was an entrance into Jerusalem. This entrance was supposedly very narrow, which would be difficult for a camel to go through. However, no such entrance has been found. So what did Jesus mean by this statement?

I think Jesus was cracking a joke. I imagine Jesus saying this while shaking his head and laughing. We know a camel is a rather large animal. A camel is roughly 8-10 feet tall, and one laden with goods could be almost as wide. So imagine trying to get this large animal through the eye of a needle. It is a ridiculous image. It is impossible to get a camel through the eye of a tiny needle.

Jesus uses this hyperbolic image in response to this encounter with a rich man. The man states that he has kept all of the commandments. He is obviously blessed since he is rich. By all appearances, he should be near the first of the line to inherit eternal life. But he is like a camel trying to get through the eye of a needle. When Jesus tells him to sell all he has and give the money to the poor, he walks away grieving. Jesus told him to do the one thing he could not do, let go of his wealth.

The disciples are astonished! If this man who kept all the commandments and was blessed with wealth could not be saved, who could?

Jesus answers that in verse 27. People often interpret this verse to mean that God can do all things. That is not the meaning in this context. When Jesus says for mortals it is impossible, the “it” is the act of salvation. The man could not save himself even by keeping all the commandments and attaining wealth. No mortal can achieve salvation.

Salvation is an act of God. God is the one acting in salvation, not humans. Salvation comes through God’s grace. By grace, we are given salvation. Salvation is only possible through God.

The man in this passage could not pass through the eye of the needle because of the very thing that made him blessed according to the world. The world would point to this man and say this was a good man. He kept all the commandments. He was blessed with wealth. But all of this was not going to get him through the eye of the needle.

To get through the eye of the needle, he had to let go of his wealth. He cared more for his possessions than eternal life. He could not give what he had to those who were in need. His wealth kept him from completely loving God and neighbor. He did not see that it was not what he could do to inherit eternal life; only perfect love of, faith in, and obedience to God was the way to salvation.

We may not need to give away all our possessions to get through the eye of the needle. We need to let go of all that keeps us from loving, trusting and serving God and neighbor completely.

When it comes to possessions, it is whether we govern our possessions, including bank accounts, or let our possessions govern us. Do we worry more about money for our needs or how we might use our money for others? Remember Wesley's philosophy on the use of money. Earn all you can and save all you can so you can give all you can. We use our money for the work of God's kingdom.

Other things might be keeping us from loving, trusting, and serving God completely. These may be prejudices that keep us from seeing the image of God in others. It may be anger and resentments keeping us from being reconciled to someone and God. It may be the shame that keeps us from loving ourselves, unable to trust God's love. Fear may keep us from completely trusting God or others.

Most of all, we need to let go of ourselves. Let go of our focus on ourselves. We need to let go of our self-reliance, and "I can do it myself" mindset. We even need to let go of our independence. None of these admirable traits, according to our society, can get us through the eye of the needle.

My brother once called a plumber friend asking how to fix some minor plumbing problem. Louis thought he could follow the plumber's instructions and fix the problem. Instead of giving Louis instructions, his friend told him he would be right over. Louis insisted that there was no need; after all, he had Master's degrees from the University of Virginia and Vanderbilt. Surely he could follow instructions to fix a little plumbing problem. Again the friend said he would be right over. He told Louis that he could not count the number of times someone thought they could fix a minor problem without calling a plumber, which worsened the situation.

Like Louis, when we try to attain salvation ourselves, we make matters worse. We may ask God to tell us how to get through the eye of the needle, but we want to do it ourselves. We want salvation to be our accomplishment. But we can't do it. No matter what we try to do, we can not get through the eye of the needle to eternal life. Even if we let go of all the things I have mentioned before, there is one more thing we need to do.

God can do this impossible act. God can get a camel through the eye of a needle. God can get us through the eye of the needle to eternal life. God can get us through the eye of the needle from living in the world's kingdom to living in God's Kingdom.

We abandon ourselves totally to God. We abandon ourselves in faith and obedience to God. It seems so easy, so then why is it so hard?

Abandoning ourselves to God creates within us a heart that is docile and humble. We humble ourselves, admitting there is nothing we can do to get through the eye of that needle. We are camels, and the eye is tiny. We become docile servants responding to every call of God.

These notions are foreign to our independent, stubborn, and self-reliant spirit, which our society values so much. These were notions that were foreign to the rich man in our story today. These are notions that are foreign to us. But we must become humble, docile, obedient, and abandon ourselves totally into the hands of God.

We have come to the eye of the needle. We are heavy-laden and burdened. We are weary of the world of hatred and division. We want to get through to a place of peace and unity. We are overwhelmed with materialism and long to be content with what we have. Anger and resentment consume our energy, and we wish to be reconciled to God and others. We want to be able to love ourselves without shame or guilt.

We stand at the eye of the needle that we want to get through. We admit that we cannot make it through and abandon ourselves entirely over to God. God unpacks all our burdens. God takes all the materialism, hatred, division, anger, resentment, shame, and guilt off our backs. Then God pulls the camel, pulls us, through the eye of the needle. We enter into God's eternal Kingdom, where we receive contentment, love, peace, reconciliation, unity, honor, and forgiveness. We humbly serve and obey the will of God from this day forward in all aspects of our lives. We remain in God's presence now and forever.

That is how you get through the eye of the needle.