

***Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost***  
**October 17, 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>“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”</i>	89
Prayer of the Day		
The Lord’s Prayer		895

**Proclamation of the Word**

Prayer of Illumination		
Epistle Reading	Hebrews 5:1-10	210 (N.T.)
Psalter	Psalm 104:1-13, 24-35	826-827
*Hymn	<i>“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”</i>	110
Gospel Reading	Mark 10:35-45	48 (N.T.)
Anthem	<i>“Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet”</i>	Choir
Old Testament Reading	Job 38: 1-7, 34-41	471-472 (O.T.)
Sermon	<i>Who Orders Chaos?</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>“How Firm a Foundation”</i>	529
*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: 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 and in honor and celebration of Jon and Erin Martin on their First Wedding Anniversary today, by Chuck and Lynn Martin.*

**“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	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*)

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](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com).

**OUR PRESENCE ...**

In-Person Attendance 10/10 SS: 12 Worship: 32

**OUR GIFTS ...**

General Fund 10/10 \$ 3,897.26

**OUR SERVICE ...**

**OUR WITNESS."**

**Calendar for this Week**

**10/18** Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

**10/20** Choir, 6:30 p.m.

**10/21** Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

**GLIA Articles Due**



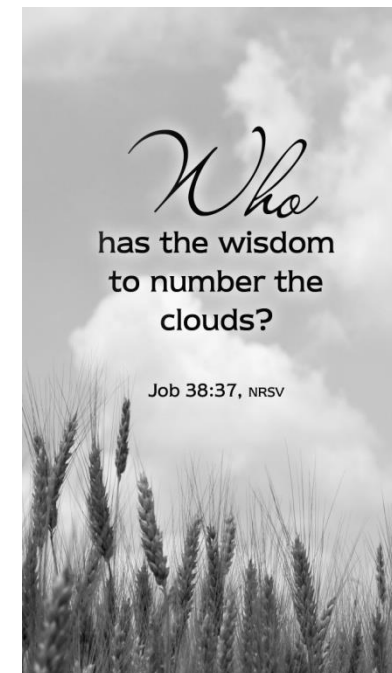
**Ministers**  
**Pastor**  
**Resident Bishop**  
**District Superintendent**

**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***



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Job 38: 1-7, 34-41

Job's perfectly ordered, blessed life has been thrown into chaos. Job's orderly life of righteousness, offering sacrifices on the chance that one of his children might have sinned, was now reduced to sitting in ashes, scratching his sores with a potshard.

His friends-Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar- come to console him. They sit with Job in silence for seven days and nights. Then for twenty-nine chapters, the friends try to get Job to confess some sin. Obviously, Job has sinned, which led to all his calamity and chaos. Job denies he has sinned. Job cries out for God to hear him and grant him justice.

Job's friends fall silent. They have given up trying to get Job to confess. Then comes this young man, Elihu, who rebukes Job's friends for not getting Job to acknowledge that he has sinned. Then Elihu rebukes Job. He claims that God has not responded to Job because Job had not appropriately asked. Elihu points out the greatness of God, and one could not expect God to answer someone who cries, "Why Me?" To get an answer from God, one must pray to God. Elihu claims to understand God and God's justice.

Job's friends and Elihu understood God's justice as being based on reward and punishment. God rewards those that are good with blessings and wealth but punishes sinners with sickness and poverty. Even Job seems to hold to this belief. They all knew the ways of God and God's justice.

We may not be much different from Job and his friends. We think that God blesses good people and punishes bad people. We think we know who is evil and who is good. We think we know what would send a person to heaven and what would send a person to hell. We know what sins are unforgivable. We know the type of people God chooses to do God's work. We try to put God into a box that fits into our belief system. We want God to be a deity we can comprehend. We want a deity that gives good people good and bad people bad.

Now, after thirty-five chapters of debate about God's justice, God finally speaks.

The Lord speaks out of the whirlwind. The LORD accepts Job's challenge, and we expect the LORD to tell Job how he has sinned. But the LORD does not. The LORD asks who is it that "darkens counsel by words without knowledge?"

Now the word counsel is not the best translation of the Hebrew, *esā*. *Esā* may mean advice or counsel, but it can also mean plan or design. So basically, the LORD is saying who is talking about my plans without knowledge.

Job sees the LORD's plan as leading to darkness and death. We see this back in Chapter 12, where Job says, "He uncovers the deeps out of darkness and brings deep darkness (death) to light." (v22)

Ah, the LORD says in great detail, do you know my plans? In the little bit of the LORD's response we read today, the LORD begins the questioning of Job. Were you there when I laid the foundations of the earth? Were you there when I made plans for creation? The questions go on, were you there? Can you do what I have done? These continue through chapters 38 and 39. These were all the LORD's working in the ordering of creation out of the primeval chaos.

Of course, Job's answer to all the questions is no. Our answer to all those questions is no. We do not understand God's plan. We do not know the mind of God. We can not know what is good and what is evil in God's eyes. We cannot know who God will bring into glory and who God is going to send to hell. When we say we know God's plan, we deceive ourselves. We darken counsel by words without knowledge.

We cannot know the ways God brings order out of chaos. We cannot know God's plans. God's plan in regards to Job was to prove to Satan that Job would not curse God to God's face. Now Job has the opportunity to do so and does not. That Job did not curse God proves God's righteousness, that God knew Job better than Job's friends and even Satan.

God knows us better than anyone, even Satan. God knows us to the depths of our hearts and minds. God created us. God laid plans for us. God knows when we have strayed from the plan God laid for us. God knows us better than we know ourselves.

When I was a kid, I enjoyed *Mad Magazine*. One of the cartoons in *Mad* was called "the shadow knows." The artist would depict people interacting in one way, but the shadow would show something opposite. For example, the picture may show two men shaking hands and smiling, but the shadow would show them choking each other. God knows our innermost selves, even that which we may try to hide. God knows our good, bad and ugly.

When we humble ourselves and admit that we do not comprehend the mind of God, we can become truly righteous. When we acknowledge that we do not know what God considers good or evil, God reveals the good and evil within us. When we think we know the mind of God, the reality is that we only know of God.

At the end of the story (42: 5), Job admits that he has only heard of God "by the hearing of the ear." He only knew what he heard about God and did what he heard God wanted. But through this chaotic experience, he has now seen God. He perceives God differently. God is not just a deity that rewards pious behavior and punishes evil. He understands that God is the creator of all things, and God has a plan. It is a plan that Job or we cannot comprehend. We cannot know why God ordered creation as it is with hurricanes and tornadoes. We do not understand why God gave humans the free will to disobey God, thus creating our own chaos.

But this we do know: God will bring order out of chaos.

I find it interesting that this theophany to Job was in a whirlwind. The word translated as whirlwind also means a raging storm. Throughout the Old Testament, God appears in storms. Perhaps that is because God is in the midst of the storm, creating order out of chaos. God is in the midst of the storms in our lives, creating order out of chaos. We do not know why or how; we can only have faith that God will.

That is the overall theme of the book of Job. God is ordering chaos. We may not know the why and how but we can have trust and confidence that God will. That faith occurs when we quit trusting in our piety and knowledge of God and lean on our relationship with God.

We cannot understand how God is ordering creation but from our relationship with God we can perceive how we are to participate in the ordering of creation.