

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
October 24, 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>“Wonderful Words of Life”</i>	600

Prayer of the Day		
The Lord’s Prayer		895

Proclamation of the Word

Prayer of Illumination		
Old Testament Reading	Job 42:1-6, 10-17	475 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalm 34:1-8	769

*Hymn	<i>“My Hope Is Built”</i>	368
Epistle Reading	Hebrews 7:23-28	211-212 (N.T.)

Anthem	<i>“Trust and Obey”</i>	Choir
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Gospel Reading	Mark 10:46-52	48 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>Faith Overcoming Blindness</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>“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”</i>	351
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*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response	<i>“Three-Fold Amen”</i>	Choir
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*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>Marie Stiles</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Christopher A. McCroskey</i>	Time Together:	<i>Wayne & Charlie Hooker</i>
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 Anjelica Johnston and Boeig Koo on their Wedding today, by Boots Morgan and family.

“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				

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: **Mildred Hart** (mother of Dee Senn); **Bill Areheart** (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); **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.

OUR PRESENCE ...

In-Person Attendance 10/17 SS: 14 Worship: 26

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 10/17 \$ 3,915.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Calendar for this Week

TODAY SPRC will meet in the FH immediately following Worship

10/25 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

10/27 Choir, 6:30 p.m.

10/28 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday will be November 7. On this day we will honor the memory of our members that have entered the Church Triumphant this past year. Also, we want to honor the memory of family members who were not members of the church. If you have a loved one that passed away during this past year, since November 1, 2020, please place their name on the list in the Gathering Area or call the Church Office.



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



Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

1201 Mohawk Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169

Telephone: 803.794.7777

E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com

Website: www.trinityumcwc.org

Mark 10: 46-52

Blind Bartimaeus sat outside the gate of Jericho on the road leading to Jerusalem. It was a good spot. Many travelers would pass by him. Bartimaeus sat every day in his place, in his darkness, waiting for the clinking sound of a coin tossed in his cup and longing to be able to see.

As Bartimaeus sat in his place, he would hear the people talking. He would hear the stories of a man from Nazareth in Galilee named Jesus who had made a blind man see. Bartimaeus thought, "If only this Jesus would come from Galilee to Jericho, he could heal me of my blindness. I could see the people passing by. I could go different places without fear, for I could see where I was going. Maybe one day this Jesus will come."

We may be like Bartimaeus. While we may be able to see with our eyes, we may be blind to the people in our lives. Differing opinions may cloud our vision for the future. We receive so much conflicting information and "expert opinions" that we don't know who or what to believe. We lose sight of how far we have come and become fearful of the future. So we sit by the side of the road in our darkness.

Our darkness may be spiritual darkness, wondering is this it? Is this all there is? We exist for a few short years, then die? Our darkness may be emotional. We wrap ourselves up in anger, guilt, shame, insecurity, self-loathing, prejudices, and other feelings that keep us from seeing the way life truly is. Divisiveness may lead to our darkness, as we divide ourselves in so many ways. Our darkness keeps us from seeing possibilities, ways we can grow, love, and ways we can move down the road.

One day Bartimaeus hears a commotion. A large crowd is passing through the gate, leaving Jericho. He hears that it is Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee. Is this the Jesus that healed the blind man? Bartimaeus cries out, "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!"

Many in the crowd turn to Bartimaeus, "Be quiet, you blind fool. Jesus is too important to deal with a blind beggar like you. You are disturbing the peace. You are making us uncomfortable."

We may be like the crowd when people cry out in need and despair. We admonish them and tell them to stay in their place. In church, we look askance at the person who cries out their pain or even sings loudly, but off-key. We feel uncomfortable whenever someone cries out in pain and despair. So, we tell them to be quiet.

But Bartimaeus is not quiet. He cries even louder, "JESUS, SON OF DAVID, HAVE MERCY ON ME!"

Jesus stops. He tells the crowd to bring Bartimaeus to him. Bartimaeus jumps up, throws off his cloak, and goes to Jesus.

Whenever someone cries out in pain and anguish, Jesus stops. Even when the crowd tries to quiet them, as they continue to cry out, Jesus stops. One of the works of Jesus was to heal the brokenness in the world. Therefore whenever one needs healing, be it physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual, Jesus stops. Jesus stops and calls them to come to him. We who need healing can go to him.

Jesus asks Bartimaeus what he wants. Remember that Bartimaeus had called out for mercy. Now, Jesus asks Bartimaeus to be specific. What does Bartimaeus want Jesus to do for him? Bartimaeus asks that Jesus let him see again.

Now, there is some ambiguity in Bartimaeus' request. Some translations read to let him see, while others say let me see again. The word may be translated either way. We do not know if Bartimaeus has been blind from birth or if he could see and lost his sight. The significance of this ambiguity may be that it doesn't matter if we have never seen with faith or if we have lost sight of our faith, Jesus still stops. If we have never had faith or lost our faith or direction, Jesus still stops if we call out. Jesus stops if we call out to him for the first time or for the hundredth time. Jesus always stops when he hears our cries. Jesus gives us sight for the first time and restores our sight when we lose sight.

Surprisingly, Jesus does nothing to heal Bartimaeus' blindness. He did not spit and lay his hands on Bartimaeus' eyes like he did when he healed the blind man in chapter eight. Jesus tells Bartimaeus to go and leave his spot by the side of the road; his faith in Jesus has made him well.

Bartimaeus had heard about Jesus. He heard that Jesus gave sight to the blind. He had trust and confidence that Jesus could heal him. So, when Jesus stopped and called for Bartimaeus to come to him, Bartimaeus leapt forward in faith. Bartimaeus knew that Jesus would give him sight. After receiving his sight, Bartimaeus followed Jesus on the way.

We can gain or regain our sight through faith in Jesus. We can call out having trust and confidence that Jesus will stop. We can know that Jesus will call us to him. Jesus will heal our brokenness. Jesus will make us see the road that he leads us on to follow him in faith.

In many ways, we may be sitting by the side of the road, unable to see. We have lost our sight and cannot see which way to go. We all have times like that personally. I know I had when circumstances led me to question my call to the ministry. All I could do was cry out, "Jesus, have mercy on me." When we can not see our way, all we can do is cry out for Jesus to have mercy on us.

It seems we can't see the way for our church and for our country. The conservatives are pulling one way, the liberals another, the moderates still another, and we go nowhere. Perhaps it is that we have lost sight of how to work together despite our differences. Elias Chachour, former Archbishop of Galilee, said when we spent time with him on our trip to the Holy Land, "It is not that Jews, Christians, and Muslims need to learn to live together in peace but to remember when and how they lived together in peace." They did before 1948. Sometimes we remember how we worked together when we regain our sight.

I find this little detail rather interesting. Bartimaeus threw off his cloak when he got up to go to Jesus. Perhaps, Bartimaeus knew that he could become entangled in the cloak and fall. So he threw it off, so he would not fall on his way to Jesus.

When Jesus hears our cries, stops, and calls us to him, we should throw off our cloaks. We should throw off whatever may cause us to stumble and fall. Throw off doubt, despair, all the thoughts and attitudes that led us to lose sight and leap forward with faith that Jesus will give us sight. In doing so, we gain our sight. We set our eyes upon the one who opens our eyes to the road that God has laid out for us individually, as a church and as a country.

We do not have to remain sitting by the road blindly, unable to move forward. We can cry out to Jesus for mercy. We can leap forward in faith when he stops and calls us, knowing he will give us sight. Then we follow him on the road.