

***Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost***  
**November 14, 2021**

Welcome and Announcements  
 Special Recognition of Billy Pearson  
 Birthday Celebration

Prelude  
 Call To Worship  
 Centering Words  
 Christopher A. McCroskey  
 “*I Love You, Lord*”  
 Choir

Opening Prayer  
 \*Hymn  
 “*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*”  
 384

Prayer of the Day  
 The Lord’s Prayer  
 895

**Proclamation of the Word**

Prayer of Illumination  
 Epistle Reading  
 Psalter  
 \*Hymn  
 Gospel Reading  
 Hebrews 9:24-28  
 Psalm 42  
 “*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*”  
 Mark 12:38-44  
 213 (N.T.)  
 777-778  
 127  
 50-51 (N.T.)

Anthem  
 “*When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise*”  
 Choir

Old Testament Reading  
 Sermon  
 Ruth 3:1-3, 4:13-17  
 Wait a Minute!  
 238-239 (O.T.)  
 Rev. John D. Jordan

**Response to the Word**

\*Affirmation of Faith  
 “*The Apostles’ Creed*”  
 881

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

\*Hymn  
 “*Blest Be the Tie That Binds*”  
 557

\*Dismissal With Benediction

\*Benediction Response  
 “*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*”  
 Choir

\*Postlude  
 Christopher A. McCroskey

\*The Congregation May Stand

***Leading in Worship Today***

Pastor: *John D. Jordan* AV Director: *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 we recognize **Billy Pearson** for his 35 years of outstanding service to Trinity. Join us during Time Together as we celebrate his loyalty and dedication to keeping our grounds beautiful.*

***Today’s Lovely Flowers*** are given to the ***Glory of God*** and in loving memory of their son, ***Alti Hooker***, by ***Wayne and Charlie Hooker***.

“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS...

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

**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:** **Family of Brenda Jackson** (aunt of Melissa Abrams); **George Teague** (father of friend of Ellen Matthews); **David Wright** (friend of Jeanette Hornsby); **Mildred Hart** (mother of Dee Senn); **Bill Areheart** (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); **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); **Stuart & Penny Lloyd** (son & daughter-in-law of Tom & Marilyn Lloyd); **Cindy Ellenberg** (friend of Ray Frady); **Megan Corby** (daughter of Carlis Edwards); **Mitch Kelly** (Dale Wells' nephew); **Chip Hooker** (Wayne Hooker's father); **Robert Bradley** (Business Associate of Simon Ross); **Dino & Wanda Moore** (friend of Tommy Gleaton); **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); **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 11/07 SS: 12      Worship: 38**

**OUR GIFTS ...**

**General Fund 11/07 \$ 4,395.00**

**OUR SERVICE ...**

**OUR WITNESS.”**

**Calendar for this Week**

**TODAY** Birthday Celebration

**11/15** Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

**11/17** Choir, 6:30 p.m.

**11/18** Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

**11/19** Office Closed

**11/20** Trip to Jewel's Pink House  
Leave at 9:30 a.m.



**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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***Annual Trip to Jewel's Pink House  
Saturday, November 20***

We are once again excited to make our annual trip to Jewel's Pink House. This was a November tradition for us before Covid, but Jewel is happy to announce that the Pink House is once again open. We look forward to great fellowship as we travel on the church bus to begin the Christmas season as we shop for all the beautiful treasures to be found there. Chuck Martin will be driving, and we will leave the Gunter Circle Parking lot at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 20. We will travel to Sweatman's BBQ for lunch after shopping and plan to be back at Trinity around 4 pm.

A signup sheet is located on the round table in the Gathering Area for all who would like to join us, or you can call Lynn Martin at 803-309-8195 to sign up as well. Please note that masks will be required while shopping in the Pink House.



**Help Us Decorate for Advent and Christmas**

On **Saturday, November 27**, we will meet from **9 a.m. until 12 p.m.** to decorate for Advent and Christmas. Plan to join us as we prepare for the upcoming season.



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Instead of purchasing poinsettias this year, we ask that you can give an honorarium or memorial for a loved one. All money given in lieu of poinsettias will go to **God's Helping Hands**. We would like to have all donations in by December 12. A special insert listing memorials and honorariums will be in the bulletin on December 19.

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_

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Total Donation Attached \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional forms will be available in the Church Office.



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In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_

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Wait a Minute!

11/14/2021

Ruth 3:1-5; 4: 13-17

We pick up the story of Ruth and Naomi. Naomi has returned to Bethlehem after spending ten years in Moab. With her is her Moabite daughter-in-law, Ruth. Naomi has told the women of Bethlehem not to call her Naomi, which means pleasant, but Mara, which means bitter. She has no male heir. Her husband's name will be lost. She has no status. All she has is a Moabite daughter-in-law. Naomi has lost everything and needs redemption and restoration.

We all need redemption and restoration. We have all at times been bitter. We may have bitterness in our lives today. We may, like Naomi, feel that the LORD has dealt harshly with us. Our lives have changed from pleasant to bitter. We need redemption and restoration.

The story of Ruth is the story of Naomi's redemption and metaphorically the redemption and restoration of Israel. Scholars believe that it was written in its present form during the post-exilic era, the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. In this story, there are points in which the audience might well say, wait a minute!

While Naomi remains wrapped in her bitterness, Ruth goes to glean the fields as the barley harvest has begun. In Levitical law, any stalks of grain not gathered in sheaves were left for the poor and sojourner. Also, the edges of the fields were not to be cut for the same reason.

It just happens that Ruth begins gleaning in the field of Boaz. Boaz was introduced at the beginning of Chapter two as a kinsman of Naomi's husband Elimelech and a very prominent citizen of Bethlehem. Boaz notices Ruth gleaning in his field and asks about her. He is told that Ruth is the Moabite daughter-in-law of Naomi.

Now we come to the first "wait a minute" point in the story. Boaz tells his servants to give preferential treatment to Ruth. Boaz sees and recognizes Ruth's plight. Ruth asks Boaz why she, a foreigner, found favor with him. At this point, the audience might have said, "wait a minute, why did Boaz notice this Moabite woman?"

Boaz replies that he has heard all Ruth has done for Naomi. Then to further the minute, Boaz invites Ruth to eat with him and his servants. He instructs his servants to leave extra gleanings for her. He instructs Ruth to stay near his servants as a way of offering her protection. Boaz not only notices this Moabite woman, but he also gives her great favor.

Upon hearing of Ruth's encounter with Boaz, Naomi realizes she may now have a way of obtaining security and a future for Ruth and herself. At the end of the harvest, there is a celebration on the threshing floor. Naomi encourages Ruth to take advantage of the situation, which Ruth does. After that night, Boaz promises he will act as kinsman/redeemer for Naomi.

Boaz buys the parcel of land that belonged to Elimelech that Naomi is selling, keeping the land in the family. By doing this, Boaz is able to take Ruth as a legitimate wife. They have a son named Obed, meaning "He who serves." Thus, Naomi is redeemed and restored. She goes from being pleasant to bitter and now back to pleasant.

Wait a minute! Let's consider how Naomi's redemption and restoration took place. The primary means was through a Moabite woman and a disobedient one at that. This Moabite woman gained the attention and affection of a prominent man of Bethlehem. This eminent man went to all the trouble of replacing the first

redeemer/kinsman to buy Elimelech's field so he could legitimately marry this Moabite woman. A foreigner was the way by which Naomi was redeemed and restored.

We never know the means by which we may find our redemption. Perhaps it may be a foreigner, someone different from us. Our friend John is a conservative white male. He met Michael Ernest, a young black man diagnosed with schizophrenia, and began bringing him to Sunday school. John was going through a difficult divorce at this time. He developed an unlikely friendship with Michael Ernest and discovered that Michel Ernest got up to pray at 3 a.m. for John and others. John confessed that he would not have been able to make it through the divorce without the friendship and support of Michael Ernest. We need to notice the "Moabites" in our lives. Those that are despised, ignored and neglected may become our means of redemption as Micheal Ernest was for John.

Sometimes the means for our redemption is not what we may expect. There are times when we may need to say to ourselves, "wait a minute, is this somehow in God's plan?"

There is one final wait a minute in this story. As I said earlier, the story received the form we know during the post-exilic period of Ezra and Nehemiah. Ezra and Nehemiah called for the people who had remained in Judea to divorce the foreign wives they had taken. This story says, "wait a minute!" Remember King David, the greatest king in Israel's history? His great-grandmother was a foreigner. Does God truly want us to cast off foreign wives?

This story was a reminder that even the greatest King of Israel was not ethnically pure. Perhaps Ezra and Nehemiah were not correct in claiming God wanted ethnic purity. Maybe God wanted purity of religion, that is, religion that cares for the orphans, widows, and resident aliens. God wanted pure, complete love and loyalty, not ethnic purity.

When we begin a course of action for our lives or our church, there may be wait a minute times. Times when a different way may be presented to us. Times we may need to reassess the best way. We need to be aware of times God may be saying, "wait a minute, make sure you are doing what I am calling you to do."