

***Third Sunday after the Epiphany***  
**January 23, 2022**

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>“Freely, Freely”</i>	Choir
Centering Words		

*Hymn	<i>“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”</i>	103
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Prayer of the Day		
The Lord’s Prayer		895

**Proclamation of the Word**

Prayer of Illumination		
Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 62:1-5	Page 656 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalm 36:5-10	771
Gospel Reading	John 2:1-11	Page 90 (N.T.)

*Hymn	<i>“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”</i>	TFWS 2223
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New Testament Reading	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Page 164 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>The Spirit Brings Unity</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>“Forward Through the Ages”</i>	555
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\*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response	<i>”Lead Me, Lord”</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 Director:	<i>Marie Stiles</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Christopher A. McCroskey</i>	AV Assistant:	<i>Chris Derrick</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.***

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

John Ballentine	Boots Morgan	Bill Perarson	Patsy Zeigler	Dale Wells	Charles McNeill
Jimmy Grahl	Oren Edwards	Latson Lewis	Irvin Wells	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler
George Taylor	Jimmy Grahl	Kay Jordan	Becky Derrick		

**Shut-Ins:** Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Nell Cooke; Carolyn Hardee; Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; Shirley Padgett; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; Irvin Wells; Pauline Wenner

**Family and Friends:** **Craig Phinney** (*friend of Laurie Knapp*); **Dolly Orth** (*mother-in-law of Allison Frady Orth*); **Sydney** (*girlfriend of friend of Marty Johnson*); **Alva Humphries** (*friend of Marty Johnson*); **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*); **Chal Whitaker** (*brother-in-law of Edwa Meek*); **Max Nova** (*son of friend of Edwa Meek*); **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*); **Jim Martindale** (*uncle of Christopher McCroskey*); **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, Scott & Karen Nelson** (*cousins 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*); **Debby Harden, Walt & Janet Beck** (*friends of Jo Ann Heiting*); **Jeff DuBrul** (*son-in-law of Walt and Janet Beck*); **Adam Lavender** (*son of*

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 01/16 SS: N/A Worship: N/A

**OUR GIFTS ...**

General Fund 01/09 \$ 10,992.14 01/16 \$ 750.00

**OUR SERVICE ...**

**OUR WITNESS.”**

Trustees will meet on **Tuesday, January 25**, at **6:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

Church Council will meet on **Sunday, January 30**, at **2 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would be willing to serve as a **Greeter, Lay Reader, Audio-Visual Assistant** or in the **Nursery**, please **sign up** on the **form on the Gathering Area table** or contact **Tom Geddens** or **John Jordan**.

As the Omicron variant is on the rise, we strongly recommend wearing face coverings during Church services and other activities except when eating.



<b>Ministers</b>	<b>The Congregation</b>
<b>Pastor</b>	<b>John D. Jordan</b>
<b>Resident Bishop</b>	<b>Jonathan Holston</b>
<b>District Superintendent</b>	<b>Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson</b>

**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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1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

Paul writes these words to the church in Corinth. Paul had established the church in Corinth but had now moved on to Ephesus. The church in Corinth had written Paul to get clarification on some of his teachings. Paul had written back but now Paul hears of other problems in the Church so he writes this letter which we name 1 Corinthians.

The church in Corinth is split into many factions. Different groups want to follow different teachers (1:12). They have questions regarding someone who is sleeping with his father's wife being allowed to stay in the church. Members are taking each other to civil court. They have questions about marriage, divorce, and widowhood. They have concerns about eating meat sacrificed to idols. They have questions about worship practices and who may participate in worship. There are issues of diversity in the congregation. Members are from different socio-economic, cultural, and religious backgrounds. Some in the congregation seem to be questioning if there is the resurrection of the dead. Why some are even claiming they are spiritually superior and have better spiritual gifts.

Though this is a letter written to a specific church, at a specific time, by a specific author, in response to specific questions, it does have much universality. Many of the concerns expressed in 1 Corinthians are concerns in the church today. These concerns may not be exact but we can find similarities. This letter could be written by a District Superintendent or Bishop to a church today. This letter addresses problems that the church has faced for the past 2,000 years.

In the passage we read today, Paul turns to the major issue in the church in Corinth. This is concerning spiritual gifts or spiritual people. We may wonder, "How could spiritual gifts and spiritual people be a problem? Don't we want people to have spiritual gifts? Don't we want people to be spiritual?"

The answer to people having spiritual gifts or being spiritual is, of course, yes. Paul wants people to receive spiritual gifts and to be spiritual. So, what is the problem?

The problem is some in the congregation thought that their gift made them spiritually superior. "I can speak in tongues, so my gift is better than your gift." "I have been a follower longer than you, so I am spiritually superior." The problem was not spiritual gifts or their spirituality, but how they were using their spiritual gifts.

Paul acknowledges individualism in the community. He acknowledges that members of the church have different backgrounds. He acknowledges that people have different gifts. He acknowledges that there are different levels of spiritual maturity in the congregation. He accepts all manifestations of diversity in the community.

Though each has received different spiritual gifts and may be more spiritually mature, their gifts and maturity do not make them spiritually superior. Because you can speak in tongues, that does not make you superior to someone who does not. Because you are comfortable eating meat sacrificed to idols, that does not make you superior to someone who eats only vegetables. Having certain spiritual gifts or being more spiritually mature does not make one superior spiritually.

Paul notes that no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Now, in Greco-Roman culture when you proclaimed someone as your lord, you were saying that all aspects of your life were dedicated to the service of that person. So, when one says “Jesus is Lord,” they mean all aspects of their lives are devoted to the service of Jesus.

We can only proclaim “Jesus is Lord” through the Holy Spirit's power to transform our lives. We can claim Jesus as Lord only after we have received God’s grace and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to change our lives. The Spirit gives gifts to be used to the service of Jesus for the work of God’s kingdom. Even though there are different gifts, different services, and different works they are all from the same source, God.

This brings us to the crux of the problem of spiritual gifts in the church in Corinth. The Corinthians were using their various gifts as a status symbol. They were using their gifts to lift themselves up. Therefore, in the church in Corinth, the gifts of the Spirit were a divisive issue.

However, Paul admonishes them, saying that the Spirit is given their manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. The Spirit gives gifts to be used for the common good of the church and the greater community. The gifts were not to build up individuals but to build up the community. The gifts are given for the Service of the Lord Jesus for the work of God’s kingdom.

In the passage which follows this one, Paul uses the metaphor of the body. Paul points out that all members of the physical body are created to work together and all members of the body are equally important. The body works as a unified whole, not individual parts going willy-nilly. The Spirit gives gifts to unify, not divide, so the church can work for the common good of the community and to the service of Jesus Christ.

Paul is saying yes, there is diversity in the church. Yes, you all have individual gifts. But the purpose of this diversity and your gifts are for the common good. The diverse gifts are given so the church can be a unified body working in the service of Jesus for the work of God’s kingdom in the world.

We all have different spiritual gifts. These gifts are not to make us spiritually superior to anyone. These gifts are for the common good of our congregation and our community. We have different views on things. Some of us are progressive. Some of us are conservative. Some are in-between. Rather than being divisive, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can work in unity in service to Christ and for the work of God’s kingdom.

By working together in unity we can move forward in new ways of serving God’s kingdom while maintaining what we have done. By working together we can discern when to move forward and when to hold back, when to let go and when to hold on.

The Spirit enables us to proclaim Jesus as Lord in all aspects of our lives. We are given gifts to use in unity to the service of Jesus for the work of God’s kingdom. May the Spirit move within all of us so we may work in unity for the common good of our church and community.