

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
January 30, 2022

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Christopher A. McCroskey
Choir

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Rev. John D. Jordan

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Christopher A. McCroskey
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*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* AV Assistant: *Chris Derrick*
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: **Dan & Leslie White** (brother & sister-in-law of Steve White); **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 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 01/23 SS: 7 Worship: 16

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 01/23 \$ 5,116.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Church Council will meet today, **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.

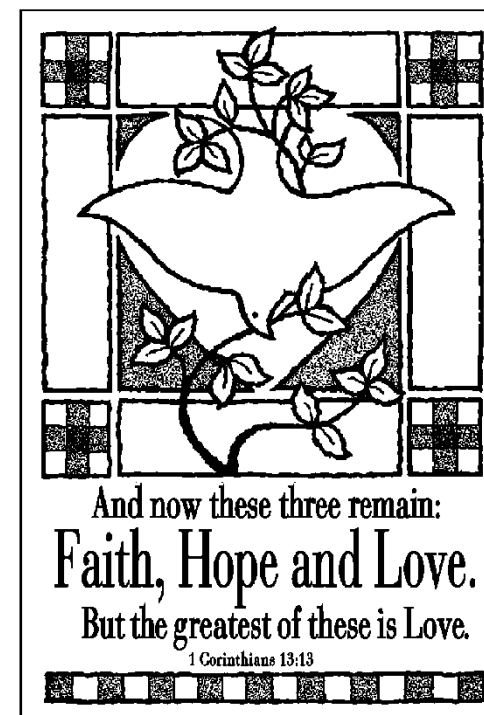


Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

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



1201 Mohawk Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169

Telephone: 803.794.7777

E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com

Website: www.trinityumcwc.org

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

In 1984 Tina Turner had her first big solo hit, "What's Love Got to Do With It". It won her a Grammy for Record of the Year. The song was written after her abusive relationship with Ike Turner ended in divorce. In this song, Tina asks what the role of love was in this relationship.

The lesson we read today could be Paul's response if the Corinthians had asked what the role of love was in the church. Paul is addressing the divisiveness in the church in Corinth, an issue we see not only in churches today but in our society as a whole. We may ask, what does love have to do in our relationships in and out of the church? Is love really that important?

The question "What's love got to do with it" can be broken down into two questions. The first is what is love? The second, then, is what does love have to do in our relationships in and out of the church.

What is love? Tina Turner defines love as a "second-hand emotion" and a "sweet old-fashioned notion." We tend to think of love as an emotion. One that gives us warm fuzzy feelings. To some of the more cynical ones in the world, love may seem like an old-fashioned notion.

However, Paul relates a different definition of love. The Greek word Paul uses here is *agape*. *Agape* has been defined as Christian Love, which differentiates it from romantic and brotherly love. But to say that *agape* is Christian love is not accurate. First and foremost *agape* love (I will use the term love from now on) is not an emotion. Love is not how we feel towards God and neighbor. Love is the attitude of God towards humans. Since God is love then the divine attitude toward the creatures can only be love. Love is an attitude and an act of will toward God.

Love of God is expressed in our obedience to God's will. God's will is that all creation be restored. Therefore our will becomes to love all. Love implies hospitality, inviting and welcoming all into the church as equals.

Beginning in verse 4 Paul describes what love is and is not. To get the depth of meaning of these terms we must look at the Greek word Paul uses to describe what love is and is not.

Love is patient. The Greek word for patient means that love does not lose heart. Love endures misfortunes and troubles. Love bears the offenses of others and is slow to anger and punish. Love does not react to misunderstandings and offenses with anger but with attempts to understand and forgive. Love is patient.

Love is kind. The word Paul uses is only used in this instance in the whole New Testament. That points to the uniqueness of kindness as love. Paul uses this term to convey that love treats others as you would family. Families may have their squabbles and disagreements but you always pull together for the best interest of the family. My older brothers would abuse me terribly, but let someone else say something and they would be quick to defend me. Love treats all like family, for we all are one in God's family.

Love is not envious. Love does not set one's heart on something that is not theirs. It does not have a heated, zealous desire for things, particularly what others have.

Love is not boastful. Love does not extoll oneself excessively. Love is not conceited. Love is not puffed up with pride. Love is not arrogant.

Love is not rude. Again the word Paul uses is only used here and in 7: 36. In 7:36 it is used in the context of young men's behavior towards young women. So the best way to understand "rude" in Paul's context is to read the word as unseemly behavior. Today, this would include sexually suggestive or derogatory comments.

Love does not insist on its own way. Love does not seek self-interest.

Love is not irritable or easily provoked.

Love does not focus on evil. Love does not focus on the negative qualities in someone. My Granddaddy always said if you can't say something good about somebody, don't say anything at all.

Love is not glad about wrongdoing. Love is not glad when one is not being right with God or others. Love is not glad when others are not in the right relationship with God and neighbor.

Love rejoices in the truth. Love always seeks the truth even when the truth may not be what one wants it to be. Love always tells the truth.

Love bears all, that is, love supports all people.

Love believes all, that is, love has confidence that one can rely upon all.

Love hopes all, that is, it wants the best for all.

Love endures all, that is, love bears up under suffering.

Love does not fall from its position as the greatest of these.

So you see the love Paul describes is much more than a second-hand emotion or a sweet old-fashioned notion. Love is a multifaceted way of being and relating in the community known as the church and in the world. You don't just love in the church, you love in the world as Jesus loved in the world.

Now that we know what love is, what does love have to do with it? What does love have to do with being in a Christian community and relationships?

For Tina Turner, love had nothing to do with her relationship with Ike Turner, but for Paul, it is very different. Paul ends chapter 12 by saying he will show the Corinthians a more excellent way. He says that if he speaks in the tongues of mortals and angels, but has no love, he is just making a loud noise. If he is the most eloquent preacher, understands the word of God completely and all the mysteries of faith, and has faith to move mountains, but does not have love, he is nothing. If he gives all that he has to the poor but without love, it is nothing. Even if he gave himself up as a martyr, without love, it is meaningless.

Without love there is nothing. No good acts, no great sermons, no sacraments, no teaching, no visits done without love is anything. It is like the relationship between Ike and Tina Turner. Without love all things end.

But with love even the smallest act is great. Even a poor sermon delivered in love is powerful. Love gives meaning to the sacraments and they become more than getting water sprinkled on one's head or eating bread and drinking wine. A lesson taught with love gives clarity and understanding. Visits are meaningful and not obligatory.

With love, the differences in the church in Corinth could become means of growth rather than division. With love, **our** differences can become means of growth rather than division.

Without love, a church will become divided. John Wesley, in his sermon, "On Schism", considered a want of love the cause of all divisions in the church. These divisions lead to all sorts of evil and bring forth evil fruit.¹ Division and divisiveness in the church is a failure of the church to love. For Wesley it is not that we think alike but that we love alike.² But sadly we tend to fall into the trap that all should think alike. It is not that Christians think alike on all issues but that they love alike. This is the core of Wesleyan theology.

What does love have to do with it? What does love have to do with living the Christian life and in Christian community? Everything! Without love we can do nothing for the kingdom of God. With love the possibilities are endless as we respond to the love we receive from God with love for all. Love has everything to do with it. Love has everything to do with our lives.

1 John Wesley, *On Schism*, From Christian Classics Ethereal Library, www.ccel.org/ccel/wesley/sermons.vi.xxiihtml, downloaded 9/13/2009. Par 11-12.

2 John Wesley "Catholic Spirit" In *The Sermons of John Wesley*. Ed by Kenneth J Collins and Jason E. Vickers. (Nashville: Abingdon Press. 2013) 422.