

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 6, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

Call to Worship "Freely, Freely" Choir
Greeting 6

*Hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" 64

Opening Prayer 6

(Please register your attendance on the pew pads provided.)

Prayer for Illumination 6

New Testament Reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Pages 166-167 (N.T.)

Psalter Psalm 138 853-854

Gospel Reading Luke 5:1-11 Page 62 (N.T.)

*Hymn "Here I Am, Lord" 593

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 6:1-13 Pages 605-606 (O.T.)

Sermon "A Confusing Message" Rev. John D. Jordan

Response to the Word "The Apostles' Creed" 7

Invitation 7

Confession and Pardon 8

Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" Mary Louise Robinson

*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

Thanksgiving and Communion 9-11

*Hymn "Jesus Calls Us" 398

*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response "Lead Me, Lord" Choir

*Postlude Christopher A. McCroskey

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: John D. Jordan Time Together: Gale Frady

Choir Director: Christopher A. McCroskey AV Director: Marie Stiles

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 ...

Jackie McNeill	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	John Ballentine	

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); **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); **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 Cassidy** (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); **Alexa Lookingbill** (wife of coworker of Kathy White); **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 ...

Attendance 01/30 SS: 9 Worship: 25

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 01/30 \$ 4,060.00

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Church Calendar

02/09 Wonderful Wednesday Meal, 5:30 p.m.
Devotional, 6:15 p.m.
Staff Parish Meeting, 6:30 p.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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Wonderful Wednesday
February 9
5:30 p.m.

The first Wonderful Wednesday of the year will be held on February 9. The meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. and a devotional will begin at 6:15 p.m. The meal will be prepared by Jim and Marie Stiles:

Chili with Beans
Cornbread
Dessert

Reservations will be in the bulletin on Sunday, February 6, or you can call the Church Office by noon on Monday, February 7.



**STAFF PARISH
MEETING**

The SPPRC will meet on Wednesday, February 9, at 6:30 p.m., following Pastor John's devotional at the Wonderful Wednesday Dinner.



New Class
From the Pastor

On Sunday, Feb. 13 and 20, Tom and I will meet with those who would be interested in participating in the Wesley Class Meeting. We will set a time and date to begin the Class. We will begin by studying *The Class Meeting* by Kenneth Watson. If you are interested but unable to meet on the 13 or 20, call John or Tom.



United Methodist Men's Valentine's Breakfast
Sunday, February 13
9 a.m.

The United Methodist Men are in the kitchen again, this time on Sunday, February 13, preparing breakfast to celebrate Valentine's Day! Everyone is invited to join us at 9 a.m. for a wonderful meal and then stay for the 9:45 a.m. Bible Study led by Tom Geddens. This will be the first Men's Club Breakfast after a COVID hiatus. Our talented chefs hope to see you there!



Snacks & a Movie
Sunday, February 20
(Rescheduled from January)
4 p.m.

Join us on Sunday, February 20, at 4 p.m. for Snacks and a Movie. The movie will be *Quo Vadis* from 1951 starring Robert Taylor, Deborah Kerr and Peter Ustinov. A synopsis of the movie appears below:

Returning from a military campaign abroad, General Marcus Vinicius (Robert Taylor) discovers that a new religion has taken hold in Rome: Christianity. When Vinicius encounters Lygia (Deborah Kerr), a follower of the strange religion, he tries to win her affections but she is reluctant due to their differing beliefs. Complicating matters is the crazed Emperor Nero (Peter Ustinov), who blames the Christians for his own burning of Rome, beginning a wave of persecution.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will not meet in February, but will meet again on Sunday, March 6, immediately following the worship service.

This passage from Isaiah is a call story. It tells how the prophet received his call to proclaim the word of God. Isaiah's call comes during the year King Uzziah died. Uzziah was the last King of Judah to rule without the threat of foreign meddling in the affairs of Judah. After Uzziah, Syria and Ephram (Israel) attacked Judah. The kings were pressured to become a vassal of greater powers such as Assyria and Babylon.

The year Isaiah receives his call was the beginning of a period of political upheaval leading to the eventual destruction of Jerusalem and exile. However, at this time none of those events had occurred, and Judah had a period of relative peace and prosperity.

Isaiah sees the glory of the LORD in the temple. His cry, "woe is me", is a cry of grief. He recognizes that he is a sinful man among sinful people. One of the LORD's attendants takes a coal from the altar. With it, he cleanses Isaiah's lips. Isaiah is now sanctified to receive the LORD's call.

Isaiah overhears the LORD asking the divine court who he could send as a messenger. Eagerly, it seems, Isaiah jumps up, "Here I am, Send me." Isaiah volunteers to be the LORD's messenger.

Often this is where we end the story of Isaiah's call. We hold Isaiah up as an example of how we should respond to the LORD's call to us. We, like Isaiah should respond eagerly and without hesitation. But what we should hold Isaiah up for is that he did fulfill the mission the LORD had for him, not his eagerness.

The LORD tells Isaiah that he is to make the mind of the people dull, stop their ears and shut their eyes so they may turn and be healed. What? That doesn't seem to make much sense. Wouldn't the LORD want the people to think, see, and hear clearly? Wouldn't that lead them to turn and be healed? This is a confusing message. It sure isn't what people want to hear.

Sometimes the message God has for us may seem unclear and confusing. Sometimes God's message is not what we want to hear. Sometimes that is because what God wants us to do and what we want are at odds. John Wesley wanted to be a missionary to the colonies, particularly to the "heathen" natives. However, his time in Georgia was an abject failure. The heathen natives were rather condescending to him. He angered enough people in Savannah that he had to flee in disgrace so he would not be brought to trial. His mission to the colonies was not God's mission for him. But Wesley did discover God's mission for him later which led to a revival in England.

Isaiah asks how long he is to make people dull, unhearing, and unseeing. The LORD gives a shocking answer: until the land is utterly desolate and empty, the people are sent away and there is nothing left but a stump.

Wow, that's really uplifting. That is not a pleasant thing to think about. Sometimes God's message is not pleasant. Sometimes the messages we have to give are not pleasant. But even with unpleasant messages, we may give hope. It was not pleasant to tell families that their loved one had a mental illness for which there is no "cure" but we could give hope that with medication and therapy they could live productive lives.

Isaiah was to give this seemingly ludicrous message until Judah was destroyed. That was what he volunteered for. But Isaiah did not back down. He carried out the message the LORD wanted him to give.

You see, the message that Isaiah was to give to the kings was not to think with human logic, not to see through a human perspective, and not to hear the human voices, but to rely on the LORD. The Northern Kingdom of Israel had relied on alliances and had fallen. The kings of Judah were beginning to rely on alliances. Israel and Judah had broken their relationship with God and it needed to be restored and healed. This healing could only occur if the nations relied on the LORD and not human alliances.

That was the message Isaiah was to give. Give up your human way of thinking and trying to figure out the solution. Rely on the LORD to give you the solution. Give up your human way of perceiving and seek the LORD's perspective. Quit listening to human advisors, and listen to the LORD. When you quit the human way of thinking, seeing, and hearing and rely on the LORD's way of thinking, seeing, and hearing, there is the hope of restoration, even if there is nothing but a stump left.

The mission the LORD gives may seem confusing on the surface. But in the end, it is always a mission of hope. Hope for Judah would have come if they relied upon the LORD instead of human alliances. Even when all seemed lost, the city and temple destroyed, God gave hope of restoration after punishment.

John Wesley returned from Georgia in despair. But he had met the Moravians and became interested in Moravian piety. His failure in Georgia led him to rely on God. Thus he was able to grow the Methodist movement.

We hear of people moaning about what is happening in our country, state, and communities. We wonder what is going to happen in our church denominationally and here. We see brokenness and long for healing. So the message of Isaiah resonates today. Quit thinking, seeing, and hearing the human way. Rely on God.

Rely on God for us to become the church, community, state, and country God wants us to be. Quit looking at our nation the way Joe Biden or Donald Trump wants it to be, the way the Democrats or Republicans want it to be, and see it the way God wants it to be. Let us look at the state and community the way God wants it to be. Let us look to see how God sees our church and the way he wants it to be. Let us tune out the static voices and listen to the voice of God to lead us as individuals, a church, a community, a state, and a nation, so we may be God's light to the world.

Let us rely on God and the seemingly confusing message becomes clear. Rely only on God.