

Second Sunday in Lent
March 13, 2022

Welcome and Announcements
 Birthday Celebration

Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”</i>	Choir
Centering Words		
*Hymn	<i>“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”</i>	140
Prayer of the Day		
The Lord’s Prayer		895

Proclamation of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Pages 11-12 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalm 27	758-759
*Hymn	<i>“I Am Thine, O Lord”</i>	419
Gospel Reading	Luke 13:31-35	Page 75 (N.T.)
New Testament Reading	Philippians 3:17 – 4:1	Page 189 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>Who to Imitate</i>	Rev. John D. Jordan

Response to the Word

*Affirmation of Faith	<i>“The Apostles’ Creed”</i>	881
Presentation of Tithes & Offerings		
Offertory		Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology	<i>“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”</i>	95
*Hymn	<i>“O Jesus, I Have Promised”</i>	396
*Dismissal With Benediction		
*Benediction Response	<i>”Psalm 147”</i>	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	AV Assistant: Chris Derrick
Church Musician		Time Together: Ruth Frady

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 of ***John and Kay Jordan, by Dee Senn.***

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

Jackie McNeill	Boots Morgan	Becky Derrick	Patsy Zeigler	Dale Wells	Charles McNeill
Jimmy Grahl	Oren Edwards	Latson Lewis	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler	George Taylor
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

Family and Friends: **Stacy Coggins** (daughter of Steve Aiello); **Dan & Leslie White** (brother & sister-in-law of Steve White); **Alva Humphries** (friend of Marty Johnson); **Mary Ann Rentz** (stepmother of Marty Johnson); **Judy Bauer** (cousin of Marty Johnson); **Neal Hart** (uncle 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); **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); **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); **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); **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 03/06 SS: 10 Worship: 24

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 03/06 \$ 10,048.78

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

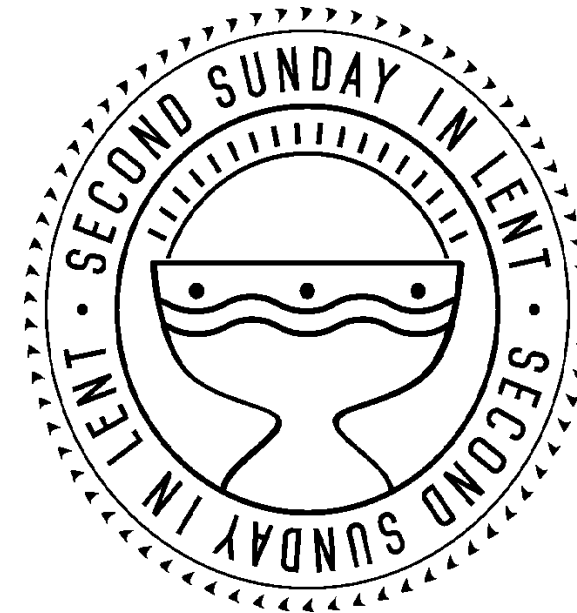


Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

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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**Snacks & a Movie
Sunday, March 13
(For Second Half of Movie)
4 p.m.**

On Sunday, February 20, we started watching the movie, *Quo Vadis*, from 1951 starring Robert Taylor, Deborah Kerr and Peter Ustinov. It is a long movie, so we were only able to watch the first half. We will watch the second half this afternoon at 4 p.m. Please feel free to join us even if you did not watch the first half. The first half was primarily background, so we will be glad to catch you up on the story before we start to watch the second half.



**Wesley Class Meeting
Changed to Wednesday, March 23
7 p.m.**

There were a number of people who were interested in the Wesley Class meetings that are going to be out of town on March 16. Therefore, we will delay starting until March 23 at 7:00 pm.



The CDC has released new guidelines based on the incidence of CoVid 19 by the local community. A map is available on the CDC website. At present the rate for Lexington County is medium. This means that masks are not necessary except for people who have compromised immune systems. I know people have different opinions but we as Christians respect each other. Masks at service will be optional. We continue to urge people to get vaccinated and get tested if you have symptoms or have been exposed. We continue to want to keep people as safe as possible.

Shalom,
John



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Philippians 3:17-4:1

“Join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.”

Boy, that sounds like Paul has an ego. Imitate me. Paul must think he is perfect and these folks in Philippi should imitate him. It is not that I think Paul is a bad person to imitate, he is. But this phrase just rubs me the wrong way. It seems to say, “Look at me! I am a perfect example, so imitate me!”

While it may be easy to read this verse in that way, I do not think that is Paul’s intent. I do not think Paul is even saying to imitate him. The word Paul uses to begin this verse, *summimetai*, is only used here in the whole Bible. It is a compound word from, *sun*, which means with or together with, and *mimeomai*, which means to imitate or follow (from which our words mimic and mime are derived). So what Paul is actually saying is not to imitate him, but to imitate with him, to follow with him.

Ok, enough of a Greek lesson for today.

The question then becomes who do we imitate? Before we get into that we need to look at the greater context in this letter. This chapter begins with Paul talking about how his good Jewish credentials are worthless. He states that he hopes to gain Christ and that his righteousness does not come from the law but through faith in Christ. He claims he wants to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. Through Christ, Paul has a right relationship with God, and his will is aligned with God’s will.

As we consider Paul and the probable time and place of this letter, it seems that Paul would be a good person to imitate. This letter was probably written from Rome around 60 CE, near the end of Paul’s life. Paul most certainly knew Christ. He saw Jesus on the road to Damascus. He certainly aligned his will to God. God had chosen Paul to be the one to bring the Gospel to the gentiles. He certainly succeeded in this according to Acts and the letters.

But in verse 12 of this chapter, Paul says that he has not obtained the resurrection from the dead or reached the goal. Paul says he continues to press forward to the goal of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

This heavenly call is not being called to heaven. The word translated as heavenly is more accurately translated as higher. So what Paul is saying is he is continually pressing forward to a higher call of God. This higher call of God is to completely align his will with God’s will. It is seeking to develop such a relationship with God that your will is God’s will.

Paul is in prison awaiting trial and probable execution. He knows that if he has aligned his will to God’s will he will be transformed from the body that is humiliated in execution to the body of God’s glory. This is what he is pressing toward, to be with God in glory.

That is our goal, to know the perfect love of God and for neighbor and to be glorified. We go on to perfection. This is one of the distinctive aspects of Wesleyan theology. We are justified by faith and then continue to sanctification and complete holiness which comes as we go into eternal life.

While it seems that Paul is saying to imitate him, he is not. He is saying to join him, to be a fellow follower of someone else, the one we should all imitate.

This passage we read today points back to Chapter 2 where Paul writes:

(P) ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father. (NRSV)

Paul is inviting the Philippians and us to join him in imitating Jesus. Imitate Jesus' humility. Even though Jesus was equal to God, he did not regard that equality as something to be exploited. He did not use his divine power for self-interest as we noted last week. Instead, he emptied himself. He made himself a nobody, with no reputation. He took the role of a servant.

We should imitate Jesus and humble ourselves. We should not seek self-interest but seek how we can serve others. Many of you imitated Christ by sitting with Bill Pearson and caring for him these past few weeks. We may imitate Christ as Pauline Wenner did, greeting people before the service, putting out the food at our meals, and working behind the scenes. We imitate Christ by helping neighbors, visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, and in any other humble way to serve others without recognition.

More importantly, join him in imitating Jesus' obedience. Jesus gave himself over and obeyed the will of the Father throughout his life. He obeyed his father to the point of death, even death on a cross. The Father's will was Jesus' will. Jesus obeyed the Father even though the consequences meant a painful, gruesome death. That was Paul's desire, to obey God completely even though it led to death.

We imitate Christ by giving our will completely over to God. This does not mean that we cannot question God. Sometimes questioning helps to clarify God's will. I read a new take on the poem *Footprints*. God is saying that in times where there was only one set of footprints he carried us and the deep furrows were times he dragged us kicking and screaming. We are to be completely obedient to God's will regardless of what the earthly consequences may be.

We may lose reputation. We may lose status. We may lose the adoration and possibly even the respect of some. We may even lose friendships. But we will gain the perfect love of God and are glorified in God's presence for eternity.

Therefore, we join Paul in imitating Christ. We humble ourselves, seeking to serve others instead of self-interest. We serve, not for our recognition but for God's glory. We may experience earthly loss when we are completely obedient to God's will, but we will gain God's glory.