

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 27, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”</i>	Choir
Centering Words		

*Hymn	<i>“The Church’s One Foundation”</i>	545
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Prayer of the Day		
The Lord’s Prayer		895

Baptism of *Everly Hazel Branham* and *Lyla Faye Branham*

Proclamation of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading	Joshua 5:9-12	Page 193 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalm 32	766

Special Music	<i>“Amazing Grace”</i>	Mary Louise Robinson
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Gospel Reading	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Pages 76-77 (N.T.)
New Testament Reading	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Page 171 (N.T.)

Sermon	<i>New Creation by Grace</i>	Rev. John D. Jordan
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Response to the Word

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings		
Offertory		Christopher A. McCroskey

*Doxology	<i>“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”</i>	95
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*Hymn	<i>“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”</i>	383
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*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response	<i>“Psalm 147”</i>	Choir
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*Postlude		Christopher A. McCroskey
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*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: Wayne & Charlie Hooker

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 CELEBRATE the Baptism of ***Everly Hazel Branham*** and ***Lyla Faye Branham***. They are the daughters of ***Mark and Daphne Branham***, the granddaughters of ***John and Sue Ballentine*** and ***Cleve and Audrey Branham***, and the great-granddaughters of ***Tom and Marilyn Lloyd***. Our Time Together today will be in their honor.

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	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: **Gene Waldrep** (father-in-law of Joey Hardee); **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); **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); **Monnie Tiller** (friend of Chris Derrick); **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); **Beverly Jordan** (sister-in-law of John Jordan); **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); **Earle Watson** (father of friend of Jo Ann Heiting); **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 03/20 SS: 9 Worship: 38

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 03/20 \$ 3,341.89

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

TODAY Church Council, 2 p.m.
03/30 Wesley Class Meeting, 7 p.m.

Please Note: The Exercise Class begins on Monday, April 4, at 10:30 a.m.

Lunch Bunch meets next Sunday, April 3, immediately following the service.

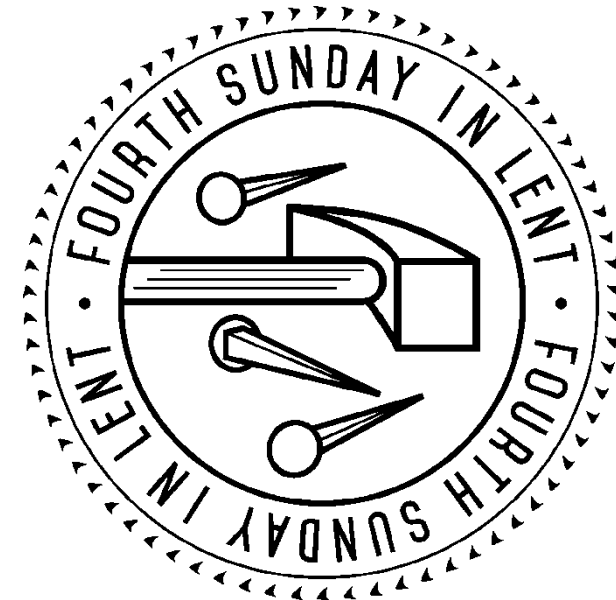


Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

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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2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Today we had the joy of baptizing Everly and Lyla Faye. I confess that baptisms are my favorite thing in ministry. Baptism is an outward sign of God's grace continually poured out upon us. God's grace has been poured out upon Everly and Lyla Faye, not through the water but through the Holy Spirit which has been with them since birth. From the time we are born, God's grace is poured out upon all of us.

This grace that surrounds us from birth is prevenient grace. Wesley defines prevenient grace as, "the first wish to please God, the first dawn of light concerning his will, and the first transient conviction of having sinned against him."¹ Prevenient Grace makes us aware of our sins so that we may please God and do God's will.

Once we become aware of our sin, which is the first step of repentance we discussed last week, we become remorseful and displeased with ourselves. We ask forgiveness and turn from our sin. God then pours upon us justifying grace which frees us from the guilt and power of sin and aligns our will to God's will.

As our will becomes aligned with God's we join in Christ. What does it mean to be "in Christ?" It means we enter into the indwelling love of the Son for the Father. Then, our desire becomes to be completely obedient to the Father as the Son was. The love of Christ dwells in us and we dwell in the love of Christ.

We are born again. We become a new creation, with the image of God stamped on our hearts. We become holy creatures with the whole mind which was in Christ Jesus.² As Paul says, "there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" This new creation began with the resurrection of Jesus which ushered in a new way of being. The old way of being was transformed into something new. The human point of view was transformed into God's point of view. The new creation began with the resurrection of Jesus and continues as the hearts and minds of humans are reconciled to God through Christ.

As we repent of our sin, God by grace reconciles us and we are made new creatures. We are changed and transformed! As Wesley says,

“(We) have new life, new senses, new faculties, new affections, new appetites, new ideas, and conceptions. (Our) whole tenor of action and conversation is new, and (we) live, as it were, in a new world. God, men, the whole creation, heaven, earth, and all therein appear in a new light and stand related to (us) in a new manner since (we) were created anew in Christ Jesus.”³

It is not that the world changes but that we are changed. God pours out sanctifying grace that continually changes us so we reflect the image of God in which we were created. Not only is our behavior changed, but also our attitudes, emotions, ways of thinking and perceiving, so we see all people and things in a new light. We no longer regard others from a human point of view but a divine point of view.

Paul made a perfect example as he says we once knew Christ from a human point of view but we no longer see him that way. From a human point of view, Jesus was a man from a backwater village in a backwater province whose ideas threatened the establishment and needed to be eliminated. However, as a new creation after his encounter with Christ on the road to Damascus, Paul sees Jesus as the Christ who died for all so all could live in him and be reconciled to God. We are put in the right relationship with God.

We are put in a right relationship with God by God's grace. By God's prevenient grace we seek God and become aware of our sin. We repent and God imbues us with justifying grace which takes away the guilt and power of sin over us even as we continue to live in a state of sin. As Charles Wesley says in his hymn *Love Divine All Loves Excelling*, "take away our bent to sinning." We are changed both immediately and gradually.

We are changed immediately in that our desires and perceptions are changed. We no longer see things in a human manner but through the eyes of Christ. We no longer desire the things of the world but desire a closer and deeper relationship with God.

As we are justified, we begin the process of sanctification. We are granted God's sanctifying grace, the grace that continues to open our eyes, minds, and hearts to the

¹ John Wesley, "On Working Out Our Own Salvation" in *The Sermons of John Wesley: A Collection for the Christian Journey*, Ed by Kenneth J. Collins and Jason E. Vickers, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013) 66.

² John Wesley, "The New Birth" in *The Sermons of John Wesley: A Collection for the Christian Journey*, Ed by Kenneth J. Collins and Jason E. Vickers, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013) 161

³ John Wesley, *Wesley's Notes on the Bible*, Ed. G. Roger Schoenhals. (Grand Rapids. MI: Francis Asbury Press, 1987) 525.

workings of God. This grace reveals to us what God is saving us for and how we are to participate in restoring creation. Sanctifying grace taps into the energy that renews creation. We seek a more perfect future and it opens us to new possibilities for ourselves, for the church, and the world.

By grace, we become a new creation. Prevenient grace surrounds us from birth, so we recognize right from wrong. We become aware of our sin and repent. Justifying grace removes the guilt of sin and breaks the power of sin over us. Therefore, our will becomes aligned with God's will. We are reborn. Through sanctifying grace we begin the process of restoring the image of God within ourselves. We are drawn closer in love with God and neighbor as the image of God is restored in us and we reflect God's image to the world.

This may be a poor analogy but this process is like cleaning a dirty mirror. We become aware that the mirror is dirty. The image it reflects is distorted and blurry (prevenient grace). We get some Windex and paper towel. We spray the Windex on the mirror (justifying grace). Then we wipe the mirror with the paper towel. As we wipe the mirror the image in the mirror becomes clearer until it reflects the true image (sanctifying grace).

By grace, God takes the distorted image we present and makes us a new creation that truly reflects the image of God in us.