

Second Sunday of Easter
April 24, 2022

Leading in Worship Today

Worship Leader & Speaker: *Tom Geddens* AV Director: *Marie Stiles*
Pianist: *Laurie Knapp* AV Assistant: *Chris Derrick*
Time Together: *Wayne & Charlie Hooker*

Welcome and Announcements		
Prelude		Laurie Knapp
Call To Worship	<i>“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”</i>	Choir
*Hymn	<i>“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”</i>	452
Pastoral Prayer		Tom Geddens
Psalter	Psalm 150	862
*Hymn	<i>“Open My Eyes, That I May See”</i>	454
New Testament Reading	Acts 5:27-32	Pages 117-118 (N.T.)
Anthem		Laurie Knapp
Gospel Reading	John 20:19-31	Page 111 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>“Not Seeing and Yet Believing”</i>	Tom Geddens
*Affirmation of Faith	<i>“Apostles’ Creed”</i>	881
*Gloria Patri	<i>“Glory Be to the Father”</i>	70
Presentation of Tithes & Offerings		
Offertory		Laurie Knapp
*Doxology	<i>“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”</i>	95
*Hymn	<i>“Be Still, My Soul”</i>	534
*Dismissal With Benediction		
*Benediction Response	<i>“God Be with You till We Meet Again”</i>	672
*Postlude		Laurie Knapp
	*The Congregation May Stand	

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.

A GIFT TO TRINITY is given to the ***Glory of God*** by ***Mary Kamoroff***.

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

Jackie McNeill	Charles McNeill	Becky Derrick	Charlie Hooker	Patsy Zeigler	Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl	Oren Edwards	Hilda Edwards	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler	George Taylor
Kay Jordan	John Ballentine	Boots Morgan	Dale Wells	Marty Johnson	Latson Lewis

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

Family and Friends: **Mary Collard** (daughter of Jackie McNeill); **Howard Stephens** (friend of Sue Ballentine); **James Boggs** (father of Claire Boggs); **Stacy Coggins** (daughter of Steve Aiello); **Dan & Leslie White** (brother & sister-in-law of Steve White); **Cindy Bassett, Alva Humphries** (friends 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); **Renea Eshleman, 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 04/17 SS: 12 Worship: 58

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 04/17 \$ 6,313.68

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

04/25 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
04/27 Wesley Class Meeting, 7 p.m.
04/28 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

Lunch Bunch meets next Sunday, May 5, immediately following the service.

The Epworth Mother's Day Offering will be received on Sunday, May 8.

Graduate Recognition will take place on Sunday, May 15.



Ministers	The Congregation
Pastor	John D. Jordan
Resident Bishop	Jonathan Holston
District Superintendent	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



Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

John 20:29, NRSV

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“Not Seeing And Yet Believing”

(Read John 20: 19-31)

This is the Word of God for the people of God! Thanks be to God! Let us pray:

Father God, let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

It's funny: When I last filled in for Pastor John and delivered the sermon, it was on this same Gospel lesson that we just heard, although my focus in that sermon was on what Thomas said to Jesus in John 20: 28: “My Lord and My God!”

The focus of this sermon, however, will be on what Jesus said back to Thomas in the very next verse, John 20: 29: “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 1: 16-17: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”

And later in Romans 3: 27-28, Paul wrote, “Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.”

Throughout Paul's Letter to the Romans, he emphasized the fact that salvation is available to everyone through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Paul made it clear that he was not giving the back of his hand to the Jewish Law of the Old Testament. The Law is vital, he pointed out, but it does not earn or maintain salvation for anyone. Only faith in God's Son, Jesus Christ, will do that.

It is faith and not works.

Works are important. The Bible urges us to perform good deeds, to help those in need, to practice kindness and charity and to avoid sin. In his epistle, James reminded us that just because you have faith, do not assume that you are exempt from performing works. James warned his fellow Christians not to think that faith entitled them to rest on their laurels. Once you rest on your laurels, you run the risk of becoming haughty, lazy, indifferent, callous and uncaring. If you have genuine faith, you should also have a genuine desire to perform works, not because you think it will earn you salvation (salvation cannot be earned, because it is a free gift) but simply because you want to. Faith in Christ should blossom into an effulgent love for others. Works, therefore, are the product, or the fruit, of faith. When you choose to follow Christ, the desire to be a servant to others is a natural outgrowth of your faith. Living a holy life in Christ naturally leads you to wash others' feet as Jesus illustrated.

Salvation is not a merit system. God is not cataloging how many acts of kindness that you have performed and using some magic number to determine your salvation. The Bible is often derided by critics as being a big list of do's and don'ts. Yes, as a Christian, you do want to do the things that are pleasing to God, and you don't want to do the things that are not pleasing to Him. When you have faith in Christ, you love God and loving God means that you want to do the things that please Him and you want to avoid the things that displease Him. Salvation is not earned, as Paul often pointed out. It is a gift based on faith alone.

There is nothing wrong with taking pride in your work. In fact, doing so often pushes you to do your best. It is gratifying when you perform well at a task, especially one done through hard work. I am not saying that you feel entitled, but it is natural to look forward to receiving just a little praise for a job well done. But pride is an emotion that you must keep a leash on. Jesus had

a deft way of cutting through a person's pride. In two of His parables, the Parable of the Landowner and the Parable of the Prodigal Son, many Christians- and I certainly include myself here- find themselves sympathizing with the complainers in those parables. Who am I talking about when I say "complainers?" Well, in the Parable of the Landowner, a rich man needed all this work done on his land and announced that he would pay a specific wage to any man who worked on his land that day. When the workday was over, he paid that same wage to every worker, both the workers who worked from sunup to sundown and the workers who strolled in at the last hour. The complainers in that parable were understandably the men who had been working from sunup to sundown. Their complaint was: "You mean that these lazy bums who slept in and didn't show up to work until we were about to wrap up are going to get paid the same wage as those of us who have been sweating all day?"

And in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the complainer was the Good Son. His complaint was, "Look, Dad, this sorry brother of mine took all the money that you gave him and blew it partying, while I stayed behind and did all this work for you. Now, he gets this big feast? Meanwhile, what do I get for my troubles?"

In both parables, Jesus knew that many of us would identify with the ones who were complaining. That is because Jesus understood that many of us often try to do the right thing and sometimes... well, we may feel a little entitled, do we not? How often have you said to yourself in frustration, "But I was trying to do the right thing!?" I know that I have!

And in both of those parables, Jesus reminds us that, again, salvation is not a merit system. It is not about trying to do the right thing, as much as doing the right thing is a vital part of our Christian walk. The complainers in those two parables were asking, "Was all of my hard work for nothing?" Jesus is saying, "No, your hard work was not for nothing. Your hard work was needed in order to get the work that you were assigned done. You were of service to those whom you were working for and that is a good thing. But your salvation is not based on your hard work here on Earth but by your faith in Me alone. I performed the hard work by dying for your sins. Salvation is not an entitlement but a free gift."

There are many who, when hearing the Gospel Story, love it when Jesus urges us to practice compassion, mercy, forgiveness and love; they love it when Jesus calls the religious leaders of His day hypocrites; but for them, the water's edge tends to be the mouth of the tomb where they buried Jesus. They stop at the water's edge, because they refuse to believe in the Resurrection. "No one comes back from the dead," they say.

But I say: If you're stopping before the Resurrection, then you are missing the best part!

When Jesus told Thomas, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed," He was delivering what may be the most succinct summation of the primacy of faith over works in God's Salvation Plan ever to be recorded in the Bible. Jesus was alluding to the fact that it is not our works that determine our salvation- neither the quality nor the quantity of the good deeds that we perform- but our faith in Him alone. That is why Jesus declared that those of us who have not seen Him in the flesh and did not see Him when He was resurrected but believe nonetheless that He is the Son of God, that He died for our sins on the cross, and that God raised Him from the dead three days later, that we are blessed! Believing is what saves our souls. Believing in Christ resurrected gives us the greatest hope there is and ever will be. This beautiful and boundless hope leads us to live lives of holiness, the way God wants us to live, as we practice kindness, mercy, gratefulness, forgiveness and love, not because we mistakenly believe that we are scoring brownie points, but simply because we want to.

Both faith and works are vital to our Christian walk. But it is our faith in Jesus Christ that is the source of our salvation. Our works, then, are the fruit of our faith. Salvation is unearned and based on our faith alone. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! Amen!