

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 15, 2022

Welcome and Announcements		
Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>"Sing a New Song to the Lord"</i>	Choir
Centering Words		
*Hymn	<i>"Lead On, O King Eternal"</i>	580
Opening Prayer		
The Lord's Prayer		895
Graduate Recognition		
Proclamation of the Word		
Prayer of Illumination		
New Testament Reading	Acts 11:1-18	Page 124 (N.T.)
Psalter	Psalm 148	861-862
*Hymn	<i>"Spirit Song"</i>	347
Gospel Reading	John 13:31-35	Page 104 (N.T.)
Anthem	<i>"Help Us Accept Each Other"</i>	Choir
New Testament Reading	Revelation 21:1-6	Page 249 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>What On Earth Is God Doing?</i>	Rev. John D. Jordan
Response to the Word	<i>"The Apostles' Creed"</i>	881
Pastoral Prayer		
Presentation of Tithes & Offerings		
Offertory		Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology	<i>"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"</i>	95
*Hymn	<i>"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"</i>	384
Reception of New Member		
*Dismissal With Benediction		
*Benediction Response	<i>"Be Exalted, O God"</i>	Choir
*Postlude		Christopher A. McCroskey
	*The Congregation May Stand	

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor:	<i>John D. Jordan</i>	AV Director:	<i>Marie Stiles</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Christopher A. McCroskey</i>	AV Assistant:	<i>Chris Derrick</i>
Church Musician		Time Together:	<i>Ruth Frady; Youth Class</i>

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.

We welcome **Mark Branham** who joins us today as a member of Trinity.

TODAY'S LOVELY FLOWERS are given to the **Glory of God** and in honor and celebration of their **46th Wedding Anniversary today**, by **Jim and Marie Stiles**.

“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: **Kevin Horseman** (neighbor of Jeanette Hornsby); **Mary Collard** (daughter of Jackie McNeill); **Howard Stephens** (former church member); **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); **Gary Becton** (friend of Mark Branham); **Wade Albert Payne** (friend of Mary Louise Robinson); **Florence Lee Carter, Monnie Tiller** (friends of Chris Derrick); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Alexa Lookingbill** (wife of coworker of Kathy White); **Katelyn Rose** (daughter of coworker of Kathy White); **Vickie Edwards** (neighbor of Kathy White); **Beverly Jordan** (sister-in-law of John 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 05/08 SS: 7 Worship: 25

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 05/08 \$ 4,162.88 Epworth 05/08 \$ 357.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

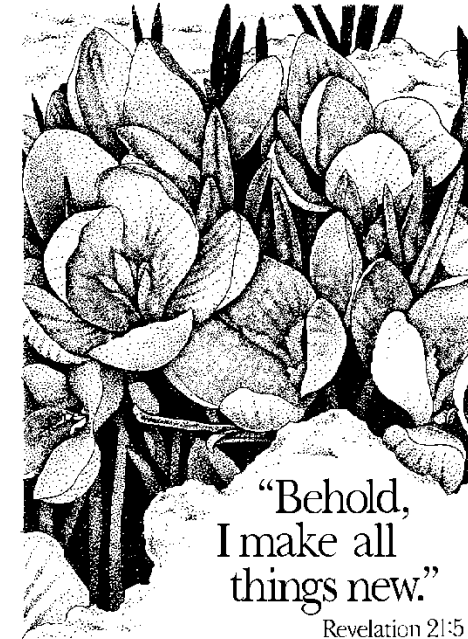
TODAY Graduate Recognition
05/16 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
05/18 Class Meeting, 7 p.m.
05/19 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.



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



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Through the month of May, we will be receiving a Love Offering for Christopher McCroskey. As many of you know, Christopher was hospitalized for twelve days after having his big toe on the right foot amputated due to an infection. He will be having physical therapy at home and even though he will be able to play for church, he will not be able to return to substitute teaching this school year. He will also be faced with medical bills that his insurance will not cover. If you would like to contribute to this Love Offering, please make the check out to Trinity and write Love Offering in the Memo Line. The Love Offerings will be tax deductible.



Church Council will meet on Sunday, May 22, at 2 p.m.



The Staff Parish Relations Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 25, at 6 p.m.



B. C. High School

***Ryan Edwards
Kara Howard
Dee Hughes***

Francis Marion University

Matthew Skipper
Degrees in Sociology and Political Science (December)

University of South Carolina Graduate School

Slone Taylor
Master of Public Health in Epidemiology.

Our Time Together today will be in their honor.

Revelation 21: 1-6

This is it, the last vision of John as recorded in the book of Revelation. Satan, the Beast, and the False Prophet have been thrown into the lake of burning sulfur. The dead have been resurrected and judged.

We are ready to go to heaven. We will go up there in the clouds (hopefully, I will find the one where all my information has gone). We will be given our wings and harps. We will live a peaceful life in another world.

But wait! What on earth is God doing? People are not being lifted to heaven. John sees a new heaven and a new earth. But it is coming down from heaven. The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, is coming down out of heaven. The city where God dwelt, according to Jewish tradition, is coming down adorned as a bride. This is not the way it is supposed to be. We are to go up to heaven.

A loud voice from the Throne says now the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them. The word, *skene*, means tabernacle, and the verb form, *skenoō*, means to tabernacle or literally to pitch a tent. A tabernacle is not a permanent structure. So the literal translation would be: God will pitch his tent among mortals.

Think about that: God will pitch his tent among mortals. Since a tent or tabernacle is not a permanent structure, then God will not have a permanent dwelling place. God does not dwell in a place where people have to go to be in God's presence. God dwells wherever people are.

God dwells in great cathedrals. God dwells in churches like ours. God dwells in clapboard country churches. God dwells when people gather in homes to worship. God dwells under a baobab tree where people come to worship. God dwells wherever people come to worship.

God pitches his tent among the wealthy and the poor. God pitches his tent in neighborhoods of mansions and ghettos and barrios. God pitches his tent in large cities and small towns, in suburbs and villages. God pitches his tent on large plantations and hardscrabble farms. God pitches his tent among the housed and those living under bridges and on the streets.

God pitches his tent at great universities and under trees where people gather to learn. God pitches his tents in nursing homes and children's homes. God pitches his tents in hospitals and hospices.

God pitches his tent on the battlefields of Ukraine, Syria, Yemen, and other war-torn countries. God pitches his tent in refugee camps throughout the world. God pitches his tent among those suffering losses due to natural disasters.

God pitches his tent to cover families experiencing the tragic death of a loved one. God pitches his tent to cover families celebrating the birth of a child. God pitches his tent to cover families at funerals and baptisms. God pitches his tent to cover the dying. God pitches his tent to cover graduates. God pitches his tent to cover those who are cured and those who learn their condition is terminal.

God pitches his tent with us in whatever ways in which we worship. God pitches his tent with us whatever our economic or social circumstances. God pitches his tent with us in all phases of our life from birth to death and everything in between. God pitches his tent to cover us in good times, in bad times, and in every ordinary time. God pitches his tent over us to wipe every tear from our eyes and take away our pain.

Death will be no more, for God will always have his tent over us. This is because death is separation from God and God is always with us.

This is what on earth God is doing. God is dwelling among us, not just us gathered here today but all people everywhere. This leads us to rephrase our question, “What is God doing on Earth?”

“And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See I am making all things new.’”

God is making all things new. Notice a couple of things about this phrase. It is not in the past tense, God has not made all things new. It is not in the future tense, God will make all things new. It is in the present tense, that God is making all things new. It is in the active voice meaning it is what God is doing. This is God acting to make all things new. This action began in the past, with the death and resurrection of Jesus, and continues. God’s act of making all things new began with the death and resurrection of Jesus, has continued to the present time, and will continue into the future. God will continue to act until all things are made new.

Also, notice that God is not making a new thing, God is making things new. God is taking the creation that has been tainted by sin and restoring it to a new creation. In John, we see the new commandment to love one another. Jesus commanded the disciples, including us, to care for the interest of each other over self-interest. In Acts, we see the Holy Spirit being poured out upon gentiles and the Jewish believers rejoiced. These are just two of the early ways God began making all things new.

God is taking us and making new beings out of us. Through God’s prevenient grace, we become aware of our sin and need for salvation. We receive God’s justifying grace. We are saved from sin and receive new life aligned with Christ’s. We receive sanctifying grace, being drawn closer in love with God and neighbor.

God is making us new as we cooperate with God in making us new. As God created us out of love, God does not force us to become new. We become new as we respond to God’s grace and the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Then we are becoming new beings, beings that reflect the true image of God in which we were created.

When the school where my mother taught for many years closed, there were several pieces of furniture in a storage room that the district was going to discard. The teachers were asked if they wanted anything before it was discarded. Mom got a little writing desk that had several coats of paint on it. She took it to a friend who refinished furniture.

A couple of weeks later the friend called and said, “Louise, do you know what was under all the paint on that desk?”

Mom replied that she figured it was probably pine. The friend said, “No, it was solid cherry.” When he finished, he brought mom a beautiful little cherry desk.

That is what God wants to do with us. God wants to take all the sin with its guilt and shame which covers us and strip it off. God wants to renew us into our original state of beauty like the desk was renewed to its original beauty.

What on earth is God doing? God is pitching his tent among us and dwelling among us.

What is God doing on earth? God is making us and all creation new. May we respond to God having his tent among us so we may participate in God making us and all creation new.