

Pentecost Sunday
June 5, 2022

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| Welcome and Announcements | | |
| Prelude | | Christopher A. McCroskey |
| Call To Worship | <i>“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”</i> | Choir |
| *Hymn | <i>“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”</i> | 384 |
| Pastoral Prayer | | |
| Psalter | Psalm 104:24-34, 35b | 826-827 |
| *Hymn | <i>“All Creatures of Our God and King”</i> | 62 |
| New Testament Reading | Romans 8:14-17 | Page 149 (N.T.) |
| Gospel Reading | John 14:8-17 | Page 105 (N.T.) |
| Sermon | <i>“Whom Philip Wished to See”</i> | Tom Geddens |
| Affirmation of Faith | <i>“The Apostles’ Creed”</i> | 881 |
| *Gloria Patri | <i>“Glory Be to the Father”</i> | 70 |
| Presentation of Tithes & Offerings | | |
| Offertory | | Christopher A. McCroskey |
| *Doxology | <i>“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”</i> | 95 |
| *Hymn | <i>“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”</i> | 420 |
| *Dismissal With Benediction | | |
| *Benediction Response | <i>“May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You”</i> | Choir |
| | May the Lord, Mighty God bless and keep you forever, Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and see God’s face and God’s grace forever, May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever. | |
| *Postlude | | Christopher A. McCroskey |

*The Congregation May Stand

Leading in Worship Today

Worship Leader and Speaker *Tom Geddens* AV Director: *Marie Stiles*
 Choir Director: *Christopher A. McCroskey* AV Assistant: *Chris Derrick*
 Church Musician Time Together: *Mary Louise Robinson*

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 | Charles McNeill | Charlie Hooker | Patsy Zeigler | Kenny Long | Christopher McCroskey |
| Jimmy Grahl | Oren Edwards | Hilda Edwards | Steve Aiello | Patsy Shuler | George Taylor |
| John Ballentine | Boots Morgan | Dale Wells | Latson Lewis | Becky Derrick | |

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** (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 co-worker 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 05/29 SS: 10 Worship: 19

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 05/29 \$ 4,625.69

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

| | |
|-------|---|
| 06/05 | SC Annual Conference Service of Ordination, 7 p.m. |
| 06/06 | SC Annual Conference FH Reserved, 6 p.m. |
| 06/08 | Class Meeting, 7 p.m. |
| 06/09 | FH Reserved, 6 p.m. |
| 06/10 | Office Closed |



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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“Whom Philip Wished To See”

By Tom Geddens

(Read John 14: 8-17)

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.

I have said from the pulpit before that one of the many things that I love about John’s Gospel is that he allowed some of his other fellow disciples whose voices we did not get a chance to hear in the three previous Gospels- Matthew, Mark and Luke- a chance to speak in his Gospel.

Philip is one such disciple. It is important to note that Philip the disciple and apostle mentioned in the Four Gospels is not the same Philip whom Luke introduces us to in the Acts of the Apostles. That Philip, who is probably most famous for baptizing the Ethiopian treasurer in Acts 8:26-40, was one of the seven early believers whom the Twelve Apostles chose to help distribute food to the Gentile Christian widows.

Christians sometimes get the two Philips confused, which is easy to do, I know, because I did when I first read Acts several years ago. The Philip who spoke at the beginning of our Gospel Reading was the Philip who was one of the original Twelve.

The Gospel Reading that you heard took place during Jesus’ Last Supper with His disciples. Philip said to Jesus in John 14:8, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

Jesus’ response to Philip in the next verse can be broken down like this: “Philip, you have been walking with me and talking with me for three years now! You have heard my debates with the Pharisees and the Sadducees and you have witnessed my miracles! You haven’t figured it out yet? That if you have seen Me then you have essentially seen My Father, too?”

Christian author David Limbaugh wrote in his book, *The True Jesus*, “Since Jesus is the way to the Father, Philip asks Jesus to show the Father to them. Having previously stated, ‘I and the Father are one (In John 10:30),’ Jesus declares that He and the Father are mirror images. The writer of Hebrews explains (in Hebrews 1:3), ‘He (meaning Jesus) is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature.’”

Mr. Limbaugh also wrote, “When I was a new believer, I was particularly moved by this passage (from John 14), because it assures us we know exactly what the Father is like if we know what Jesus is like- and we know what He is like because Scripture reveals Him to us- we meet Him in the Gospels. Yes, the mysteries of God are beyond our ability to fathom, but we also have a personal God we can know and with whom we can have an eternal relationship. We don’t have to wonder about the Father’s nature. If we know Christ, then we can’t envision the Father as an angry old man with a flowing beard. He is exactly like Christ- an infinitely loving and merciful being who created us in His own image.”

Writing about this exchange between Jesus and Philip during the Last Supper, pastor and author John MacArthur wrote in his book, *Twelve Ordinary Men*, “He (Jesus) was stating in the clearest possible language that He is God. Christ and His Father are of the same essence. To know Christ is to know the Father, because the different Persons of the Trinity are one in their very essence. Jesus is God. To see Him is to see God. They (the disciples) had both seen Him and known Him, so in effect, they already knew the Father as well.”

Jesus said in John 14: 16 and 17, “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be with you.”

The Helper, the Spirit of truth, is The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. Mr. Limbaugh wrote, “It’s hard to overstate the significance of Christ’s assurances about the Holy Spirit... the Holy Spirit reproduces Christ in believers by leading Christians to greater victory over sin, praying for them, teaching them to pray, and showing them God’s will for their lives and enabling them to walk in it.”

I cannot improve upon the wise words of either Mr. Limbaugh or Mr. MacArthur, but I would like to point out that it is common that when we see a father’s son and we note how much the son looks like the father, that we will say, “Boy, you are the spitting image of your father!” I believe that the same can be said of Jesus: He is the image of God, meaning, when you saw Him, you thought of God. When you embrace and trust Jesus today, you embrace and trust God.

I also believe that the big point that Jesus wants us all to take away from His conversation with Philip and the disciples is that He- Jesus- is the only path to eternal life. The only path to God. The business of saving souls is a Father and Son business. To quote Mr. Limbaugh again, “Jesus is the only way to eternal life because He is the only sinless person who can pay for our sins, and our perfectly just God cannot allow sin to go unpunished. He punishes an innocent substitute in our place- His only Son.”

I believe in religious freedom. I believe in religious tolerance. I do not believe that anyone should be compelled to embrace a certain religion or reject a certain religion. Coercion and faith do not go hand-in-hand. A person’s faith can never be established nor nurtured by coercion. If you have to be forced to worship then you are not worshipping, in my opinion. Moreover, I believe that we should respect one another’s religious preferences. I do not want someone accosting me for being a Christian any more than I have the desire to accost anyone else for being a follower of another faith or for not having any faith at all.

I also believe that just because I believe in what I just said... that it doesn’t mean that I am not a nice guy! Just because I believe that there is only one road to a certain destination does not mean that I wish harm on any traveler who wants to try and get there by a different road. My hope and my prayer instead is that eventually that traveler will turn around and take the right road.

We bring others to Christ with our learning, our living and our loving.

As Christians, we are not called to believe in multiple paths to God. We are called instead to follow a single path. The Gospels show that Christ Himself is unambiguous in explaining that fact. The only way to The Father is through the Son. D.A. Carson, in his book, *The Gospel According to John*, wrote, “Jesus is the way to God, precisely because He is the Truth of God and the Life of God. Jesus is the Truth, because He embodies the supreme revelation of God... He is His Word made flesh... Jesus is the Life, the one Who has life in Himself... Only because He is the Truth and the Life can Jesus be the way for others to come to God.”

Philip’s request of Jesus probably had more to do with the visual realm than the spiritual at the moment that he blurted it. “Show us the Father,” meaning, “I want to see the Father!” To place Philip’s request in a modern context, since none of us obviously were sitting with Jesus at the Last Supper and therefore have never truly laid eyes on Him, if we want to see the Father- in other words, if we want to feel the Father, experience the Father, and grow under the Father- we must first look to His Son. We must obey Jesus, learn from Jesus, love Jesus, acknowledge His paying the price for our sins, believe in His Resurrection and believe that He will one day return to this world to defeat the prince of this world.

And when we look to the Son in order to see the Father, we will find the Holy Spirit dwelling inside us, as Jesus explained in John 14: 16 and 17. The Holy Spirit will give us strength when we feel weak, will give us courage when we are afraid, will give us clarity when we are confused, will give us patience when we feel frustrated, and will correct us to respond with kindness when we are tempted instead to lash out.

The Holy Spirit blesses us with hope in a world that all too often feels bereft of hope. When we live by this hope and embrace the Son of God as our Lord and Personal Savior, God, our Father in Heaven, blesses us with the promise of eternal life.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! Amen!



On Sunday, June 5, I will finally come to the end of a long journey as I will be ordained a Full Elder in the South Carolina Annual Conference. The past four years of this journey have been difficult. I thank all of you, particularly those who served on Staff-Parish, for your support and role in this process. The Service of Ordination will be held at 7:00 p.m. June 5. I would love for all of you to be there to share in this event, but once again the in-person attendance will be limited. However, the service will be live streamed on the Conference Website, umcsc.org. Though you may not be able to be with me in person, I know your spirit will be with me.

John



Sunday, June 19th

There will be a special Time Together on Father's Day, Sunday, June 19th.



Lunch Bunch will not meet during the summer.

Exercise Class will not meet during the summer. They will resume classes in September.

Wonderful Wednesdays will not be held during the summer.



I will be taking Fridays as vacation days during the summer. The Church Office will be closed on Fridays.

Wesley Class Meeting

The number of people who describe themselves as spiritual but not religious has been increasing according to the Pew Research Center. To me this indicates that people are looking for spiritual meaning in their lives but have not found what they are seeking through traditional church activities. Eight weeks ago, ten of us led by Tom Geddens and Pastor John began a study of the Wesley Class Meetings. Those participating in the group are Marie Stiles, John and Sue Ballentine, Kay Jordan, Chris Derrick, Mary Louise Robinson, Ruth Frady and Slone Taylor. This is a small group that meets weekly to focus on the state of one's soul. The group supports each other in their journey toward God and knowing the perfect love of God and for neighbor. We believe that this group is a means by which we can reach some of those who are seeking God and a spiritual life but not finding it by traditional means. If you would like more information or know someone who may benefit from this group contact Pastor John, Tom or any of the group participants.