

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

July 3, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey
(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

Call to Worship "America" Choir
Greeting 6

*Hymn "America the Beautiful" 696
Opening Prayer 6
(Please register your attendance on the pew pads provided.)

Prayer for Illumination 6

New Testament Reading Galatians 6:7-16 Pages 180-181 (N.T.)
Psalter Psalm 30 762-763

*Hymn "It's Me, It's Me, O Lord" 352

Gospel Reading Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 Pages 69-70 (N.T.)
Old Testament Reading 2 Kings 5:1-14 Page 331 (O.T.)
Sermon "Unexpected" Rev. John D. Jordan

Response to the Word "The Apostles' Creed" 7
Pastoral Prayer
Invitation 7
Confession and Pardon 8
Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings
Offertory "God Bless America" Choir
*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

Thanksgiving and Communion 9-11

*Hymn "Grace Greater than Our Sin" 365

*Dismissal With Benediction
*Benediction Response "May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You" 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

Pastor: John D. Jordan Time Together: Mary Louise Robinson
Choir Director: Christopher A. McCroskey AV Director: Marie Stiles
Church Musician AV Assistant: Chris Derrick

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	Kay Jordan	Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl	Oren Edwards	Hilda Edwards	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler	George Taylor
John Ballentine	Boots Morgan	Dale Wells	Latson Lewis	Becky Derrick	Kenny Long

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: **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); **Bill Areheart** (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); **Bob Bryant** (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); **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 ...

Attendance 06/26 SS: 9 Worship: 32

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 06/26 \$ 5,900.00

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Church Calendar

TODAY

07/04 Holiday
Office Closed
07/06 Class Meeting, 7 p.m.
07/08 Office Closed



Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

The Congregation
John D. Jordan
Jonathan Holston
Rev. Fran M. Elrod

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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Unexpected

7/3/2022

2 Kings 5:1-14

This story of the healing of Naaman has several unexpected elements. These unexpected, and at times ordinary, elements teach us much about the workings of God.

The first unexpected element is the main character. Naaman is a commander of the army of the king of Aram, one of Israel's enemies. God granted Naaman victory in battle, possibly referring to the battle of Ramoth-gilead in which King Ahab was killed. This is a story of the healing of one of Israel's enemies.

This is an indication that God desires that all people be healed and restored. God's grace is not just poured out upon a few selected people but on all people.

This great warrior has a flaw: leprosy. In the eyes of the Israelites, this would make Naaman even more unclean. Naaman desired to be healed of this flaw.

All people have flaws. We live in a broken world that is marred by sin. Our flaws may be physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, or all of the above. We all have flaws that need to be healed, even the best of us.

Naaman's healing was put into motion by an unnamed Israelite slave girl. This is unexpected on several fronts. It is not only a girl, but a slave girl - an Israelite slave girl who was probably booty from one of Naaman's victories over Israel - that gives Naaman hope for healing.

Many times avenues for healing and growth come from unexpected people. In my years as a therapist, I learned more from clients than from professors or experts in the field. Early on I adhered strongly to the school that healing comes through changing thoughts and perceptions about situations. I thought nothing was so terrible that one could not change their perception of the situation. I asked one client to describe the most terrible event in her life. She proceeded to tell me how she was sexually abused as a four and five-year-old in a cult ritual. There was no way I could argue that was not terrible. I learned that perceptions do not always need to be changed.

Naaman is told to go see the prophet in Samaria. Of course, one would think this prophet would be in the court of the King. Naaman goes to the King of Samaria, but the prophet is not there. Elisha is not in the court of the King.

Sometimes the place healing takes place is not where we expect it. John Wesley did not expect his heart to be strangely warmed and his soul healed when he went to Aldersgate Street meeting house.

Naaman goes to see Elisha. He is expecting to be healed in some dramatic fashion. The prophet will place his hands on him and pray to God. Through the power of the prophet, God will immediately take away leprosy. But Naaman is sorely disappointed. The prophet doesn't come out to meet him. The prophet sends a messenger instructing Naaman to bathe seven times in the Jordan River.

Healing rarely comes in dramatic spectacular fashion, but often in simple everyday ways. After our surgeries, both Kay and I were offered this elaborate cryotherapy machine to reduce pain and swelling. The nurse and physical therapist both said we could just use a bag of frozen peas. A simple bag of frozen peas is just as effective as an elaborate machine, and you can eat the peas.

Naaman is incensed! This “prophet” did not even come out to see him but sent a messenger. Then he is told to wash in the Jordan River. The Lower Jordan below the Sea of Galilee is quite muddy, which is where Naaman would have been told to bathe. Why couldn’t he bathe in the much cleaner waters of Damascus- the Abana and Pharpar- instead of the muddy waters of the Jordan?

We may resist God’s instructions for our healing because we think we know better than God what we need.

Naaman’s servants encourage Naaman to do what the prophet prescribed. They point out that he has fought in many difficult battles so why not try this simple thing?

Sometimes we need someone with enough courage to point out our resistance to God with love and concern. I have mentioned before how my Greek instructor pointed out that taking the Director of Social Work at BPH did not seem to align with my call to ministry.

Naaman gave in and bathed in the Jordan seven times. When he did his skin was restored like that of a young boy. He was clean.

Our growth and healing do not always come in the way we may expect. It may come in the simple ordinary act of reading the Bible and praying daily. It may come in a chance encounter with someone. It may come in starting a conversation with someone. I got the job at the hospice because Kay struck up a conversation with the receptionist when she was delivering phonebooks.

Naaman’s healing occurred when he obeyed Elisha’s instructions. Our healing takes place when we heed God’s instructions. Often God’s instructions are not for us to do spectacular things, but simple, ordinary things. God’s instructions may be as simple as visiting a shut-in, inviting a friend to church or a church function, or calling someone who is lonely. We may be the catalyst for someone’s healing and in doing so we may become more whole.

Susan noticed the gladiolas blooming in her yard. She thought she would make a bouquet for her mother in the retirement home. When she entered the retirement home, she inexplicably turned right instead of left. She found herself at the door of Ms. Smith who she just knew casually from church. She did not know that Ms. Smith was living in the same home as her mother. Ms. Smith was looking forlornly out the window. When Susan knocked, Ms. Smith turned and her face brightened. She exclaimed, “Gladiolas, my favorite! How did you know? Today is my birthday and all I wanted was a bouquet of gladiolas.”

When we obey God’s instructions we will receive healing and wholeness. Ms. Smith received healing from her loneliness from her unexpected visit with Susan. As we obey God for our healing, we may become a catalyst for healing as Susan became a catalyst for Ms. Smith’s healing.

The great message in this story is that God does not heal and restore in spectacular ways but in unexpectedly ordinary ways. Restoration and healing come by simply listening and obeying God’s instructions for us.