

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 24, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

Call To Worship Choir
 Centering Words "Spirit Song"

*Hymn 546
"The Church's One Foundation"

Opening Prayer
 The Lord's Prayer 895

Proclamation of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading Page 791 (O.T.)
 Hosea 1:2-10
 Psalter 806
 Psalm 85
 *Hymn 405
"Seek Ye First"

New Testament Reading Page 191 (N.T.)
 Colossians 2:6-19

Anthem Choir
 "My Lord, What a Morning"
 Gospel Reading Page 71 (N.T.)
 Luke 11:1-13
 Sermon Rev. John D. Jordan
"Meeting With God"

Response to the Word 881
"The Apostles' Creed"

Pastoral Prayer

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Christopher A. McCroskey
 *Doxology 95
"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Hymn 496
"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

*Dismissal With Benediction

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

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 AV Director: Marie Stiles
 Choir Director: Christopher A. McCroskey AV Assistant: Chris Derrick
 Church Musician Time Together: Pam Turner; Jack Stevens

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 in loving memory of her mother, **Ruth Spence**, and in honor of her son-in-law, **Charlie Rogers**, by **Kay Jordan**.

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

Jim Stiles	Lynn Martin	Marty Johnson	Patsy Zeigler	Kay Jordan	Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl	Oren Edwards	Hilda Edwards	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler	George Taylor
John Ballentine	Wayne Hooker	Dale Wells	Latson Lewis	Becky Derrick	Kenny Long
Jackie McNeill	Charles McNeill	Charlie Hooker			

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

Family and Friends: **Frankie Hendrix** (cousin of Billy Pearson); **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); **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 ...

In-Person Attendance 07/17 SS: 10 Worship: 26

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 07/17 \$ 2,045.69

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

TODAY Church Council, 2 p.m.

07/27 FH Reserved, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Class Meeting, 7 p.m.

07/29 Office Closed

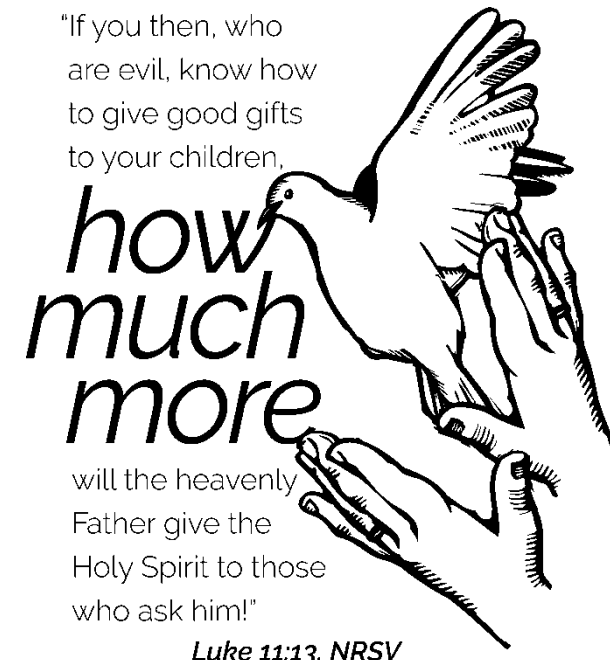


Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

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



Luke 11:13, NRSV

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One of the main emphases in the Gospel of Luke is prayer. In today's passage, one of the disciples asks Jesus to teach them to pray. This is the only specific request made by the disciples in the Gospel. While Jesus teaches them to pray, he also explains what prayer is and why we pray.

The disciple is asking Jesus for a form or set prayer. He wanted a prayer that he, and the other disciples, could recite throughout the day. Some set prayers that might be familiar to us are:

Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep.

If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.

Or

God is great. God is good. Let us thank him for this food.

By his hands we are fed, give us Lord our daily bread.

Notice these are prayers we usually teach our children. Form or set prayers give people that are learning to pray a model.

So, Jesus teaches his disciple this model prayer:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give

us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves

forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial. (NRSV).

Set prayers are good in that they provide a model for prayer and can help remind us to pray. But there are many different forms of prayer beyond set prayers. The prayer Jesus taught the disciples has evolved into a liturgical prayer, which is a prayer said in the community and by the community. There are intercessory prayers in which we pray on the behalf of others, usually for healing or God's intervention in someone's life. There are prayers of thanksgiving and confession. There are prayers of lament. There are contemplative prayers that use music or icons as a focal point. There is a centering prayer in which one sits in silence for 20-30 minutes to feel the presence of God.

Christians do not have prescribed types or times to pray as some religions do. All the forms of prayer mentioned are good and useful. We may use all the forms of prayer depending on the situation.

Jesus goes beyond just giving his disciples a set prayer. He teaches them what prayer is and why they should pray.

Jesus teaches that prayer is meeting with God, the Father. The passage begins with Jesus praying. Jesus was meeting with God, the Father.

Think of the meetings you had recently. You may have had a meeting with a supervisor. You may have met with your doctor, lawyer, or financial advisor. If you are selling or buying property, you may have met with a realtor. In each of these meetings, you receive instructions. You meet with your supervisor to receive instructions about what you are to do at work or how you can improve your work. You meet with your doctor to receive instructions to regain health or stay healthy. You receive instructions from your lawyer to resolve some legal issues. You meet with your financial advisor to get advice on improving your financial situation. You meet with a realtor to advise you on selling or buying property.

Likewise, you meet with God through prayer to receive instructions. You receive instructions about how God wants you to serve and participate in the divine plan.

God may direct you to the person from whom you need to receive instruction or advice.

When Kay and I decided to buy our first house, we saw one on Gunter Circle for sale. We called the realtor on the sign but they were not in, so we were connected with another realtor who happened to be Genie Duncan. God led us to the right realtor for us.

But you do not meet with God to just receive instructions. You also meet with friends and other people. We meet for lunch. We meet for activities. We meet to build relationships. We may even build relationships with those from whom we are getting instructions or advice. As you build relationships, you learn how much you can or cannot trust that person. So we meet with God to build our relationship with God and learn to trust God.

Why should we pray? What assurance do we have that God will answer prayer? Some may say, “I have asked God for something and didn’t get it.”

Notice the first word of the prayer Jesus taught the disciples was Father. He did not say Almighty God, Magnificent God, Creator of all things, Holy One, or any other name that would indicate omnipotence or transcendence. He said Father.

Father, parent, one who cares. One with whom we have an intimate relationship. One who knows us better than anyone, except maybe mother. One who watches over us. Cares for us. Protects us. Encourages us. The one, who along with the mother, wants only the best for us and provides what we need. The one who has a relationship with us from birth and longs for that relationship to be more intimate as we grow. God wants a close intimate relationship with us. God is not up there somewhere, inaccessible to us, but here with us.

Jesus tells the parable of a man who has an unexpected visitor. He realizes he has no bread, so he asks his neighbor for three loaves of bread. Even though the neighbor says, “no”, the man persists. Eventually, the neighbor will get up and give him the bread. The man is in desperate need. He faces shame because he has no bread for his guest. The neighbor faces shame if he does not give him bread for he is not responding to a neighbor’s need. If humans respond to the desperate need of a fellow human to avoid shame, how much more will God respond to our desperate need.

We come to God out of our desperate need for God. We need to be connected to God so we can know God’s complete love for us and our neighbors. We ask, and God will give us what we need, a relationship with God. We search, and God will be revealed to us. We knock, and God will open the doors to the Kingdom of heaven.

God is asking for us to turn to him. God is searching each one of us, heart, mind, and soul. God is knocking for us to let him in.

If human fathers, who are corrupt and tainted by sin, give their children what they need instead of evil, how much more will our heavenly Father give us what we need. Our heavenly Father created us and knows exactly what we need.

So while we meet with supervisors, doctors, lawyers, financial advisors, teachers, realtors, and friends, getting instructions and advice from them, we build relationships with them and learn to trust them. We look forward to meeting with them. Shouldn’t we look forward to meeting with our heavenly Father, so we can grow our faith and trust in him? Wouldn’t God who created us give us what we need so desperately?

We meet with God, bringing our need to God’s love in faith. That is prayer. Let us meet with God daily, bringing our need to God’s love and God will give us what we need, his Holy Spirit