

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 21, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

Call To Worship Choir
 Centering Words "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

*Hymn 261
"Lord of the Dance"

Opening Prayer 895
 The Lord's Prayer

Proclamation of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading Pages 661-662 (O.T.)
 Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalter 794
 Psalm 71:1-12

*Hymn TFWS 2272
"Holy Ground"

Gospel Reading Page 74 (N.T.)
 Luke 13:10-17

Anthem Choir
"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

New Testament Reading Page 216 (N.T.)
 Hebrews 12:18-29

Sermon Rev. John D. Jordan
"An Unshakable Kingdom"

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 TFWS 2140
"Since Jesus Came into My Heart"

*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response Choir
"Shalom to You"

*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: *Joyce Robinson*
Slone Taylor

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 in thankfulness to the Glory of God and in love and celebration of her niece **Megan Howard's** birthday August 23, by **Bonnie Ramsey**.

“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	Kaye Floyd	Pam Turner	

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

Family and Friends: **Ross Deal** (grandson of Mary Kamoroff); **Ron Walker** (friend of Tommy & Chris Gleaton); **Merit Takach** (friend of Joyce and Brent Robinson); **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); **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 08/14 SS: 10 Worship: 32

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 08/14 \$ 2,736.38

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

TODAY Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee meets following Worship Service

08/24 GLIA Articles Due
T.A.G. Meeting, 7 p.m.

08/26 Office Closed

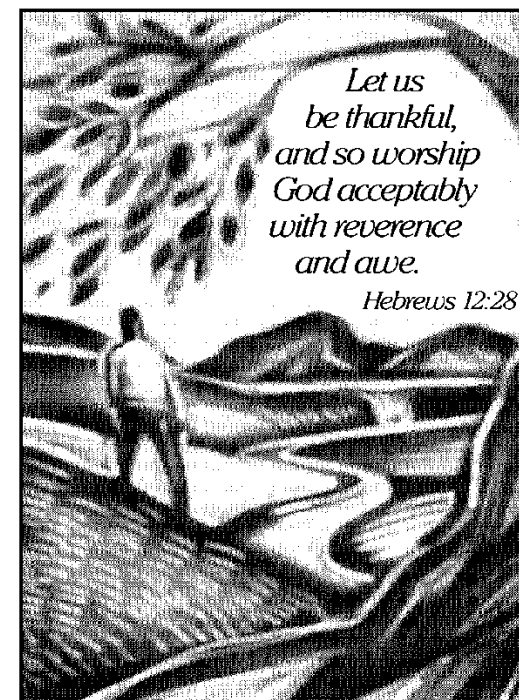


Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

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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The **Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee** will **today** following the Worship Service. The members of the committee are **Chris Derrick, Pam Hook, Pam Turner, John Ballentine, Bob Strickland, Slone Taylor, Jo Ann Heiting and Bonnie Ramsey.**



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Charge Conference will be held on **Tuesday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m.**

Church Council is now scheduled to meet on **Sunday, September 11, at 2 p.m.**

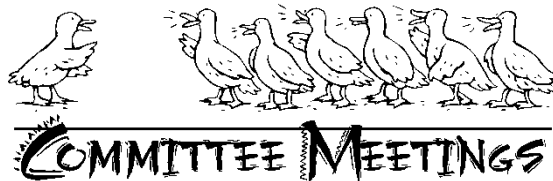
Budgets will be due on **Monday, August 29.**



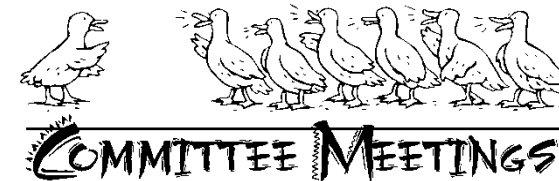
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Hebrews 12:18-29

We have been shaken the past few months by earthquakes, particularly if you live in Elgin. These earthquakes are very disconcerting and disorienting. You are in a group when a quake occurs and everyone looks around saying, “Did you feel that? What was that?” It is very disconcerting when you finish writing your sermon and the earth shakes. You wonder, “Does that mean this is bad or this is good?”

After the quake, you stop and wait, wondering if another is coming. After a moment or two, you breathe a sigh of relief and go on about your business.

The writer of Hebrews compares the appearance of God at Mt. Sinai, where Moses was given the Torah, with Mt. Zion, the place where God’s presence is on earth. The writer is making a comparison between the kingdom of the world and the Kingdom of God.

I want to make something clear before I go further. Neither I, nor the writer, are making a case for secessionism, that Christianity replaced Judaism. The New Testament does not replace the Old Testament but builds on the Old Testament. The foundation of Christianity is the Torah. Jesus said he came to fulfill the law not to abolish the law. The writer makes the comparison to show what is present and what is being revealed. The comparison is between the present kingdom of the world and the Kingdom of God being revealed through Jesus.

In Exodus 19 the Hebrews reach Mt. Sinai. The people are to prepare themselves for three days. On the third day, there was a loud blast of a trumpet. A thick cloud surrounded the mountain! Thunder boomed! Lightning flashed! The Lord descended in fire and smoke went up! The whole mountain shook violently! God came down and the people were afraid.

That is how God appeared to the Hebrews at Mt. Sinai. They perceived a mighty, unapproachable God that would destroy even an animal that touched the holy mountain. They trembled in fear

The kingdoms of the world were ruled by an unapproachable elite. After David, the rulers of Israel and Judea became focused on maintaining wealth and power rather than executing God’s justice. Rule by an unapproachable elite continued as Israel and Judea were ruled by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans. The common people were oppressed and lived in fear. Even those of higher status lived in fear of losing honor and status.

It is not much different throughout most of the world today. A small unapproachable elite rules by fear and oppression. Even in the US, many feel that once the politicians get our vote, they become inaccessible. To show how our democracy works, a teacher gave an assignment for her students to write their congressperson. She hoped that some would receive some sort of response, but not a single student received any response.

While the Hebrews perceived an unapproachable God at Mt. Sinai, the God of Zion was approachable. The God being revealed through Jesus is a God who is among us. God speaks and relates to us. God invites us into the heavenly Kingdom. God is out there somewhere and down here among us.

Throughout history, God has shaken the earth. God has shaken Israel and Judah. God has shaken Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. God has shaken all earthly kingdoms. God has shaken the church. According to the prophet Haggai, “For once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come...” (2: 6-7) This is the passage which the writer quotes in verse 26. God will give a final shake and all creation shall be revealed as originally intended.

I liken this to an archeological dig. The dirt from each particular stratum is dumped into a large box with a wire mesh bottom. The box is shaken and the dirt and dust fall through the wire bottom. What is left are possible artifacts that give a clue to life in that place at a certain time. The shaking reveals the artifacts by separating them from the dirt and dust.

God will give all creation a final shake and the Kingdom of Heaven will be revealed. While earthly kingdoms can be shaken and are temporal, God’s kingdom cannot be shaken and is eternal. We who remain faithful despite whatever hardships, doubts, temptations, or sorrows we may endure, will receive the invitation into that unshakable Kingdom. We will enter into God’s perfect eternal Kingdom.

So let us give thanks for this Kingdom we are receiving. We give thanks by offering to God acceptable worship. Then what is acceptable worship of God?

Some will say acceptable worship is traditional with liturgy and hymns out of the hymnal only. Some will say acceptable worship is contemporary, the louder the better. Some will say acceptable worship is quiet and dignified. Some will say acceptable worship is expressive and Spirit-filled.

The answer is all and none. These only look at the form of worship. I have been in traditional, contemporary, quiet and loud, worship that was and was not, acceptable to God. The form of worship does not matter. The attitude with which we approach worship is what matters.

We worship God with reverence and awe. Both words in Greek can mean godly fear. We fear the power and awesomeness of God. We fear God’s judgment, like a young child whose father says sternly, “Come here” for God is a consuming fire.

But God’s consuming fire is not to destroy but to purify. God may sternly say come here but when we come, God wipes the dirt off our faces and gives us a big hug. Our fear becomes honor and respect, so acceptable worship is a service that demonstrates our thanks, honor, and respect for God.

A final note is worship also means service. So our service to others is also done with reverence and in honor and respect to God. We give thanks to God in our service to others.

We give thanks to God for shaking us, for separating that which is not part of God’s Kingdom from us. We give thanks through our Sunday Service and our service to others. We remain faithful to the promise of God that the unshakable eternal Kingdom is being revealed and we may live in it.