

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 18, 2022

PowerPoint Slides will not be available this morning. Please use the hymnals.

Welcome and Announcements		
Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>“Come! Come! Everybody Worship”</i>	Choir
Centering Words		
*Hymn	<i>“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”</i>	430
Opening Prayer		
The Lord’s Prayer		895
Proclamation of the Word		
Prayer of Illumination		
Old Testament Reading	Jeremiah 8:18–9:1	Pages 671-672 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalm 4	741
*Hymn	<i>“To God Be the Glory”</i>	98
Gospel Reading	Luke 16:1-13	Page 77 (N.T.)
Anthem	<i>“Bind Us Together”</i>	Choir
New Testament Reading	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Page 198 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>“Pray for Everyone”</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>“Take My Life, and Let It Be”</i>	399
*Dismissal With Benediction		
*Benediction Response	<i>“The Lord Bless and Keep You”</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>Joyce Robinson Slone Taylor</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.

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...

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

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

Family and Friends: **Ross Deal** (grandson of Mary Kamoroff); **Chip Mixon** (friend of Tommy Gleaton); **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); **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); **Bryson Raszewski** (grandson of Caroline Hutton Raszewski); **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 09/11 SS: 10 Worship: 34

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 09/11 \$ 6,230.69

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

09/19 Exercise Class Starts, 10:30 a.m.

09/20 Charge Conference, 7:30 p.m.

09/21 T. A. G. Meeting, 7 p.m.

09/22 GLIA Articles Due
Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

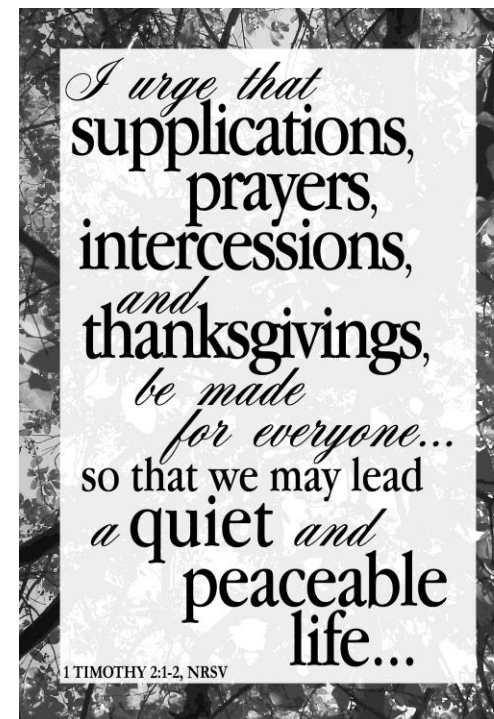


Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

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



1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2, NRSV

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



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The **Exercise Class** will start their Fall Classes on **Monday, September 19**. The Exercise Class is open to everyone and meets on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. for about an hour. They are using the **Grow Young Fitness & Balance** and the **Stretching Tape**.

The class meets in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like additional information on what to expect from the class contact Pam Turner.



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1 Timothy 2:1-7

The Pastoral Letters, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, are a primer for church administration and pastoral care. They are written from a first-generation leader of the church, presumably Paul, to his proteges, Timothy and Titus. Paul is passing his wisdom, knowledge, and experience to Timothy, Titus, and the next generation of church leaders.

Though much of the content of the letters is on church leadership in the first century Greco-Roman culture, much is applicable today. Much applies not only to leaders in the church but to all Christians.

The passage we read today from 1 Timothy is Paul's first instructions to Timothy. His first instruction is to pray. Pray is the first thing any Christian should do as prayer is communicating with God. Through prayer, we build our relationship with God. Prayer is the first thing a church should do before embarking on something new. Thom Rainer and most other church growth writers say the first thing a church should do is pray, pray, and pray some more. Through prayer, we make supplications, intercessions, and thanksgiving to God.

Paul tells Timothy who to pray for, what to pray for, and why. Paul's who, what, and why remain true for us today.

First, Paul instructs Timothy that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone; another translation could be "on behalf of all people." Paul is instructing Timothy to pray for all people. Timothy is not to pray just for people in his congregation but for all people including kings and those in high positions. Timothy is to pray for leaders in his city and those in the Roman government, even the emperor.

Likewise, we are to pray for all people. We pray for the people in our church, school, place of work, our neighbors, and even those we do not like. We pray for all people worldwide. I know we can't name every person but we can pray for people in general. We may pray for people with specific needs, such as the people of Pakistan facing flooding or India facing extreme heat. We can simply pray for the people of the world. We pray for the leaders of our country. We also pray for leaders of all countries.

One caveat as we pray for all is that all means **ALL**. We cannot pray just for our friends and allies, we pray for our enemies and opponents. We see the signs saying pray for Ukraine but we also pray for Russia. We pray for Zelensky and we pray for Putin. We pray for people fleeing terrorism and we pray for the terrorists. We pray for those who are oppressed and we pray for the oppressors.

How can we do that? How can we pray on behalf of both sides in a war? How can we pray for the oppressed and the oppressor? How can we pray for both sides? Do we pray for God to bless one and smite the other?

The question of how we can pray for both sides is answered by what we pray. Paul tells Timothy to pray for all to come to the knowledge of the truth. The truth is that there is one God. There is no pantheon of gods competing for the devotion or conquest of humans but one God, the one God who desires for everyone to be saved.

We do not pray for one side over the other. We do not pray for all to come over to our side. We pray that all may come to the knowledge that there is one God who desires for all to be saved. God desires for both Zelensky and Putin to be saved. God desires those fleeing terrorism and the terrorists to be saved. God desires the oppressed and the oppressor to be saved.

This salvation comes through the knowledge of the one God and that God gave the Son, as a ransom for all. Jesus gave himself as a ransom for all people so all people might be saved. As John 3:17 reads, "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him." So we pray that all people may come to the knowledge of God's saving acts through Jesus Christ.

This brings us to why we pray for all people, especially governments. Paul says to Timothy to pray so that, "We may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity." This means that they could live a life that commands the respect of all, even nonbelievers.

This is God's will, that we lead a quiet and peaceable life. A government that is ruled by God's will is a government that benefits all citizens. John Lennon in his song *Imagine* writes:

Imagine there's no countries

Nothing to kill or die for

Imagine all the people

It isn't hard to do

And no religion, too.

Living life in peace.

Imagine a world where there is no war, no conflicts, and people work together for the good of all. A world where countries share their resources so no child in the world goes hungry. A world where all people have adequate food, shelter, clothing, and medical care. A world where every child receives a full education regardless of their gender. A world where there is no climate change or polluted air and water. Imagine.

And you may say, "Yeah, right, not in my lifetime. John, what have you been drinking out of that bottle you keep sipping? That kind of peace has never happened and will never happen as long as humans live." And you are right. That kind of complete peace will never happen no matter how much humans try to bring that about.

But remember, Paul told Timothy to pray to God for all people to come to the knowledge of the truth and this is acceptable to God. Humans cannot bring about peace, but God can and God will. That is what God wants and we work to bring about what God wants. We pray for all people worldwide to come to the knowledge of God. We pray for the leaders of every country, tribe, gang, and terrorist group to come to the knowledge of God and God wants the world to be saved. We pray for all to come to the knowledge of God so the world might be saved. And God can do it and God is doing it. God is saving the world.

As we pray for everyone, we must not forget to pray for ourselves. We pray that we may grow stronger in our faith in God. We pray that we may grow in the knowledge of the truth. We pray that God's will for us will be revealed to us, for what God wants us to do right now and in the future. So like Paul, we become a herald of God's salvation in faith and truth.