

## Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 2, 2022

Welcome and Announcements

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

Call to Worship "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" Choir  
Greeting 6

\*Hymn "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" 452  
Opening Prayer 6

*(Please register your attendance on the pew pads provided.)*

Prayer for Illumination 6

New Testament Reading 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Page 202 (N.T.)

Gospel Reading Luke 17:5-10 Page 78 (N.T.)

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

Psalter Psalm 137 852-853

Old Testament Reading Lamentations 1:1-6 Page 721 (O.T.)

Sermon "Our Lament" 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 "Give Thanks" Choir

\*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

Thanksgiving and Communion 9-11

\*Hymn "Hymn of Promise" 707

\*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.

**TODAYS LOVELY FLOWERS** are given to the **Glory of God** and in honor of **Jackie Eitel** in appreciation for the love she shows our members, by **Dee Senn**.

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

Patsy Zeigler	Kaye Floyd	Hilda Edwards	Charlie Hooker	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

**Shut-Ins:** Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; 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); **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](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com).

**OUR PRESENCE ...**

Attendance 09/25 SS: 9 Worship: 29

**OUR GIFTS ...**

General Fund 09/25 \$ 755.69

**OUR SERVICE...**

**OUR WITNESS.”**

*Church Calendar*

10/03 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

10/05 T.a.G. Meeting, 7 p.m.

10/06 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.



Ministers  
Pastor  
Resident Bishop  
District Superintendent

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

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*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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# ADULT *Sunday School*

Currently scheduled for October 2, the Adult Sunday School Class will begin studying *Twelve Extraordinary Women* by longtime pastor and prolific Christian author John MacArthur, a study of five women from the Old Testament and seven women from the New Testament. Tom Geddens ordered ten copies of this book. This study should take up the remainder of this year. Tom hopes that in the New Year, the class will agree to begin reading from the Bible about the life of David, primarily from the First and Second Books of Samuel and perhaps First Chronicles and the opening of First Kings, too.



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.

## **Organizational Meeting for New T.a.G. Group**

Several people have expressed interest in starting a T.a.G. group that meets during the day. An organizational meeting will be held Thursday, October 13 at 11:00 am in the conference room. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested please be there. If you are interested but unable to attend please call Pastor John. We will begin by studying Kevin Watson's book *The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten Small Group Experience*. One does not have to be a member of Trinity to participate.

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The Book of Lamentations begins with the Hebrew word, *Ekah*. *Ekah* is an exclamation of shock. How could this happen? How could this city that was so full of people be so desolate? How could the City of God be destroyed? How could this happen? Lamentations is the book of a grieving, traumatized community. We hear the question, How?

Psalms 137 is also a lament. It expresses the pain of a community that has been deported and traumatized. How can we sing the songs of Zion when we are no longer in Zion? It was the day the music died. We hear the pain of grief of the community.

But the Psalm continues with a promise to remember. The psalmist promises to remember Jerusalem and the temple in its glory. We hear the cry to remember.

Then there is a shift from pain and reflection to anger and revenge. The psalmist cries for God to pay back Edom and Babylon. The anger is so great that the psalmist desires to bash the heads of the Babylonian babies against the rock. We hear the rage.

Lamentations and this Psalm were written either during the Babylonian Exile or very shortly after the return from exile. They both express the full gamut of emotions experienced by a traumatized community. They express the pain, loss, emptiness, bewilderment, and anger which is traumatic grief.

This year has been a year of lament for us at Trinity. When I sent out my draft for the order of worship Monday, Jackie pointed out that I had the Old Testament reading as Acts 9: 1-19. I quickly corrected it and sent the corrected order. Tom sent back that he was glad to see the change. He was wondering why I was lamenting the conversion of Paul. I replied that this year everything seems like a lament. We lost twelve members of our community to death in 2022, six in the last two months. Some were expected. Some were unexpected but not surprising. Some were unexpected and tragic. Yes, this has been a year of lament.

We have experienced the gamut of emotions expressed in these poems. We have experienced the bewilderment of how some have died and so many in so little time. We have experienced the emptiness of loss, the hole in our hearts. We have experienced the pain of having one we loved torn from us. We have experienced anger at our loss. We have experienced all these emotions to varying degrees.

So we cry out our laments. We cry out in pain, anger, emptiness, and loss: "How God? How could a loving and merciful God allow so much loss and pain in our community? Yes, we may understand some but some we can't. How God, How?" We cry out for God to hear us and to give us answers!

God does hear us but God does not give us answers. As the prophet Isaiah says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8). It is not that God does not want to give us answers but that we cannot comprehend the answers God may give. This would only lead to more questions and bewilderment on our part.

God does not say we cannot understand his way and then rush back to heaven, leaving us dangling. God does something even more powerful, even more comforting. God sits with us. God comes down and sits with us in our pain, anger, bewilderment, and emptiness. God doesn't sit with us and say, "There, there, it will get better soon." God feels our pain with us. God sits with us feeling our grief. God weeps as we weep. God grieves with us for however long we grieve.

God's response to our lament is not platitudes or words of comfort. God responds by being with us in our grief. The Prayer of Thanksgiving from the Service of Death and Resurrection reads at one point, "Above all else, we thank you for Jesus, who knew our griefs, who died and rose for our sake, and who lives and prays for us."

God knows our grief, for God himself knew grief. God sits with us in our grief. As we come to the table today and partake of the bread and wine, remember that God is with us in our lament. God laments with us. God grieves with us through our grief for however long it takes.