

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 9, 2022

Welcome and Announcements
 Birthday Celebration

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

Call To Worship "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" Choir
 Centering Words

*Hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" 140

Opening Prayer
 The Lord's Prayer 895

Proclamation of the Word
 Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Reading 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Pages 202-203 (N.T.)
 Psalter Psalm 66:8-20 790-791
 *Hymn "Be Still, My Soul" 534

Gospel Reading Luke 17:11-19 Page 78 (N.T.)

Anthem "This Is the Day" Choir

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 Pages 691-692 (O.T.)
 Sermon "Acceptance to a New Life" Rev. John D. Jordan

Response to the Word "The Apostles' Creed" 881
 Pastoral Prayer

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings
 Offertory Christopher A. McCroskey

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

*Hymn "Standing on the Promises" 374

*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 AV Director: Marie Stiles
 Choir Director: Christopher A. McCroskey AV Assistant: Chris Derrick
 Church Musician Time Together: Ruth Frady

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	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); **Jimmy Dawkins** (friend of Jeanette Hornsby); **David Turner** (brother of Pam Turner); **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.

OUR PRESENCE ...

In-Person Attendance 10/02 SS: 13 Worship: 30

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 10/02 \$ 6,000.69

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

TODAY Birthday Celebration

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

10/12 T. a. G. Meeting, 7 p.m.

10/13 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

Organizational Meeting for new T.a.G. Group, 11 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



*Seek the welfare of the city
... and pray to the LORD
on its behalf.*

Jeremiah 29:7, NRSV

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ADULT *Sunday School*

The Adult Sunday School Class is currently 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. 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.

EXERCISE CLASS

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.



Columbia Community Concert Band
Sunday, October 16
4 p.m.

The 42nd season of the Columbia Community Concert Band begins with a change in the day and time of our concerts. We will be performing on Sunday, October 16, at 4 p.m., at Airport High School Auditorium located at 1315 Boston Avenue in West Columbia. The concert will consist of hymns, Irish tunes and the Broadway hit "Phantom of the Opera" and will last approximately 45 minutes. Chris Derrick has graciously agreed to drive the church bus. A signup sheet is on the round table in the Gathering Area for those who would like to ride the bus. We're looking forward to another great year of music and hope you can join us!

Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7

Jeremiah wrote this letter to the Jews deported to Babylon after the first exile in 597 BCE. Jerusalem had been besieged by the Babylonians. To save the city, King Jehoiakin gave himself up. Jehoiakin, his mother, wives, and all the palace officials were deported to Babylon. The exiles lost their country and home.

Jeremiah wrote this letter to the people the LORD sent into exile. Their exile was the LORD's action. The exile was a consequence of their failure to heed the word of the LORD given through Jeremiah. They had heeded false prophets.

Rather than words of admonition and punishment, the LORD gave some surprising instructions to the exiles. The Lord told them to build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. The Lord told them to marry and have families; multiply and not decrease.

Then the LORD told them to seek the welfare of the city and pray on its behalf. The word, *shalom*, which is translated as welfare, is one of those Hebrew words that has multiple connotations in English. It encompasses the ideas of welfare, peace, blessing, and prosperity. The exiles were instructed to pray for the welfare, peace, blessing, and prosperity of Babylon. It is in the *shalom* of Babylon that the exiles will find *shalom*.

There are three underlying messages in this passage the LORD gave to the exiles regarding their loss. These messages can be applied to us today in our loss.

The first message is acceptance. The LORD is telling the exiles to accept their exile. Their exile is a consequence of their failure to heed the word of the LORD. Some conditions- physical, emotional, or spiritual- in which we find ourselves are consequences of our failure to heed the LORD's guidance. Some conditions in which we find ourselves are consequences of someone's sin against us: a victim of sexual abuse for example. Some conditions are a consequence of events beyond our control: for example, those whose homes were destroyed by Hurricane Ian. We may lose our shalom due to our sin, the sin of others against us, or simply by natural occurrences.

Our first response to loss, especially traumatic loss, is denial. We deny the loss. Denial is our defense against something that we cannot comprehend. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross in her pioneering work on grief identified denial as the first stage of grief after a loss. Denial is healthy unless one remains in denial and does not move to acceptance, the final stage in Kubler-Ross' model.

As we move from denial to acceptance, we may experience many different emotions. Kubler-Ross identified three emotional stages: bargaining, anger, and depression. These do not fall into an easy stepwise progression; one may even experience all these at once. In addition, I would add bewilderment, emptiness, and pain. These are just a few of the emotions one may experience. These emotions should not be denied but accepted.

Marsha Linehan, a psychologist who worked primarily with personality disorders and trauma, coined the term radical acceptance. Radical acceptance is accepting what has happened without any value judgment. Acceptance is saying, "We lost everything in the hurricane, that's terrible." Radical acceptance is saying, "We lost everything in the hurricane." Acceptance is saying, "It is awful that I was robbed." Radical acceptance is saying, "I was robbed." Acceptance is saying, "I cheated on

my income tax, I am a horrible person.” Radical acceptance is saying, “I cheated on my income tax.” To the exiles, this would be saying, “We are in exile” not “It is terrible, we are in exile.” Radical acceptance is completely accepting where one is at the present.

The LORD instructs the exiles to radically accept the exile. They are not to make any value judgments about the exile or themselves. They are not to say they are awful people or the exile is awful. The exile is a consequence of failure to heed the LORD’s word. Simply accept that you are in exile. Learn from the past and move forward.

Simply accept that you are in exile so you can move forward. Move forward, build houses, plant gardens, marry and have children. In other words, build a life where you are now. You are in Babylon so, build a life in Babylon.

We may find ourselves in Babylon. At times, we find ourselves in a strange situation we have never been in before. It may be after some loss. It may be after some event that challenged our beliefs. The LORD instructs us to accept our Babylon and build a life in our present situation. We are to move forward. We cannot move forward if we pine for the past. We cannot move forward if we just hope for a better future. We can move forward when we radically accept our situation and begin to build a new life in our new situation. We begin to build a new life without a loved one. We begin to build a new life after making some major mistake in our life. We begin to build a new life after we may have been victimized in some way. In whatever loss or change in our life situation the LORD guides us in building a new life.

Please note that I say the LORD guides us to build a new life. This guidance includes the time needed to process the loss. The LORD did not tell the exiles to build houses now! Plant gardens now! Marry and have children now! The LORD knows it takes time to grieve and adjust to a loss or a new situation. The LORD sits with us until we reach the point of radical acceptance and we can begin to build a new life.

We are to radically accept our new situation so we can begin to build a new life. But the LORD also told the exiles to seek the welfare, the shalom, of Babylon and pray for Babylon. This seems a little odd. Why would the LORD want the exiles to seek the shalom and pray for Babylonians? The answer is that the exiles’ shalom would be in the shalom of Babylon. The exiles would prosper as Babylon prospered.

Likewise, we should pray in our Babylons. In our new situation, we pray for that situation. Our pray may be, “LORD, I have to live without _____, help me to do so.” Our pray may be, “LORD, I have been victimized, help me not to be a victim.” Our pray may be, “LORD, I made a mistake and not heeded your guidance. Help me to live with and learn from the consequences.” We pray for the LORD’s help to accept and lead through our loss to a new life.

When we find ourselves in Babylon, in a new situation due to loss or trauma, the LORD is with us. The LORD’s presence helps us to be able to radically accept our new situation. We pray in and for our new situation. We will move on, as the LORD leads, to build a new life.