

***Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 23, 2022***

Welcome and Announcements		
Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”</i>	Choir
Centering Words		
*Hymn	<i>“I Am Thine, O Lord”</i>	419
Opening Prayer		
The Lord’s Prayer		895
<b>Proclamation of the Word</b>		
Prayer of Illumination		
Old Testament Reading	Joel 2:23-32	Page 803 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalms 65	789-790
*Hymn	<i>“We, Thy People, Praise Thee”</i>	67
New Testament Reading	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Pages 203-204 (N.T.)
Special Music	<i>“Lord of the Dance”</i>	Rhett Hook
Gospel Reading	Luke 18:9-14	Page 79 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>“How to Separate from God”</i>	Rev. John Jordan
<b>Response to the Word</b>	<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>“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”</i>	351
*Dismissal With Benediction		
*Benediction Response	<i>“May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You”</i>	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: *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.***

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

Patsy Zeigler	Kaye Floyd	Ruth Frady	Charlie Hooker	Hilda Edwards	Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl	Lynn Martin	Marty Johnson	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler	George Taylor
John Ballentine	Jackie McNeill	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:** **Beverly Lipscomb** (sister-in-law of John Jordan); **Bucky** (nephew of friend of Hilda Edwards); **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); **Hayley Beaudoin** (niece of Edwa Meek); **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 ...**

In-Person Attendance 10/16 SS: 14      Worship: 30

**OUR GIFTS ...**

General Fund 10/16 \$ 3,900.69

**OUR SERVICE ...**

**OUR WITNESS."**

**Upcoming Events**

10/24 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

10/26 T. a. G. Meeting, 7 p.m.

10/27 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**

“For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”



LUKE 18:14, NIV

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We are working on a new address directory. If your address or phone number has changed recently or if you know of someone who had a change of address, please let the Church Office know. Also let us know if you would like for your cell phone to be listed as well as your landline or in place of your landline.



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*All Saints' Sunday*

All Saints Sunday will be November 6. On this day we will honor the memory of our members that have entered the Church Triumphant this past year. Also, we want to honor the memory of family members who were not members of the church. If you have a loved one that passed away during this past year, since November 1, 2021, please place their name on the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area or call the Church Office. .



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Luke 18: 9-14

Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. In *The Cotton Patch Gospel*, Clarence Jordan put it in a more modern context as a churchman and an unsaved man.

Someone justified is in a right relationship with God. One would think that the Pharisee was the one justified as the two men entered the temple. However, Jesus said the tax collector was justified as they left the temple.

How could this happen? How could the tax collector be justified while the Pharisee was not? To use Clarence Jordan's description, how could an unsaved person be justified while the churchman was not? What happened that affected these men's relationship with God? The answer is found in what happened inside the temple.

Both the Pharisee and the tax collector stand by themselves. Both begin their prayer by addressing God. However, that is where the similarities of their prayer end.

Even though each man stood by himself, their reason for standing alone differs. The Pharisee stood by himself so he would not come in contact with any unclean person. The tax collector stood far off because he did not feel worthy to be with other worshippers.

By separating himself from others to avoid becoming unclean, the Pharisee took a step away from God. He begins his prayer by giving thanks which might bring him a step closer to God. He gives thanks that he is not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, and even the tax collector. By giving thanks that he is not like these others, he shows he holds these others in contempt. With each of the others he names, he takes a step away from God. By separating himself from others and holding them in contempt, the Pharisee steps away from God.

The Pharisee continues by pointing out how good he is at following the rules. "I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." In our context, he might be saying, "I go to church Sunday morning and Bible study on Wednesday night; I give a tenth of my gross income." With each "I", the Pharisee takes a step away from God. Notice in the two sentences of his prayer the Pharisee uses the first person, I, four times. By doing this the Pharisee is saying, "I am good, I do not need your grace, God, but thanks anyway." The Pharisee separates himself from God. The Pharisee trusts in himself, not God. The Pharisee is not justified.

By standing far off the tax collector recognizes his unworthiness to come before God. He looks down. He can't bring himself to look to heaven. He beats his breast, an act of mourning and grief. He acknowledges that he is a sinner. He begs for God to be merciful to him.

Because the tax collector recognizes his unworthiness, he is drawn by God a step closer. Each time he beats his breast, God draws him a step closer. As he acknowledges he is a sinner, he is drawn a step closer to God. As he begs for mercy, God grants him mercy and draws him closer.

The tax collector recognizes that he is a sinner. He mourns his sinful state. He knows he cannot save himself but must rely on God's mercy and grace to save him. The tax collector receives God's mercy and grace and is justified.

The Pharisee went into the temple and exalted himself. The tax collector went into the temple and humbled himself. The tax collector was justified while the Pharisee was not.

We tend to look at this parable as a lesson against pride and self-exaltation. We see Jesus turning the cultural norms upside down; the exalted will be humbled and the humbled will be exalted. But there is more to this parable than that lesson. The parable also gives a lesson about the nature of grace.

The Pharisee expressed contempt for thieves, rogues, adulterers, and the tax collector. The Pharisee expressed no empathy or compassion for the thieves, rogues, adulterers, or tax collectors. He did not ask God to change them but just thanked God that he was not like them. In his actions and prayers, the Pharisee separated himself from the others. He separated himself from those he held in contempt. In doing so he separated himself from God.

Whenever we show contempt for others we separate ourselves from God. When we hold people in contempt based on their race, ethnicity, or nationality we separate from God. When we hold people in contempt because of their past, we separate ourselves from God. When we hold people in contempt because of their sexual orientation and identity, we separate ourselves from God. When we hold people in contempt because of their physical appearance, we separate ourselves from God. When we hold people in contempt because of their occupation, we separate ourselves from God. When we hold people in contempt and fail to have empathy and compassion for others, we separate ourselves from God.

The nature of God's grace is merciful, compassionate, and forgiving. God's grace, like anything else, cannot go against its nature. Therefore one that shows contempt for others instead of mercy, compassion, and forgiveness cannot receive God's grace.

The tax collector humbled himself and begged for God's mercy. He held no one else in contempt, except maybe himself. He knew he needed God's mercy and grace to be saved much less justified. Because he acknowledged that he needed God's grace, he received God's grace. He was the one that was justified.

Though the Pharisee appeared to enter the temple justified, in reality, he was not. He left the temple the same as he was when he entered. The tax collector entered the temple unjustified, but he left the temple justified. He left the temple changed.

I do not know the condition of your soul as you entered this church today or as you participate online. If we hold others in contempt, let us pray for God to replace our contempt with mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. Let us acknowledge that we are sinners in need of God's grace. May we receive God's grace and mercy and leave today justified and changed.