

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 5, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

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

Call to Worship "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus" Choir
Greeting

*Hymn "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" 127

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

Prayer for Illumination
Old Testament Reading Isaiah 58:1-12 Pages 652-653 (O.T.)
Psalter Psalm 112 833

*Hymn "Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know" 163

New Testament Reading 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Pages 157-158 (N.T.)
Gospel Reading Matthew 5:13-20 Page 10 (N.T.)
Sermon "Salt, Light, Law" Rev. John D. Jordan

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

Invitation
Confession and Pardon
Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings
Offertory "My Savior and My God" Choir
*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread
Prayer
*Hymn "This Little Light of Mine" 585

*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.

TODAY'S LOVELY FLOWERS are given to the **Glory of God** and in honor of **Mary Kamoroff** on her 85th birthday February 7th, with love from Annie.

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

Patsy Zeigler Becky Derrick Arvan Derrick Dale Wells Patsy Shuler Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl Jackie McNeill Latson Lewis Steve Aiello Kaye Floyd John Ballentine
Hilda Edwards

Shut-Ins: Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Linda Maloch; Georgeann Pace; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; George Taylor

Family and Friends: **Gloria Erd** (*friend of Lynn Martin*); **Amber Kirby** (*cousin of Kelsey Tolliver*); **Pearl Geddens** (*mother of Tom Geddens*); **Laura Horlbeck** (*niece of English Percy*); **Andrew Jordan** (*nephew of John Jordan*); **Beverly Lipscomb** (*sister-in-law of John Jordan*); **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*); **Alva Humphries** (*friend of Marty Johnson*); **Bill Areheart** (*friend of Bonnie Ramsey*); **Hayley Beaudoin** (*niece 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*); **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 coworker of Kathy White*); **Vickie Edwards** (*neighbor of Kathy White*); **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*); **Wayne Blair** (*son of Dot Johnson*); **Walt & Janet Beck** (*friends 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 ...

Attendance 01/29 SS: 16 Worship: 32

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 01/29 \$ 1,406.79

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Church Calendar

01/06 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

01/08 Choir, 6 p.m.

T.a.G., 7 p.m.

01/09 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

Readings for February 12

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37



Ministers

Pastor

Resident Bishop

District Superintendent

The Congregation

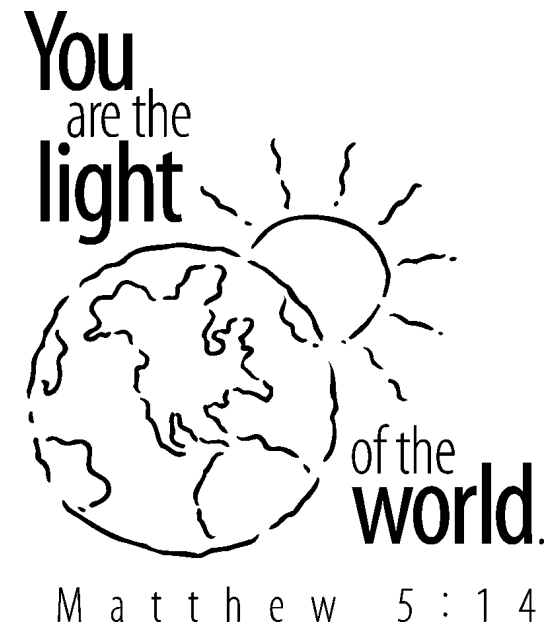
John D. Jordan

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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Sunday, February 12

For over 30 years, the Souper Bowl of Caring movement has been inspiring people across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities. On Sunday, February 12, Trinity youth will once again collect donations to help a local charity. Please plan to help them achieve their goal of helping others in our community.



**Monday, February 20
11 a.m.**

The need for a grief support group arose from the presentation we had on Grief and the Holidays in November. I am glad to say that arrangements have been made and the Church Council approved. The first session will be held Monday, February 20, at 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. Future sessions will be every third Monday at the same time and place. The group will be facilitated by Jerry Fonte. Jerry is a recently retired chaplain from Prisma Health with many years of experience. The group is open to anyone who needs support as they experience grief. Please share this with anyone you know who could benefit from this type of support.



**Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper
Tuesday, February 21, at 6 p.m.**

Plan now to join us on Tuesday, February 21, at 6 p.m. for a wonderful pancake supper prepared by the Trinity Men.



Wednesday, February 22, at 6 p.m.

The Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, February 22, at 6 p.m. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, beginning a period of reflection and penance. In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday also marks the beginning of preparation for the understanding of the death and resurrection of Christ.

**Covered
Dish
Lunch**



Sunday, February 26

The covered-dish lunch on January 29 was enjoyed by everyone who attended! There was plenty of food and excellent fellowship. The decision was made to hold a church-wide covered dish lunch on the fourth Sunday of every month. The next one will be held on Sunday February 26, immediately following the worship service. Plan now to bring a covered dish and enjoy the food and the fellowship!

Last week we noted *The Sermon on the Mount* was Jesus' teachings to the disciples. These teachings were his instructions about being his disciples. These instructions were for disciples in Matthew's church and instructions for us as the church today.

In the passage we read today, Jesus tells the disciples on the mountain, the disciples of Matthew's church, and us as the church today that they are three things in the world. The "you" in these verses is emphatic. He is not saying what you will be, what you can be, or what you may be. He tells the disciples what they are to the world.

First, you are the salt of the earth. Salt adds flavor to food. Food tastes better with a little salt. Before refrigeration, salt and smoking were the main ways to preserve meat. Salt was very valuable in the ancient world because it was a flavoring and preservative. Salt was part of the temple sacrifices. Leviticus 2: 13 reads, "You shall not omit from your grain offerings the salt of the covenant with your God; with all your offerings you shall offer salt."

As the salt of the earth, we are valuable to God. We offer ourselves to God as a living sacrifice. We preserve the teachings of Jesus by passing along the Gospel and living according to the Gospel. We are the seasoning God uses to get the recipe of creation right.

You are the light of the world. We need light to see. Light exposes good and bad. Light serves as a guide and beacon. Ships are guided by a lighthouse, not a dark house. We follow the light when life seems dark.

As the light of the world, we are to be seen so our lives attract others to the Gospel. The church functions as a community that attracts others to join the community. The church is the light that brings others to be reconciled to God.

You are a city on the hill. From far away, a city on a hill is easily seen by travelers. The city becomes the destination for wanderers. A city in a valley cannot be seen until one crosses the mountain. Travelers will set the course for the city that can be seen rather than one they cannot.

As the city on the hill, the church is a visible community. It is a community people can see and set their course. The church becomes the destination for those wandering spiritually.

All these, salt, light, and a city on the hill, point out Christianity as what John Wesley calls a social religion. Salt cannot add flavor or preserve if it is not used. A light under a bushel basket will not be seen. A city in a valley is not seen. As Christians and the church, we are to be seen. We are to be involved in our communities, meeting the needs of our community. Private piety is salt that loses its flavor, a light hidden under a basket, and a city no one sees.

How are we salt, light, and the city on a hill? Verses 17-20 provide a transition to how we are what Jesus is saying we are. Jesus says that he has not come to abolish the law and the prophets. The Law is the Torah. The prophets are the books of the Former Prophets Joshua through Kings and the Latter Prophets Isaiah through Malachi. This was the central core of the Hebrew Bible. When the New Testament writers refer to scripture they refer to these writings.

The Torah is God's instruction to Israel from God about living in a relationship with God and with others. The Prophets look ahead to the accomplishment of God's restorative work for Israel and creation.

Jesus is not coming to abolish or replace the Law. He is not bringing a new law. He is not changing even the minutest stroke of the law. At the same time, he is not going with the status quo. He fulfills the Law. He makes the Law fully understood. He makes the intent and meaning of the Law fully known. The Law and the Prophets are fully known through him. At this point in the text, he is looking back at the Hebrew Scriptures and forward to his teachings that follow today's text.

Jesus ends with this rather shocking statement. To enter the Kingdom of Heaven the righteousness of the disciples must exceed the scribes and Pharisees. The disciples must do what God requires better than the scribes and Pharisees. The scribes and Pharisees espoused strict adherence to the letter of the Law. To exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, the disciples of Jesus, including us, must go beyond the letter of the Law and look to the heart and meaning of the Law. The heart and meaning of the law are what follows in the rest of *The Sermon on the Mount* which we will explore next week.