

Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

Welcome and Announcements
Birthday Celebration
Prelude

Christopher A. McCroskey

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

Call to Worship *“On Eagle’s Wings”* Choir
Greeting

*Hymn *“Rescue the Perishing”* 591
Opening Prayer

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

Prayer for Illumination
Old Testament Reading Exodus 17:1-7 Page 63 (O.T.)
Psalter Psalm 95 814-815
*Hymn *“O How He Loves You and Me”* TFWS 2108

Gospel Reading John 4:5-42 Page 92 (N.T.)
New Testament Reading Romans 5:1-11 Page 147 (N.T.)
Sermon *“From Faith to Hope”* 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 *“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”* Choir
*Doxology *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”* 95

The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord’s Prayer

Breaking the Bread
Prayer
*Hymn *“My Hope Is Built”* 368

*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: *Ruth Frady*
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.**

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

Patsy Zeigler Becky Derrick Cristen Hipp Dale Wells Patsy Shuler Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl Latson Lewis Steve Aiello Kaye Floyd John Ballentine Hilda Edwards
Jack Stevens

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

Family and Friends: **Andrea Johnson, Gary Spence** (former members); **Gloria Erd** (friend of Lynn Martin); **Pearl Geddens** (mother of Tom Geddens); **Andrew Jordan** (nephew of John Jordan); **Beverly Lipscomb** (sister-in-law of John Jordan); **Ross Deal** (grandson of Mary Kamoroff); **David Williamson, Nancy Wilson, Jimmy Dawkins** (friends 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); **James Boggs** (father of Claire Boggs); **Stacy Coggins** (daughter of Steve Aiello); **Dan & Leslie White** (brother & sister-in-law of Steve White); **Mary Ann Rentz** (stepmother of Marty Johnson); **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); **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, Lynn Presley** (wives of coworkers 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 03/05 SS: 14 Worship: 33

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 03/05 \$ 8,831.10

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Church Calendar

03/13 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

03/15 Choir, 6 p.m.
SPPRC, 6 p.m.
T.a.G., 7 p.m.

03/16 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

Readings for March 19

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41



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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The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 15, at 6 p.m. in the Conference Room.



Instead of purchasing lilies this year, we ask that you give an honorarium or memorial for a loved one. All money given in lieu of lilies will go to *United Methodist Committee on Relief Advance # 982450 Turkey/Syria*. It will provide assistance to those in Turkey and Syria recovering from the earthquakes. **We would like to have all donations in by Monday, April 3.** A special insert listing memorials and honorariums will be in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. The lily forms will be on the table in the Gathering Area starting this week. We will have them as inserts in the bulletin for the last two Sundays before the deadline.



**Tuesday, March 21
11 a.m.**

The Grief Support Group will now meet on the third Tuesday of every month. For March, it will be on Tuesday, March 21, at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room.



Sunday, March 26

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held on Sunday, March 26. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and great fellowship!



Sunday, March 26

Church Council will meet on Sunday, March 26, immediately following Taste of Trinity.

Romans 5: 1-11

Last week we defined faith as letting go. We let go and turn ourselves completely to God: mind, heart, and soul. Then God justifies us. We receive God's justice and power. God aligns our will with God's will. We are justified by faith.

Turning ourselves over to God does not stop with being justified. Since we are justified, we receive peace with God. Peace with God is being reconciled to and in harmony with God. Peace with God has three facets.

The first is personal reconciliation between us and God. As we receive peace with God, we are reconciled with God. We enter into a personal relationship with God. However, peace with God is more than a personal relationship with God. Peace is communal peace among believers. God's peace enables us to embrace each person in our community. We work together in harmony. We can be reconciled with each other. We can love alike even though we may not think alike.

The Romans to whom Paul was writing were ruled by the emperor. Imperial rule was based on power and oppression, which maintained "peace." The emperor was lord. But Paul says that peace comes through our Lord Jesus Christ. The community of believers reveals an alternative kingdom, a kingdom based on the power of God's love for the community through which the community can live in God's peace.

As a community of believers, we are to reveal an alternative rule to our world. In our world torn with strife and division, we are to reveal a different way of being. A way of being that acknowledges our differences, but comes together in harmony. Each member of the choir has a different voice. Some are sopranos, others altos, tenors, or bass. When each one sings their note, they create a beautiful harmony. This is the kingdom we reveal to the world. A kingdom where people who are different come together in self-giving love.

Through Jesus Christ, we also have access to God's grace. We have access to a state of grace which is being in God's favor. We all have access to God.

This is a radical deviation from the accepted belief in Judaism and even pagan worship. Only the priest had access to the altar. Only the priest could make sacrifices on behalf of the people. Now, Paul is saying all have access to God's favor.

We receive this grace. We come into God's favor. We receive this favor simply because God loves us. This love was proven because Christ died for us while we still were sinners. We do not have to be "worthy" to receive God's favor; it is the gift of God.

As we receive this gift from God, we can boast. Boasting generally has negative connotations. We equate boasting with bragging. Paul uses the word boast to mean to have confidence in God's grace. We are confident in our hope of sharing in the glory of God.

When we speak of the glory of God, we most likely imagine brilliant white light with angels singing hallelujah! But that is not the glory Paul is talking about. The glory of God which we share is God's presence. God is present with us. This is our hope, the hope of God's presence with us.

This hope is not a pollyanna, pie-in-the-sky, hope. It is not wishful thinking. This hope is the confident expectation of God's presence with us.

This hope is both present and future. It is present in the confident expectation that God is with us every day. God will get us through our sufferings. God will get us through our painful experiences. We can hold onto our faith during suffering because we know God is with us. We can endure and be proved worthy. We can endure because we know God is with us. This is our present hope.

Our future hope is that, as we are reconciled and share in the presence of God, we will be glorified. We will become what God created us to be before the fall of humanity. When humans are restored to be what God intended them to be, stewards of God's creation, then all of creation will be restored.

When we are reconciled to God, we become glorified. We become as God created us to be. We participate in God's work to restore all of creation. We participate in bringing others to be reconciled by inviting them to church or if you are participating online, ask them to participate with you at home. We participate by being a community powered by self-giving love, revealing an alternate kingdom to the world. We love others in the same way God loves us.

So, we move from faith to hope. We are justified by faith, receiving God's justice and alignment with God's will. We receive God's peace to be reconciled to God and be a community working in harmony with God's will and each other. Thus, we reveal to the world an alternate way of being. We have hope and confidence that God is with us through all our suffering. We have confidence that God is using us to restore us and all creation to what we were created to be.