

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 26, 2023

Welcome and Announcements		
Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>"On Eagle's Wings"</i>	Choir
Greeting		
*Hymn	<i>"Lord of the Dance"</i>	261
Opening Prayer		
The Lord's Prayer		895
Proclamation of the Word		
Prayer of Illumination		
Old Testament Reading	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Page 763 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalms 130	848
*Hymn	<i>"Hymn of Promise"</i>	707
New Testament Reading	Romans 8:6-11	Page 149 (N.T.)
Anthem	<i>"And the Crowd Cried Out"</i>	Choir
Gospel Reading	John 11:1-45	Pages 101-102 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>"Unbound and Let Go!"</i>	Rev. John Jordan
Affirmation of Faith	<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>"The Day of Resurrection"</i>	303
*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

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.

*A GIFT TO TRINITY is given to the **Glory of God** and in loving memory of her son, Stephen Kamoroff, by **Mary Kamoroff**.*

“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	Dan Greshel				

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); **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 ...

In-Person Attendance 03/19 SS: 14 Worship: 35

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 03/19 \$ 3,041.10

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

TODAY Taste of Trinity following Worship

Church Council following Taste of Trinity

03/27 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

03/29 Choir, 6 p.m.

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

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

Readings for April 2

Matthew 21:1-11

Psalm 118:14-29

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Matthew 26:14-27:61



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

Fifth Sunday
in
Lent

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Website: www.trinityumcwc.org



Church Council will meet today immediately following Taste of Trinity.



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All Holy Week Services will begin at 6 p.m. Holy Week Offerings will go to God's Helping Hands.

Sunday 04/02 Mt. Hebron UMC

Monday 04/03 Cayce UMC

Tuesday 04/04 Brookland UMC

Wednesday 04/05 Shiloh UMC

Maundy Thursday Service at Trinity, 6 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service at Trinity, 7 a.m.



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John 11:1-45

This story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead is rife with so many directions an interpreter could go. From a literary perspective, it could be a precursor to the Easter story. The writer is giving readers a glimpse of the end of the story. Some may say the story gives insight into the humanity of Jesus; he weeps and grieves over his friend. It is a story of death and resurrection. The *Book of Worship* suggests this as an alternative Gospel reading in the Service of Death and Resurrection. The theological core of this story is eschatological.

Eschatology (which is one of the terms we learn in seminary to sound really smart) is the doctrine of the last things, the hope for the completion of human life in perfect fellowship with God and others and for the consummation of God's purposes for all creation.¹ The theological core of this story is the Christian hope of resurrection and eternal life.

We find this hope in verses 25-26, "Jesus said to her 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'" The hope expressed in these verses is such that they begin The Word of Grace of our Service of Death and Resurrection. Our hope is resurrection and life.

A couple of weeks ago, we defined hope as confident expectation. We have the confident expectation of the resurrection and life that is Jesus. By believing in Jesus, we live even though we die.

As we delve into this confident expectation, we must note that Jesus uses the verbal form of belief. Belief is always a verb in the Gospel of John. Belief is not something we have but something we do. The Greek word, *pisteuo*, means more than an abstract belief; it means to be persuaded of, place confidence in, and trust. When Jesus says "those who believe in me" it means those who commit to me.

When we fully commit ourselves to Jesus, we receive a life that is more than breathing and heart beating, walking and running, thinking and doing. We receive life with the essence of God remaining in us. We receive the life-giving breath of God that brought life into the dry bones in the valley Ezekiel saw. We receive this new life now. When we commit ourselves to Jesus, our lives align with God's will and we will not die. Our eternal life begins when we commit our lives to Christ.

In the story, Jesus tells Martha that her brother will rise again. Martha replies that she knows he will rise in the resurrection on the last day. Jesus says, "No, he is going to rise now." Eternal life does not begin at death or on the day of resurrection, it begins now.

But like Lazarus, this physical body will die. At some point, our hearts will stop beating, our lungs will stop breathing and the body will die. We will be buried or cremated. Loved ones will hold a service to mourn and grieve. They will miss our hugs and kisses as we are separated by death.

¹ Daniel L. Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. 3rd Ed (Grand Rapids, MI. William B Eerdmans Publishing Company: 2014) 347.

However, this separation of the body is temporary. There will be a day of resurrection when we will be given a body, hopefully mine will have hair. Whether this will be a new body or the one we have now, I do not know. If this happens at the time of death or someday in the future, I don't know. Don't ask me how this will happen because I don't know. This is a mystery only God knows. We may not know the how and when, but we do know that the resurrection of the body will happen. This is our future hope.

This story is one of the confident expectations of our total commitment to Jesus Christ. We receive new life now. God is transforming us into perfect creatures, made in the divine image. Though this physical body will die, we will be resurrected and given a resurrection body. This is our hope.

The story ends with Lazarus coming out of the tomb, still wrapped in strips of cloth. The custom of the time was wrapping the body in strips of cloth soaked with spices to mask the smell. Lazarus stood at the mouth of the tomb. Jesus tells them to unbind him and let him go.

I want to do something we were told not to do in seminary. I want to add to the text. After being unbound from the strips of cloth, Lazarus runs into the arms of Martha and Mary. The joy is indescribable! The tears of grief become tears of elation! He turns to his friend, Jesus, and embraces him.

For us, this ending is metaphorical. When we believe and fully commit our lives to Jesus, we are unbound. We are unbound from the grave cloths of sin. We are unbound from attitudes, habits, emotions, and all else keeping us separated from God. We are let go from our past and into a new life that does not end. We can run into the arms of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

That is our joy. Our hope is new life now and resurrection in the future. Being reconciled to God in new life is our joy. We are unbound and let go to experience a new life with Christ.