

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 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
Greeting

“Surely the Presence of the Lord”

Choir

*Hymn
Opening Prayer

“We Are the Church”

558

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

Prayer for Illumination
New Testament Reading

Acts 7:55-60

Page 120 (N.T.)

Psalter

Psalms 31:1-16

764-765

*Hymn

“Grace Alone”

TFWS 2162

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-14

Page 104-105 (N.T.)

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

Pages 222-223 (N.T.)

Sermon

“God’s Own People”

Rev. John D. Jordan

*Response to the Word

“The Apostles’ Creed”

881

*Gloria Patri

“Glory Be to the Father”

70

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation

Confession and Pardon

Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory

“More Precious than Silver”

Choir

*Doxology

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

95

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord’s Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Prayer

*Hymn

“The Church’s One Foundation”

545

*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: *Rhett & Pam Hook*

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 ***Shirley Butler*** on her 94th Birthday May 10, with love from ***Bonnie Ramsey and 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 Kaye Floyd John Ballentine Dan Greshel Jack Stevens

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

Family and Friends: **Al Dekle** (friend of Beverly Shull); **Lauren Edwards** (granddaughter of Hilda Edwards); **Andrea Johnson** (former member); **Gloria Erd** (friend of Lynn Martin); **Pearl Geddens** (mother of Tom Geddens); **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); **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 ...

Attendance 04/30 SS: Worship: 40

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 04/30 \$ 5,662.00

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Church Calendar

TODAY Birthday Celebration

Safe Sanctuary Training, 2 p.m. @ Lexington UMC

05/08 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

05/10 T.a.G., 7 p.m.

05/11 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

Readings for May 14

Acts 17:22-31

Psalms 68:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21



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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**EPWORTH MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING
SUNDAY, MAY 14**

DON'T FORGET YOUR MOTHERS OR EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME NEXT SUNDAY! Next week is Mother's Day. We will buy flowers, call the mothers in our lives, and remember those mothers who have impacted our lives in the past. Most of the children served by Epworth Children's Home will not be celebrating Mother's Day with their birth mothers. Instead, they will be surrounded by loving staff, and foster parents who walk with them daily to provide spiritual, educational, emotional, and physical support. Consider what God is calling you to give to support our church's ministry to the children in South Carolina. Your generous contribution to our church's ministry enables transformation to happen for the children who call Epworth home. Epworth does not receive apportionments from the United Methodist Conference. This offering is our opportunity to support this vital ministry. For more information about Epworth Children's Home, visit them online at www.epworthchildrenshome.org.



Please join us on Sunday, May 14, as we celebrate Mother's Day. A special Time Together will be held in their honor.



**Graduate Recognition Sunday
Sunday, May 28**

Please join us on May 28 as we celebrate our Graduates. A special Time Together will be held in their honor. Please contact Ruth Frady if you are graduating this year.



Safe Sanctuary Training

TODAY at 2 p.m. there will be a district-wide Safe Sanctuary Training at Lexington UMC. The conference is asking that every church's Safe Sanctuary policy be reviewed by an assigned specialist in each district. At this training how these reviews will take place will be revealed and reviews will be scheduled. It is recommended that the Pastor and representative from the church council, Trustees, and SPRC attend. Other interested persons are also invited.

Second T.a.G. Group

Interested in growing spiritually? Some have expressed interest in starting a second T.a.G group (Transformation and Growth). We will begin with a study of the *The Class Meeting* by Kevin Watson. We will target to begin the group Thursday, May 18, at 1:30 p.m.



Trinity United Methodist Church Facebook Page

The name of the page is simply Trinity United Methodist Church. Because it is not a unique name (there are lots of churches and lots of Facebook pages with our name), the user name is @trinityumcwestcolumbia. If you have not already "liked" and "followed" our page, you can easily find it by searching the user name rather than the title of the page.

As you know, folks get their news from lots of sources and social media is the primary way for the "younger" generations. Activity will help keep it robust so visit it often to see what's happening. Also, please share posts so that your friends can see what is happening.

And, our Web site, www.trinityumcwc.org, is also updated regularly by Frank Howard. If you need to refer to the GLIA and have misplaced your copy, it can be found there. Also, the bulletin, the weekly calendar and John's sermon is there.

2 Peter 2: 1-10

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people...”

Verse 9 is loaded with phrases that indicate exclusivity and superiority: a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's own people. There is a chosen race but then which is the chosen race: Whites, Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, or whatever race I am? Which is the holy nation? Is it the United States, Russia, Great Britain, China, Argentina, Egypt, or one of the other 195 nations? Who are God's people? Are they Methodists, Baptists, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Catholics, Protestants, or one of the numerous religions in the world? A royal priesthood means only select people can go before God, right? Yes, this verse does seem to point to exclusivity and superiority, or does it?

I am sure this verse has often been used to justify racial and ethnic supremacy. While it is easy to do so, that is not the writer's intent. The opposite is true when the verse is taken as a whole and in the proper context. This verse is one of inclusivity when taken in context and the meaning in Greek. Let's examine the context and the language of this verse.

First the context. We must always remember when reading an epistle that it is written to a specific church, or churches, with particular issues. The writer is addressing issues facing that particular church.

Peter is writing to the churches in Asia Minor, modern Turkey. These churches would have been made up of mainly pagan Gentiles. The majority were probably slaves and women, lower-class people. They may have had some contact with diaspora Jews and heard their stories of exile. The congregants were probably experiencing ostracism and rejection from the larger community. Friends rejected them because they embraced this strange new religion. They felt like exiles, cut off from the larger community and the world. Peter wrote this letter to encourage the church to persevere amid their feeling isolated and in exile.

Now, let's look at the language. The Greek words used as race, nation, and people have different connotations than the English words.

The first phrase is “a chosen race”. There are two issues to consider when we look at this phrase. First, the word *genos* is translated as race. However, it is also translated as family, nation, people, offspring, or descendent. *Genos* has the connotation of a tribe, clan, or kinship group rather than our modern concept of race. Secondly, our modern concept of race as a set of shared physical traits, such as skin color, did not come into being until the 1600s. The King James Version translates this phrase as “a chosen generation.”

The third and fourth phrases (I will come back to the second in a minute) are connected. In “a holy nation,” the word translated as nation is *ethnos*. Our word ethnicity is derived from this word. In the New Testament, it is often used to distinguish Gentile converts from Jewish Christians. Holy means set apart by God. The word, *laos*, also is translated as people but refers to the Jews as the people of God.

The second phrase, “a royal priesthood,” is a straightforward translation, no nuances of definition in this phrase. What does “a royal priesthood” mean? A priest is set aside to offer service and sacrifices to God on behalf of the people. A royal priest serves and offers sacrifices to God on behalf of the king.

Peter is telling the churches in Asia Minor that they are God’s people. In verse 10, he uses the word *laos*. The verse can then read, “Once you were not people of God but now you are God’s people.” You are not God’s people because of race, nationality, family, religion, or any other human means of separating people. You are God’s people because you answered God’s selection and call. God called them out of the darkness and into marvelous light! That is what made them people of God.

As God’s people, they are a royal priesthood. They are to serve their King, Jesus. They are to make sacrifices. These sacrifices are not animals on an altar, but sacrificing their friends, position in the community, and possibly their livelihood in service to Jesus. They are to tell of the redemptive acts of Jesus who brought them out of darkness into the marvelous light so others may be brought from the darkness into the light.

Peter is turning the tables, saying to the churches that, while you may feel that you are exiles and resident aliens, you are not. You are God’s people and those outsiders are in exile. You are to bring those people exiled in the darkness into the light.

Peter’s letter holds truths for us today. We may feel like resident aliens living in a strange world, as our society has changed over the past 50-60 years. Many different people are living in our neighborhoods. Look at a high school yearbook from 1963 and today and you will see many different people with many different names. While Sunday was set aside for church, there are so many competing activities today.

Our society still values wealth, youth, appearances, and status. We are bombarded with ways to get more money; George Sink will get it for you. We, women and men, are supposed to be young and virile, even though our bodies say otherwise. We have to wear the latest fashion, even though it is uncomfortable. We have to keep up with everybody else. My friends, if a fulfilling life is keeping up with the Kardashians, I don’t want it! I don’t want to stay in the darkness of the world.

We have been called out of the darkness of the world into the light of God. Therefore, we are God’s people. We are brought out of the exile of the world to live in the glory of God’s Kingdom.

We are called, though, for a mission. We are called to proclaim the redeeming acts of God, so all who are wandering in the darkness of the world may be brought into the light and become God’s people. We are to proclaim the redeeming acts of Christ until all people become God’s people.

We come to the table today to be fed. We come to remember the redeeming acts of Christ through the partaking of bread and wine. We are joined one with Christ, one with each other, and with the whole of God’s people to be in ministry to the world. In this joining with Christ, each other, and all God’s people we may be strengthened to bring others out of exile and into the light.