

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 14, 2023

Welcome and Announcements		
Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>“Surely the Presence of the Lord”</i>	Choir
Greeting		
*Hymn	<i>“There’s Within My Heart a Melody”</i>	380
Opening Prayer		
The Lord’s Prayer		895
Proclamation of the Word		
Prayer of Illumination		
New Testament Reading	Acts 17:22-31	Page 131 (N.T.)
Psalter	Psalm 66:8-20	790-791
*Hymn	<i>“Abide with Me”</i>	700
Epistle Reading	1 Peter 3:13-22	Page 224 (N.T.)
Anthem	<i>“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” (In Memory of Jackie McNeill)</i>	Choir
Gospel Reading	John 14:15-21	Page 105 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>“God’s Family”</i>	Rev. John Jordan
*Affirmation of Faith	<i>“The Apostles’ Creed”</i>	881
*Gloria Patri	<i>“Glory Be to the Father”</i>	70
Pastoral Prayer		
Presentation of Tithes & Offerings		
Offertory		Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology	<i>“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”</i>	95
*Hymn	<i>“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”</i>	384
*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:	<i>John D. Jordan</i>	AV Director:	<i>Marie Stiles</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Christopher A. McCroskey</i>	AV Assistant:	<i>Chris Derrick</i>
Church Musician		Time Together:	<i>Mary Sue Lewis Slone Taylor</i>

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.

GIFTS IN LIEU OF FLOWERS are given to the **Glory of God** and in honor and celebration of the **Wedding Anniversaries on May 15 of John and Sue Ballentine (42 years) and Jim and Marie Stiles (47 years).**

“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 & Leah Grace Edwards** (granddaughter & great-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 ...

In-Person Attendance 05/07 SS: 12 Worship: 34

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 05/07 \$ 4,194.10

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

- 05/15 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
- 05/16 Grief Support, 11 a.m.
- 05/17 T.a.G., 7 p.m.
- 05/18 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
New T.a.G. Group, 1:30 p.m.
- 05/20 FH Reserved All Day

Readings for May 21

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11



Ministers	The Congregation
Pastor	John D. Jordan
Resident Bishop	Jonathan Holston
District Superintendent	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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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.



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 @trinityumwestcolumbia. 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.



Tuesday, May 16
11 a.m.

The Grief Support Group will now meet on Tuesday, May 16, at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room.



Sunday, May 28

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held on Sunday, May 28. Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and great fellowship!



Sunday, May 28

Church Council will meet on Sunday, May 28, immediately following the Taste of Trinity.

John 14: 15-24

The bond between a mother and child is the greatest of all human bonds. This bond is unexplainable. I don't know when this bond begins: at conception, fetal heartbeat, first kick, or birth. The glue that holds this bond together is love. The love of a mother is the greatest of all human love.

Sadly, all people do not experience this bond. Some women, for whatever reason, are incapable of the love which creates this bond. They may have had a negative relationship with their mother. They may not have learned to love. Maybe their brains and psyche were just not wired to be a mother. Whatever the reason, we should not condemn the woman who chooses not to have a child.

Though we generally think of God the Father, plenty of Biblical references indicate a maternal aspect of God. One of these maternal images is of a mother hen protecting her brood. We see this image in Ruth 2: 12, Psalm 17: 8, 57:1. Also, in Matthew 23: 37 and Luke 13: 34, as Jesus laments over Jerusalem he says, "How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings." Isaiah 42: 14 reads, "Now I (God) will cry out like a woman in labor, I will gasp and pant." Isaiah 66: 13 God states, "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem." Psalm 131 also gives the image of God as a mother comforting her child. Isaiah 49: 14 reads, "Zion said, the LORD has forsaken me," to which the LORD replies, "Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will never forget you."

These passages remind us that we do have a Divine Mother. While our earthly mothers may be imperfect, broken, and possibly incapable of being a mother, we have a divine Mother who is perfect and never forgets us. God is the mother who will always protect, comfort, and never forget us.

In the farewell discourse to the disciples, Jesus says, "I will not leave you orphaned...." He tells the disciples that he is not going to go to heaven and forget them but will remain with them through the Paraclete. Paraclete may be defined as a helper, comforter, advocate, counselor, encourager, and exhorter. The correct definition of Paraclete is all of the above. It encompasses all of those words. When you look at those definitions, Paraclete sounds like a mother.

Father, Mother, and Son, these images run (directly or implicitly) throughout Jesus' farewell discourse. To me, this implies that the Trinity is a familial relationship. A family works together for the benefit of all members of the family. Likewise, the Trinity, God's family, works together for God's purposes. The essence of the divine family is self-giving love.

Since Jesus does not leave us orphaned, God draws us into the Divine Family. We are drawn into God's family because God's love abides in us. As Jesus is in the Father and we are in Jesus, then Jesus is in us. Admittedly, at first glance that may seem rather creepy, but the essence of Jesus is in us. Then the essence of God is in us. We are joined with Jesus and brought into God's family. We are pulled in by the centripetal force of God's love.

We demonstrate our participation in God's family by keeping the commandments Jesus gave. This commandment is to love. Jesus demonstrated divine love as he washed the feet of the disciples. We show Divine love in service to others and giving of ourselves to others. As we serve others in response to Jesus' command to love we are drawn into God's family.

Our human family may be broken and dysfunctional. Our human family may not be perfect. Our human family may not always demonstrate any love, much less Divine love. We may be rejected by or reject our human family.

But we are part of God's family. We are part of a family whose essence is perfect, self-giving love. We can know no greater love than this love we demonstrate by serving others.