

***Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 25, 2023***

Welcome and Announcements		
Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>“Something Beautiful”</i>	Choir
Greeting		
*Hymn	<i>“Give to the Winds Thy Fears”</i>	129
Opening Prayer		
The Lord’s Prayer		895
Proclamation of the Word		
Prayer of Illumination		
Epistle Reading	Romans 6:1b-11	Pages 147-148 (N.T.)
Psalter	Psalms 17:1-7, 15	749
*Hymn	<i>“I Need Thee Every Hour”</i>	397
Gospel Reading	Matthew 10:24-39	Pages 15-16 (N.T.)
Anthem	<i>“I Will Serve You, Lord”</i>	Laurie Knapp
Old Testament Reading	Genesis 21:8-21	Pages 16-17 (O.T.)
Sermon	<i>“Separated, but Not Rejected”</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>“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”</i>	430
*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
	<i>*The Congregation May Stand</i>	

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.

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 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: **Anne Piercy** (former member of Trinity); **Paul Lagatore** (friend of Laurie Knapp); **Missy Abrams** (stepdaughter of Lissa Abrams); **Mary Davis** (daughter of Bob Strickland); **Kathleen Braun** (sister of Mark Lewis); **Al Dekle** (friend of Beverly Shull); **Lauren & Leah Grace Edwards** (granddaughter & great-granddaughter of Hilda Edwards); **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); **Nancy Wilson** (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); **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); **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**, **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); **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 06/18 SS: 12 Worship: 39

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 06/18 \$ \$2,719.79

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

TODAY Taste of Trinity following Worship

06/26 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

06/28 T.a.G., 7 p.m.

06/29 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

06/30 Office Closed

Readings for July 2

Genesis 22:1-14

Psalm 13

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

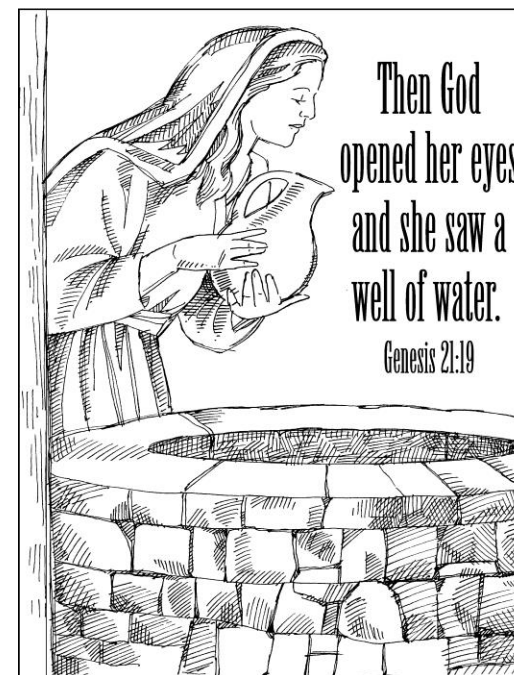


Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

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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Genesis 21: 8-21

The story of Hagar and Ishmael is one of the most poignant stories in the Bible. It is full of pathos. Many people find it disturbing. So, it is often overlooked.

However, I found comfort in this story. During this time when many churches are separating from the United Methodist Church, reading this story gave me peace in the chaos. I found consolation at the end of the story.

Hagar's story begins in Chapter 16. Since Sarah is past child-bearing years, she gives Abraham her Egyptian slave girl, Hagar. Hagar becomes pregnant. Here the story becomes ambiguous. Hagar may have gotten a bit uppity or Sarah may have gotten a bit jealous. Regardless, Sarah sees Hagar as a threat. So, with Abraham's permission, she punishes Hagar. In response to her punishment, Hagar runs away into the wilderness. An angel of the LORD finds Hagar and tells her to return to Sarah and Abraham. Hagar returns and bears Abraham a son, named Ishmael.

The years have passed. Sarah has given Abraham a son, Isaac. Isaac has been weaned. He has survived those early years and will grow to be an adult. The promise of God was fulfilled so there was a celebratory feast.

At the feast, Sarah notices Ishmael and Isaac together. Again, the story becomes ambiguous. The Hebrew word used could mean mock, tease, or simply play. Regardless, Sarah sees Ishmael as a threat to Isaac. Sarah asks Abraham to cast out Hagar and Ishmael. Abraham is distressed by Sarah's request, but God tells Abraham to do as Sarah asked.

Here the pathos begins. Abraham sends Hagar and Ishmael away. He does provide them with bread and water. Hagar and Ishmael wander in the wilderness. The water runs out. Hagar casts Ishmael under a shrub and went a bowshot away for she could not bear to watch her son die.

Hagar's situation appeared bleak. She had no food or water and was in the middle of the wilderness with no place to go. She did the only thing she could. She cried.

God heard Ishmael's and Hagar's cries. An angel appeared to Hagar, telling her that God had plans for Ishmael. God was going to make a great nation of him. Then God opened Hagar's eyes. She saw a well and filled the skin with water. She and Ishmael continued their journey, and God was with them.

God was with them. Even though Sarah and Abraham rejected Hagar and Ishmael, God did not. Ishmael had twelve sons, mirroring the twelve tribes of Israel. God blessed Hagar and Ishmael.

Some of the same pathos filled this year's Annual Conference. The day the vote was taken for the 113 churches to leave the conference was somber. No one had any sense of celebration or victory. A hushed sadness filled the auditorium. I felt an overwhelming sadness that continued after the conference.

This story of Hagar and Ishmael happened to be the Old Testament reading from the Revised Common Lectionary for this Sunday. As I was reading it in preparation for today, I had an aha moment. Even though United Methodists are separating, God is not rejecting either group. God is not rejecting the Traditionalists and God is not rejecting the Progressives. God will bless both the Traditionalists and the Progressives, and continue using them.

God had promised Abraham that he would be the Father of a great nation. This promise would be fulfilled through the son of Abraham and Sarah. But God also promised Hagar that a great nation would come from Ishmael.

The separation of Isaac and Ishmael was by humans, not God. Sarah and Abraham were both culpable in casting Hagar and Isaac out into the wilderness. Sarah could no longer tolerate seeing the child of Hagar, who she saw as a threat to Isaac.

The separation in the United Methodist Church is a human separation. Those in the Traditionalist camp cannot tolerate the potential movement of the church regarding LGBTQ+ issues. They chose to separate.

God blessed both Isaac and Ishmael. God did not reject one over the other, God used both.

God will not reject the Traditionalists or the Progressives. God will bless both the Traditionalists and the Progressives. God will use both for the forwarding of the Kingdom.

The story we read today does not end with separation. As Paul Harvey used to say, "Now, the rest of the story."

In Genesis 25: 7-11, we read about the death of Abraham. Verse 9 reads, "His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave Machpelah..." Isaac and Ishmael came together to honor and bury their father.

Though the Traditionalists and Progressives have separated over the LGTBQ+ issue, we remain together in many ways. We still worship the same God. We state the same creeds. We sing the same hymns. We still celebrate the same Holy Communion. We both experience God's prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace. We still believe in the Triune God. We believe in the Incarnation. We still have the same Father, John Wesley.

Though it may seem that the Traditionalists have rejected the Progressives and the Progressives have rejected the Traditionalists, God has rejected neither. Regardless of which camp you may fall, remember God has not rejected the other. As God has not rejected either camp, neither can we reject our opposing camp. God will bless and use both for forwarding the Kingdom in ways we can never comprehend.

So let us not reject our brothers and sisters in opposing camps. And know that even though we may not be able to live together, we can continue to love alike.