

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 9, 2023

Leading in Worship Today

Welcome and Announcements
 Birthday Celebration

Pastor: *John D. Jordan* AV Director: *Marie Stiles*
 Choir Director: *Christopher A. McCroskey* AV Assistant: *Chris Derrick*
 Church Musician

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey
 Call To Worship “*Blessed Assurance*” Choir

Greeting
 *Hymn “*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*” 340

Opening Prayer
 The Lord’s Prayer 895

Proclamation of the Word
 Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Pages 20-21 (O.T.)
 Psalter Psalm 72:1-17 795-796
 *Hymn “*Near to the Heart of God*” 472

Epistle Reading Romans 7:15-25a Page 149 (N.T.)

Anthem “*I Am Thine, O Lord*” Choir
 Duet by Mary Louise Robinson, Dan Greshel

Gospel Reading Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 Pages 16-17 (N.T.)
 Sermon “*A Gospel for the People*” Rev. John Jordan

*Affirmation of Faith “*The Apostles’ Creed*” 881
 *Gloria Patri “*Glory Be to the Father*” 70

Pastoral Prayer

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Christopher A. McCroskey
 *Doxology “*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*” 95

*Hymn “*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*” 526

*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

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 loving memory of Ray Culbreth on his birthday July 8th, by Wayne and Charlie Hooker and family.

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

Patsy Zeigler Becky Derrick Carlis Edwards 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: **Louis Jordan** (brother of John Jordan); **Judy Spence** (former member); **Anne Piercy** (former member of Trinity); **Paul Lagatore** (friend of Laurie Knapp); **Missy Abrams** (stepdaughter of Lissa Abrams); **Mary Davis** (daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland); **Kathleen Braun** (sister of Mark Lewis); **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); **Paula Milhouse** (friend of Marty Johnson); **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 07/02 SS: 9 Worship: 26

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 07/02 \$ 3,622.10

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

07/10 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.
07/12 T.a.G., 7 p.m.
07/13 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.
07/14 Office Closed

Readings for July 16

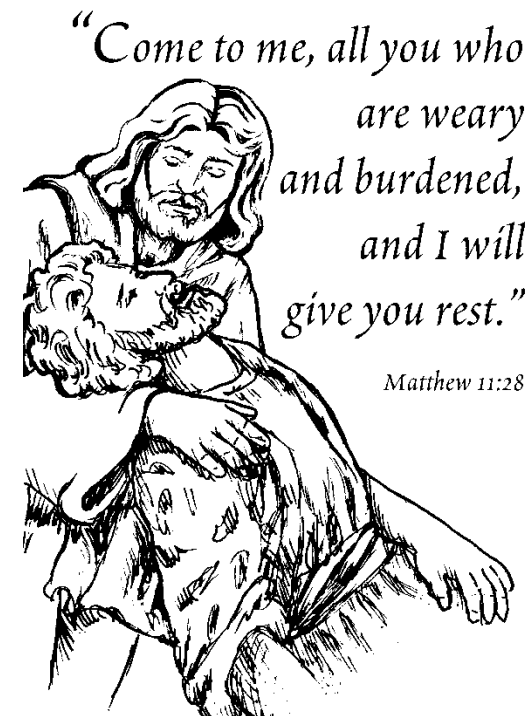
Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 25
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



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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**Sunday, July 16
Following Worship**

The Finance Committee will have a brief meeting immediately following the Worship Service on Sunday, July 16. The members of the committee are: Bonnie Ramsey, Chairperson, John Jordan, Patsy Boggs, Sue Ballentine, Jo Ann Heiting, Ted Frady and Marie Stiles.



**Tuesday, July 18
11 a.m.**

The Grief Support Group will meet this Tuesday, July 18, at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room.



Sunday, July 23

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held next Sunday, July 23. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and great fellowship!



The Church Council will meet on July 23 immediately following a Taste of Trinity.



Interested in finding out more and joining a T.a.G group? Contact Pastor John. We are trying to start another group to meet during the day. This group focuses on growing our spiritual lives and helping each other go on to perfection.

Some people have expressed a desire to learn about the United Methodist Church: its history, doctrine, and polity. I am working on a study with a particular focus on Wesleyan theology. Look out for further information.

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

A few years ago, A. J. Jacobs wrote a book entitled, *A Year of Living Biblically*. The book documented his attempt to live according to all the rules in the Bible. He began by extracting all the rules in both Testaments. He filled 72 pages with the 700-plus rules he found. He attempted to live according to all the rules in the Bible for one year.

Some of the rules he found easy, some he found baffling. Some made sense in Biblical times but were not applicable today. Some he realized after further study were metaphorical, not literal. The bottom line: he could not live according to all the rules in the Bible for a year, much less a lifetime.

I suspect the ordinary person of Jesus' time would have the same problem. For many, then and now, the law becomes a stumbling block that keeps one from coming before God. It is too difficult to keep all the rules in the Bible and continue to live a normal life. The Priests, Pharisees, and Sadducees may have found keeping the law easier because they kept themselves separate from everyday life. Even for them, the law became a stumbling block to doing good. Look at the many controversies with Jesus regarding working on the Sabbath.

Jesus recognized the law placed a burden on the ordinary person. Jesus tells all who are weary, tired, and exhausted to come to him. Jesus says, "If you are tired of trying to keep all these laws then come to me." Jesus says, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

This sentence contains four Greek words that are rarely used in the Bible. The words are translated as yoke, easy, burden, and light. Yoke is not only the implement used to control oxen when plowing but also metaphorically means submission. Ease comes from kindness and goodness. The burden is the load one has to carry. Light means the load is easy to bear. The translation could read, "For submission to me is easy because I am kind and good, and my load is easy to bear."

Jesus does not mean if we submit to him, we will never have any difficulties. We will have our difficulties and times of trial. Financial woes may occur. People we love will die, some suddenly and tragically. We are not immune to sickness or accidents. Bad things will happen to us. These burdens are easy to bear because Jesus bears them with us. When we yoke ourselves to Jesus, he bears our burdens with us just as two yoked oxen work as one to bear their burden.

Isn't that Good News, my friends? When we submit ourselves to Jesus, he bears our burdens with us. This Good News is not revealed to the wise but to infants, not infants in a life stage sense but the unsophisticated and trusting. God's will is to reveal this Good News to the ordinary people. The ordinary people understand and accept this Good News while the wise do not.

The ordinary people get Jesus' Good News while the wise do not. The Jesus that eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners does not fit into the concept the wise had of the Messiah. Jesus is a drunkard and glutton, a rebellious son, who should be stoned to death (Deuteronomy 21: 19-21).

To ordinary people, tax collectors, and sinners a messiah who would carry their burdens with them is incredibly good news. God is not weighing us down with laws and rules we cannot keep. God is working with us in the muck and mire of our everyday lives. GOOD NEWS!

One of the best cartoons I have seen recently depicts the disciples on the mountain after the ascension of Jesus. The remnants of the cloud which carried Jesus to heaven are in the upper left-hand corner of the panel. The disciples are looking at each other saying, "Ok, love God and love everyone. That seems simple enough." But one of the disciples is looking down to the lower right-hand corner of the panel. A group of scholarly-looking people is coming up the mountain. The disciple says. "Uh Oh, here comes trouble. It's the theologians."

We often complicate Jesus' simple request to submit to him and let him carry our burdens with us. There must be more than simply loving God and loving each other. We understand legalistic rules- the dos and don'ts- better than we understand love. We must have laws! We must have an order! Often our rules are stumbling blocks to loving God and loving others. We want to keep ourselves separate and "holy". Keeping the law becomes more important than loving. We do not see and respond to the needs of our neighbors.

The revelation of God's Good News comes when we submit ourselves to Jesus. The good news is God gives rest to those who are burdened, weary, tired, and exhausted. God yokes himself with us and carries our burdens with us.

I often hear people say, "God never gives you more than you can handle." While that may seem like good news, it misses the mark. The Good News is that God carries our burdens, trials, and tribulations with us. Being yoked to God we can handle, survive, and thrive despite anything life and the devil may throw at us.

That is God's Good News for the people. God is for the people. God walks with people, carrying burdens with them. God carries our burdens with us.

The burden Jesus places on us is easy to bear. The load is to love God and others. We follow God's law because we love God. Our attitudes and actions are dictated by the self-giving love of Jesus, not adherence to 72 pages of rules and laws. Jesus showed us how to love. Let us take off the yoke of legalism and take on Jesus' yoke of love. Life is much easier when we submit to Jesus, let him carry our burdens with us, and receive a load of love.