

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Laurie Knapp
(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

Call to Worship "Come! Come! Everybody Worship" Choir
Greeting

*Hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory" 577

Blessing of the Backpacks

Opening Prayer
Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Reading Romans 12:9-21 Page 153 (N.T.)

Psalter Psalm 105:1-11 828

*Hymn "Holy Ground" (x2) TFWS 2272

Gospel Reading Matthew 16:21-28 Pages 22-23 (N.T.)

Old Testament Reading Exodus 3:1-15 Pages 49-50 (O.T.)

Sermon "Turn Aside, Look and See" 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 "Thy Will Be Done" Laurie Knapp

*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Prayer

*Hymn "Where He Leads Me" 338

*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response "Go Now in Peace" Choir

*Postlude Laurie Knapp

*The Congregation May Stand

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: John D. Jordan

AV Director: Marie Stiles

Pianist: Laurie Knapp

AV Assistant: Chris Derrick

Time Together: Jack Stevens; Pam Turner

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 Carlis Edwards Dale Wells Patsy Shuler Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl Latson Lewis Kaye Floyd John Ballentine Jack Stevens

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

Family and Friends: **Bob Bohnstengel** (spouse of Jo Ann Heiting's cousin); **Judy Spence** (former member); **Anne Piercy** (former member); **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** (friend 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); **Suzy Sweat** (daughter of friend 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 ...

Attendance 08/27 SS: 15 Worship: 44

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 08/27 \$ 5,608.84

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Church Calendar

09/04 Labor Day
Office Closed
Exercise Class Will Not Meet
09/06 T.a.G., 7 p.m.
09/07 Budgets Due
Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
09/08 Office Closed

Readings for September 10

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 148
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20



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| 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.

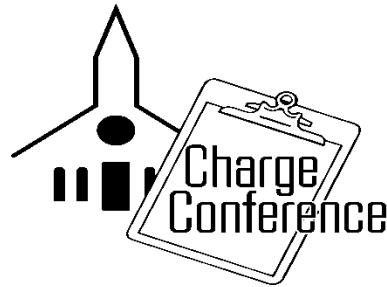
Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform



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**EPWORTH WORK DAY OFFERING
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

Sunday, September 10th, is the annual Work Day offering for Epworth Children's Home. This tradition dates back decades to when Methodists were challenged to "Give a Day's Pay" to the children at Epworth. While the emphasis has shifted a bit over the years, it is still important that we come together to provide spiritual, educational, emotional, and physical support for the children at Epworth. As you consider what God is calling you to give to support our church's ministry to children, remember Christ's command to let the little children come to him. He embraces them, welcomes them, loves them, and teaches them. Epworth is answering this call to let the little children come. Your generous contribution to our church's ministry enables transformation to happen for the children who are served by Epworth. This offering is our opportunity to support this vital ministry. For more information about Epworth Children's Home, please visit www.epworthchildrenshome.org.



**Tuesday, September 19
7:30 p.m.**

Charge Conference will be held on Tuesday, September 19, at 7:30 p.m. Please note the following dates.

Thursday, 09/07: Budgets Due
Tuesday, 09/12: Finance Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, 09/13: Reports Due
Sunday, 09/17: Church Council Meeting following
Worship



We are entering the hectic time in the Methodist calendar known as Charge Conference season. Trinity's has been scheduled for September 19, at 7:30 pm. In addition to the usual reports and celebrations of our ministry at Trinity, we will be voting on a resolution to adopt a new church structure. The new structure will consist of an administrative team and a ministry team of nine people each. The administrative teams will serve as the Trustees, SPRC, and finance committees. All the ministries of the church will be through the ministry team. These teams will be surrounded by a prayer team who will pray for God's guidance for the teams whenever they meet. All members of the church are encouraged to attend the Charge Conference.



*You're Invited
October 1 Following Worship*

Attention: All Ladies of Trinity

You are invited to *shower* Baby Elijah with gifts and love and welcome him to our Trinity Family. He is the son of Brady Derrick and Jasmin Herrera.

Date: Sunday, October 1st
Time: Following Worship
Place: Trinity United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall
RSVP: Bonnie Ramsey (803) 260-2283
Registry: www.babylist.com

I'M GOING TO PUT THE FEAR OF GOD IN YOU!

We may have heard that saying at some point in our childhood. Someone may have yelled it at us while we were being disobedient or fighting with others. We may have heard it from parents, teachers, and possibly preachers. Whoever said it to us probably thought that since we did not fear them enough to stop, maybe we would fear God enough to stop.

The problem with saying you are going to put the fear of God in someone is that you cannot. You cannot put the fear of God in someone, nor can someone put the fear of God in you. The fear of God comes from within.

Last week, we discussed that the fear of God is the conception of God making moral demands. The fear of God restrains from evil and stimulates good. In Wesleyan theology, the fear of God is prevenient grace, the grace that goes before and guides us to God's justifying and sanctifying grace. The fear of God is the moral compass that leads us from evil and toward God. God becomes our moral compass.

But we live in a sinful world. How do we get the fear of God in us? How do we have God as our moral compass when there are many other moral compasses to guide us? The story of Moses gives us a model for how God may become our moral compass.

We are familiar with the story of Moses in the bulrushes. The king issued an edict that all the Hebrew male babies be thrown in the Nile, so Moses' mother placed him in a basket on the Nile. The king's daughter found Moses and claimed him as her own. So Moses was a Hebrew raised as an Egyptian.

One day, Moses observed an Egyptian foreman beating a Hebrew slave. Moses became angry and killed the Egyptian foreman. Though Moses tried to cover up the deed, word got out, and the king sought to kill Moses.

Moses fled to Midian. He met the daughter of the priest of Midian. The priest gave his daughter, Zipporah, to Moses as a wife. Now, we come to today's passage.

Still on the lam, Moses is tending the flock for his father-in-law. He reaches Mt. Horeb, the mountain of God. Moses doesn't know it is the mountain of God. It is just another mountain in the wilderness to him.

Moses notices an oddity. A bush appears to be on fire but not consumed by the flames. Moses turns aside to see. Moses turns from his everyday duty and goes to this burning bush that is not consumed. Instead of finding a burning bush, Moses hears the voice of God calling him. Moses responds to the call. Moses obeys God's instructions and takes off his sandals.

God identifies himself as the God of the ancestors. God has heard the cries of the people enslaved in Egypt. God is going to bring the people out of Egypt and into a land flowing with milk and honey. God is sending Moses to Pharaoh to do this. Moses protests, but God assures Moses that the divine presence will be with him. Through this dialogue, Moses enters into a relationship with God. Their relationship is such that God reveals the divine name to Moses.

At the beginning of the passage, Moses did not fear God. Moses did not even know God. Moses knew the Egyptian gods but not this God. God was not Moses' moral compass. He was a fugitive for murder. By the end of the dialogue, which continues through 4:17, Moses feared God. Let us look at how this change took place.

First, Moses turned aside. Moses turned aside from his daily routine when he noticed the divine manifestation. He changed his path and the direction of his life. He laid aside the moral compass of the Egyptian culture and gods.

After he turned aside, Moses approached the mountain of God. He drew near to the burning bush that was calling him. Moses stopped and removed his sandals when commanded.

Moses removing his sandals may seem to be an insignificant detail, but it is quite important. By removing his sandals, Moses acknowledged that the ground was holy. With his sandals removed, there was nothing between Moses and God's holiness. Moses was making physical contact with God's holy ground.

Moses entered into a conversation with God. He questioned God throughout the interaction. He gained knowledge about who God was. He came to know God, not just about God. Throughout the Exodus, Moses has many conversations with God. The relationship between God and Moses became such that Moses could confront God. Moses feared God, and God was Moses' moral compass.

We may have the fear of God enter into us by following the example of Moses. We begin by becoming aware of God's grace, the burning bush. We turn aside from the ordinary ways of the world and turn toward God. As we turn aside, God draws us to him. God invites us to come closer.

We remove our sandals. We remove whatever comes between us and God. We take off whatever feelings, attitudes, or habits keep us from experiencing God completely.

As we approach God, God identifies us as a child of God. God reveals the divine purpose for which we were created. God invites us to enter into a relationship with him, a relationship based on self-giving love.

God wants us to converse with him. God wants us to ask questions to clarify our purpose and to know God. God wants more than us knowing *about* God; he also wants us to *know* God.

When we know *about* God, the fear of God is a bunch of rules and regulations we must follow to avoid hell. When we *know* God, the fear of God is the moral compass within us because we know God loves us. We respond to God's love by following the divine compass in all aspects of our lives.

We are drawn closer to God through the sacrament of Holy Communion. The bread and wine are a sign of God's grace given freely to us. Receiving the bread and wine, we receive new life in Christ to live in the loving fear of God.