

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 10, 2023

Leading in Worship Today

Welcome and Announcements
 Birthday Celebration

Pastor: *John D. Jordan* AV Director: *Marie Stiles*
 Pianist: *Laurie Knapp* AV Assistant: *Chris Derrick*
 Time Together: *Ruth Frady*

Prelude		Laurie Knapp
Call To Worship	<i>“Come! Come! Everybody Worship”</i>	Choir
Greeting		
*Hymn	<i>“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”</i>	89
Opening Prayer		
The Lord’s Prayer		895

Proclamation of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

“Let the Children Come!”

(Those 3 years of age through 8 years of age may go to Children’s Church.)

Old Testament Reading	Exodus 12:1-14	Pages 57-58 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalm 148	861-862
*Hymn	<i>“Kum Ba Yah”</i>	Screen
Epistle Reading	Romans 13:8-14	Page 153 (N.T.)
Anthem	<i>“I Love You, Lord”</i>	Choir
Gospel Reading	Matthew 18:15-20	Page 24 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>“Binding and Loosing”</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		Laurie Knapp
*Doxology	<i>“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”</i>	95
*Hymn	<i>“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”</i>	557

*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response	<i>“Go Now in Peace”</i>	Choir
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*Postlude		Laurie Knapp
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*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.

THE ROSE ON THE ALTAR is placed in honor of the birth of ***Elijah Leroy Herrera-Derrick*** on Sunday, September 3, 2023. He is the son of ***Brady Derrick and Jasmin Herrera***, the grandson of ***Chris and Erin Derrick*** and the great grandson of ***Arvan and Becky Derrick***.

A GIFT TO TRINITY IS GIVEN to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Arnold Heiting’s 93rd Heavenly Birthday on September 14th, by his Annie.

“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	Billy Pearson

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

Family and Friends: Alex Courtney (friend of great nephew of Joyce Robinson); Lawrence Gilbert (friend of Becky Derrick); 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); David Grandshaw (brother-in-law of Edwa Meek); 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); Bernardo Velasquez, 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 09/03 SS: 10 Worship: 40

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 09/03 \$ 12,347.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

Today Epworth Work Day Offering

 Birthday Celebration

09/11 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

 Visitation at Thompson Funeral Home for George Henry, 1 – 3 p.m

 Graveside Service at 3:30 p.m. at Woodridge followed by Reception at Trinity in Fellowship Hall

09/12 Finance Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

09/13 Charge Conference Reports Due

 T.a.G., 7 p.m.

09/14 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

09/15 Office Closed

Readings for September 17

Exodus 14:19-31

Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35



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



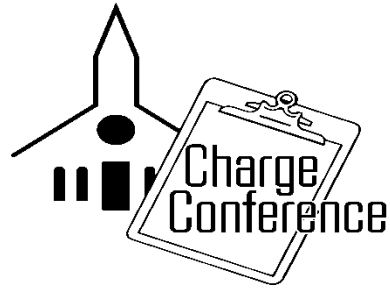
MATTHEW 18:18, ESV

**1201 Mohawk Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169**

Telephone: 803.794.7777

E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com

Website: www.trinityumcwc.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.

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, son of Brady and Jasmin, with gifts and love and welcome him to our Trinity Family.

Date: Sunday, October 1st

Time: Following Worship

Place: Trinity United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall

RSVP: Bonnie Ramsey (803) 260-2283

Registry: www.babylist.com



**Tuesday, September 19
11 a.m.**

The Grief Support Group will meet on Tuesday, September 19, at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room. This group is open to everyone.

Matthew 18: 15-20

At first glance, verses 15-17 seem to be a blueprint for dealing with sin. You follow these steps if you see someone sinning. If the person does not change, kick them out of the church. The process seems simple enough, but in the words of Lee Corso, “Not so fast, my friend.”

The first step in this process is the most crucial and establishes its purpose, but we must look at some things before we take the first step. First is the definition of sin. In this context, sin is not behavioral but relational. Sin is the disruption of our relationship with God and with others. Sin comes between us and God and us and others. Jesus says the foundation of God’s commandments is to love God and love others. We cannot love God and hate others. We cannot hate God and love others. Sin is anything that keeps us from loving God and others.

Another issue is that many manuscripts do not include the phrase “against you”. The inclusion of “against you” indicates the conflict is between two people, the offended and the offender. The exclusion of “against you” is more communal. The sin may not affect one person but disrupt relationships within the community. Is Jesus talking about sins between people or sins within the community?

I think the answer is both. Jesus is talking about sin as the disruption of the relationship between two people and the disruption of relationships within the community. Any disruption of relationships, individual or communal, is a sin.

This gets us to the purpose of this process, which we find in the second sentence of verse 15: “If you are listened to, you have regained that one.” The offender listening to you begins the process of reconciliation. You regain the relationship.

Now, let us examine the first step. As I said earlier, the first step is the most crucial. Often, we think that the “Christian” thing to do is just put aside our hurts and ignore them. But if we do that, the sin remains. Whatever disrupted the relationship is still a barrier to it. The longer the sin remains, the bigger it gets, and more harm is done.

When someone has sinned against you or the community, speak to them in private. Enter into this conversation with prayer, humility, and love. The goal is reconciliation, not settling scores. The best opening is a simple statement of what the person did that harmed you. Something like: I was hurt you said _____ or I did not like it when you _____. This is risky because we are not sure how the other person will react.

Frequently, we may say or do something that offends or hurts someone without being aware of it. Our sin may be unintentional. We may not be aware of how we are hurting others or the community. Therefore, bringing their sin to someone’s attention is the most loving act. If we are on the receiving end, we should listen carefully to understand how we hurt the other person or the community.

Notice the verse does not say that the other person agrees with you or repents. It says “If you are listened to.” We may think that the “Christian” thing to do is to immediately say “I’m sorry” and ask forgiveness. But that is not real reconciliation. It is like putting wallpaper over a crack in the wall. You may not see it but the crack is still there. The problem in the foundation has not been addressed.

When we listen to understand, we may enter into a dialogue. How did I offend or hurt you? How did I hurt the community by doing what I did? We may gain an understanding of why the person did what they did. We do not always have to agree but to understand each other. Often, I have developed a deeper relationship with people who have come to me because I have unintentionally hurt or offended them. When we begin to listen to understand, we become reconciled.

By doing this privately, we may avoid possible shame and embarrassment. However, in some situations, one may need to skip the first step and have someone with them. Whenever someone feels uncomfortable being alone with another, they should have someone with them. A case in point would be when a woman is dealing with sexually inappropriate behavior.

If the person refuses to listen, bring in two or three others. The offending party may not accept your perspective and become defensive and angry. You may need someone to back you up. The offending party may feel they need someone to hear both sides of the story. The person may accept their sin and listen if more than one has been offended or hurt. They may listen to two or more people.

If they still refuse to listen, take it to the whole community. Maybe, if everyone in the community points out their sin, the offending party will listen. If they still do not listen, they are as “a gentile pagan and tax collector.” They are to be seen as an outcast.

This may seem harsh and unchristian, but one who persists in doing harm and disrupting relationships cannot be tolerated. This has led to the practice of excommunication and shunning in some churches. Even in the United Methodist Church, clergy and laity may be brought up on charges and removed from the church.

But even though the recalcitrant offender may be seen as an outcast, they are not completely cast out. Jesus healed the centurion's servant and the Canaanite woman's daughter. He sent the disciples to the ends of the earth to make disciples. In other words, I do not think this means closing the door, but leaving it cracked for possible reconciliation.

One thing to remember throughout this whole process is whenever we confront sin, Jesus is always with us. Whenever we gather, even to confront someone with their sin, Jesus is there. Jesus came to overcome sin and restore all creation to a right relationship with God and each other. Therefore, whenever we work to overcome sin and reconcile relationships, Jesus is with us.

So, do not be afraid to talk to someone who may have hurt or offended you because Jesus is with you. Do not be afraid to talk to someone, even the preacher, if they are harming the community. We should not let our relationships with others be disrupted. We should not let relationships within the community be disrupted. If our relationships, individually and within the community, are disrupted, our relationship with God is disrupted. We seek reconciliation with our brothers and sisters and overcome sin.

We begin reconciliation by letting others know the harm done to us. The sin must be exposed for reconciliation to occur. One thing is necessary for reconciliation to be complete. We will discuss that next week. So come back, or tune in next Sunday.