

## *Second Sunday of Easter*

April 7, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey  
*(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)*

Call to Worship "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord" Choir  
Greeting

\*Hymn "We Walk by Faith" TFWS 2196  
Opening Prayer  
Prayer for Illumination

"Let the Children Come!"  
*(Those 3 years of age through 8 years of age may go to Children's Church.)*

New Testament Reading Acts 4:32-35 Pages 116-117 (N.T.)  
Psalter Psalm 133 850

\*Hymn "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" 420

Epistle Reading 1 John 1:1-2:2 Page 229 (N.T.)  
Gospel Reading John 20:1 -31 Page 111 (N.T.)  
Sermon *From Unbelief to Faith* Rev. John D. Jordan

Invitation 12-15  
Confession and Pardon  
Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings  
Offertory "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" Rhett Hook  
\*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

The Great Thanksgiving  
The Lord's Prayer  
Breaking of the Bread  
Giving of the Bread and Cup  
Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Hymn *Trust and Obey* 467

\*Dismissal With Benediction  
\*Benediction Response "May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You" Choir & Congregation

\*The Congregation May Stand

## *Leading in Worship Today*

Pastor: John D. Jordan AV Director: Marie Stiles  
Music Director: Christopher A. McCroskey 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 ...**

English Pearcy   Patsy Zeigler   Charlie Hooker   Kaye Floyd   Patsy Shuler   Taylor Linholm  
Erin Derrick   Becky Derrick   John Ballentine   Jimmy Grahl   Latson Lewis

**Shut-Ins:** Esther Carter; Gillett Hipp; Linda Maloch; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath

**Family and Friends:** Chantel Griffin (sister of Erin Derrick); Russell Eubanks (son-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting); Nancy Whitehead (former member); Malcolm Skipper (grandfather of Matthew Skipper); Mildred McQuitty (great-grandmother of Matthew Skipper); Logan Sturkie (granddaughter of Marty Johnson's neighbor); Bryan Collard (brother-in-law of Mary Sue Lewis); Charlyn McNeill (sister of Mary Sue Lewis); Elizabeth Kelsey & Jamie Barnett (friends of John & Kay Jordan); 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); Gloria Erd (friend of Lynn Martin); Pearl Geddens (mother of Tom Geddens); Ross Deal (grandson of Mary Kamoroff); Nancy Wilson (friend of Jeanette Hornsby); David Turner (brother of Pam Turner); Ernie & Betsey Hendrix, Chip Mixon (friends of Tommy Gleaton); Ron & Janet Walker (friends of Tommy & Chris Gleaton); Merit Takach (friend of Joyce and Brent Robinson); James Boggs (father of Claire Boggs); Stacy Coggins (daughter of Steve Aiello); Sweat Family (friends of Marty Johnson); Bill Areheart (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); David Grandshaw (brother-in-law 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](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com).

**OUR PRESENCE ...**

Attendance 03/31 SS: 10    Worship: 67

**OUR GIFTS ...**

General Fund 03/31 \$ 2,744.00    Holy Week: \$ 374.20    Gamecock Pantry: \$ 1,580.00

**OUR SERVICE...**

**OUR WITNESS.”**

**Upcoming Events**

04/08 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.  
04/09 Grieving with God, 11 a.m..  
04/10 Wednesday's Words, 11:30 a.m.  
T.a.G., 7 p.m.  
04/11 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.  
04/12 Office Closed

**Readings for April 14**

Acts 3:12-19  
Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48



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**



John 20:29

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**Grieving with God  
Tuesday, April 9**

All who are on the journey of grief are invited to join us each second Tuesday in the Conference Room of the church. We have named our grief support group "Grieving with God" for this second year of our meetings. We are using the book "Good Grief" by Granger E. Westberg. Copies are available each session and in the church office. Retired Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplain from Richland Hospital, Jerry Fonte, facilitates discussion, which is open, free and sympathetic to each other. Tell someone that you know is grieving, and join them in our discussions.



The Administrative Team will meet on Sunday, April 14, at 4:45 p.m.



**Columbia Community Concert Band's Spring Concert  
April 28, 2024, 4:00 p.m.  
Airport High School Auditorium**

Our 43<sup>rd</sup> season ends with the music of Ray Charles, the Sound of Music, Danny Boy and other Irish tunes which have been challenging for us to learn but which we're excited to play for our audience.

Having so many loyal followers means so much to our group of musicians, and we appreciate that you take time to support us with your attendance at our concerts. The music is listed on the flyer located on the round table in the Gathering Area along with the signup sheet to ride the bus which leaves the Gunter Circle parking lot at 3:20 p.m. Doors to the auditorium open at 3:30 p.m. We hope you can join us for our final performance until October.



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John 20: 19-31

This story is popularly known as the story of Doubting Thomas. Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus first appeared. When the disciples told Thomas, he said, “Unless I see the marks of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” Thus, he is called doubting Thomas.

There is one interesting detail indicating that the title doubting Thomas is incorrect. The word doubt never appears in this passage. I know you will say look at verse 27. Jesus says, “Do not doubt but believe.” Even though that is how the NRSV translates the verse, it is not really accurate. A more literal translation is, “Do not be unbelieving but believing.” or even better, “Do not be unfaithful, but faithful.” This story is not about doubt and belief but moving from unbelief to faith.

Before we go further, let’s take a moment to examine the difference between doubt and unbelief. Doubt is wavering or uncertainty, even when there is some evidence. Some people doubt climate change. Some people doubt the effectiveness of medications. Doubt implies that something may not be absolutely true, even if there is some evidence. The prosecutor in a criminal trial must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. A jury cannot deliver a guilty verdict if there is a reasonable doubt. Doubt implies uncertainty.

Unbelief implies certainty. Lack of evidence leads to unbelief. I do not believe vaccines cause autism because there is a lack of reliable evidence. My unbelief that vaccines cause autism comes from a lack of evidence. Reliable evidence leads to belief. I believe in gravity because every time I drop something, it falls to the ground.

Thomas had no evidence other than word of mouth. The evidence we have in the Gospel indicates that Thomas was not the wavering, uncertain type. When Jesus said that he was going to Judea to raise Lazarus, Thomas said “Let’s go” (11:16). Thomas was the type to ask questions so he could understand. In his final discourse to the disciples, Jesus said, “You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas stated the obvious, “Lord, we do not know the place where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Thomas didn’t seem like the uncertain wavering type. He would want clarification and evidence, but he did not doubt.

Thomas was unbelieving. Thomas did not believe the disciples because he was not there. He did not receive the Holy Spirit. The other disciples saw Jesus. They may have touched Jesus’ hands and side. They received Jesus’ peace and the Holy Spirit. They had clear irrefutable evidence of the resurrection. Thomas had no evidence.

Now, Thomas was there when Jesus appeared. He received Jesus’ peace. Though not explicitly stated, he probably received the Holy Spirit. He did not have to put his finger in Jesus’ hand or side before he made the most emphatic confession of faith in the Gospel, “My Lord and my God!”

The Greek word for belief also means faith. It is one of those words that has multiple meanings in English. The word means belief, faith, and trust. It encompasses all those concepts.

This story of Thomas is not about doubt versus belief, but moving from unbelief to faith and trust. Thomas did not believe the disciples when they said they had seen Jesus. Thomas did not experience the resurrected Jesus that the others had. He could not believe, without the experience. With the experience of Jesus, Thomas quickly moved from unbelief to emphatic faith.

We move from unbelief to emphatic faith as we experience Jesus. We may first experience Jesus through the songs and stories in Sunday school. We have different experiences of Jesus. Some may have a dramatic experience like Paul on the way to Damascus. Some may have a warming of the heart like Wesley. We may experience Jesus daily through Bible study, prayer, and devotional time. We experience Jesus through worship and the sacraments. We experience Jesus by serving others.

With each experience of Jesus, we move from unbelief to emphatic faith. We grow deeper in love with God. We put our trust and reliance on God. We say, “My Lord, who I will obey completely, and my God who is the sole object of my worship”. We move toward God.