

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024

Leading in Worship Today

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor: *John D. Jordan*

AV Director: *Marie Stiles*

Pianist: *Laurie Knapp*

AV Assistant: *Chris Derrick*

Time Together: *Joyce Robinson*

Slone Taylor

Prelude Laurie Knapp

Call To Worship Choir
 Centering Words "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

*Hymn 128
"He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought"

Opening Prayer 895
 The Lord's Prayer

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.)

New Testament Reading Page 116 (N.T.)
 Psalter 137
 Acts 4:5-12
 Psalm 23

*Hymn 174
"His Name Is Wonderful"

Gospel Reading Page 100 (N.T.)
 John 10:11-18

Anthem Choir
"My Savior and My God"

Epistle Reading Page 230 (N.T.)
 Sermon Rev. John Jordan
 1 John 3:16-24
How to Abide with Him

*Affirmation of Faith 881
"The Apostles' Creed"

*Gloria Patri 70
"Glory Be to the Father"

Pastoral Prayer

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Laurie Knapp

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

*Hymn 700
"Abide with Me"

*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response Choir
"May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You"

*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 her mother, ***Janet Knapp***, on her birthday April 18th, by ***Laurie Knapp***.

“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; Jan Weaver

Family and Friends: Chantel Griffin (sister of Erin Derrick); Russell Eubanks (son-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting); 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.

OUR PRESENCE ...

In-Person Attendance 04/014 SS: 8 Worship: 29

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 04/14 \$ 2,210.72

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

- 04/22 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
- 04/23 GLIA Articles Due
- 04/24 Wednesday's Words, 11:30 a.m.
T.a.G., 7 p.m.
- 04/25 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
- 04/26 Office Closed

Readings for April 28

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8



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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Next Sunday, April 28

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held next Sunday, April 28. It will continue on the fourth Sunday of every month. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and great fellowship!

Please Note: The Ministry Team will meet immediately following Taste of Trinity.



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

Our 43rd 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.

**Epworth Mother's Day Offering
May 12**

EPWORTH IS OUR MINISTRY! Last year Epworth Children's Home served over 1,400 children and families through their statewide programs. Each of these children had this opportunity because of churches in South Carolina who embrace and provide for this ministry. On Sunday, May 12th, 2024, we will participate in the annual Mother's Day Offering to benefit the children who call Epworth home, as well as each child and family touched by Epworth's ministries. Please be in prayerful consideration of what God is calling you to give to this valuable and life changing ministry. For more information about Epworth Children's Home, visit them online at www.epworthchildrenshome.org.



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1 John 3: 16-24

To abide in the love of God is the greatest thing imaginable. Just fall back, as you would in a hammock, and be encapsulated in God's love. God gives us the gift of the Spirit, which abides in us. Therefore, we abide in God's love, and God's love abides in us.

What does it mean for God's love to abide in us? Abide is a word we don't use very much. The Greek word means to stay, remain, dwell, and endure. Abide probably captures all those meanings best. God's love remains and stays with us; it doesn't go away as other loves might. God's love endures all we go through, the good, bad, and ugly. God's love dwells and lives in us. We dwell and live in God's love. God's love is our very being, our essence.

How can we abide in God's love? God's love is a gift given to all. We cannot earn God's love, which is already given to us. God's love is a gift we are free to accept or reject. When we receive God's love, we abide in God's love. So perhaps the better question is, "How can we, and others, know we abide in God's love?"

The ones who abide in Jesus and he abides in are the ones who keep his commandments. That seems simple enough, keep the commandments. But is that the Ten Commandments or all 613 Levitical commandments? Notice verse 24 says, "All who keep his commandments." The ones who keep Jesus' commandments abide in him, and he abides in them.

Jesus' command to John's community is found in the Gospel of John. "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another (13:34)." OK, so just love one another; that is easy enough.

Wait a minute! Jesus says, "Just as I have loved you." We are to love one another just as Jesus loved us. In the context of John's Gospel, this means serving each other. This command comes after Jesus washed the feet of all the disciples. Jesus washed the feet of Peter, who denied him. Jesus washed the feet of Judas, who betrayed him. The love Jesus demonstrated was to serve others, even those who may wrong you.

My friends, that is much easier said than done. One of the hardest things I ever had to do in ministry was to serve communion to people who had said just a few days earlier that they did not want me as their pastor. They had given me no grace, so why should I give them the sign of God's grace? I did not want to serve them communion, but I served them because I love Jesus. Because God's love abided in me, I could serve them.

In the context of the Gospel, we show God's love by serving others. The epistle makes the commandment a little more complex. The epistle says the commandment is, "We should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he commanded us."

Let's take a closer look at this two-part commandment. First, we should believe in the name of Jesus. I have mentioned in the past that the Greek word means more than a simple belief. The word means to commit and entrust. We commit ourselves to the name of Jesus.

What does “in the name of Jesus” mean? This phrase has become almost a closing salutation to our prayers. We end our prayers by saying, “In the name of Jesus, amen.” In Biblical times, names were regarded as closely related to the nature of the bearer. “In the name of Jesus” means in the character, spirit, and attitude of Jesus, implying that we are his representatives on Earth.¹ To believe in the name of Jesus is to commit our trust to the character, spirit, and attitude of Jesus. We commit ourselves to be Jesus’ representatives on Earth. We commit to reflect the character, spirit, and attitude of Christ to the world.

Now, we swing back around to the command to love. This command has been ramped up a bit. In the Gospel, love was reflected in service to others. The epistle, says, “We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us- and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters.”

Lay down our lives! We are to be martyred for our brothers and sisters! I am sorry but that is a little too far.

I could agree with that sentiment, but that is not what “Lay down our lives” means. Lay down can also mean to put aside. Life is more accurately translated as self. So, the verse may be translated as, “We know God’s love by this, he put aside his self for us- and we ought to put aside ourself for others.”

Jesus put aside his self so we may know God’s love. Jesus put aside his human will to live for God’s will for eternal life. Jesus put aside any fears or doubts. Jesus put aside anything within himself that might have kept him from demonstrating God’s love. Jesus put aside everything to hang on the cross so we, and all creation, might be restored to God. Jesus put aside his self to express God’s love to the world.

We ought to put aside ourselves to know God’s love. We ought to put aside that within ourselves that keeps us from knowing and reflecting God’s love. Serving communion and passing the Peace of Christ to those who said they no longer wanted me as their pastor meant I had to put aside my hurt and anger. It was not easy. I had to grit my teeth and bite my tongue. I had to put on a smile and tell them the body of Christ was broken for them. I wanted to say, “I want to break your head.”

We ought to put aside ourselves and abide in God’s love. But it is easy to hold on to the anger, guilt, shame, resentment, and other emotions that keep us from knowing God’s love. Loving is hard. Putting aside ourselves is hard. But only by putting aside ourselves, can we know and abide in God’s love.

Each time I put aside my hurt and anger and served communion to those who hurt me, my hurt and anger subsided. One Sunday as I passed the Peace of Christ to someone who had said they wished I could go tomorrow, something happened. I began to feel peace. I felt my hurt and anger toward this person dissipate. I felt the same coming from him. Even though no words were spoken, we were reconciled.

When we put aside ourselves, we may be filled with God’s love. When we put aside all that fills us, blocking God’s Spirit, we can know God’s love. The Spirit will fill us with God’s love. As we know God’s love for us we can reflect God’s love and serve our brothers and sisters. Then, we know we abide in God’s love, and others will see God’s love abiding in us.

¹ William C. Martin, *The Layman’s Bible Encyclopedia*, (Nashville: The Southwestern Company, 1964) 555-556.