

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 25, 2025

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

Greetings, Announcements and Prayer

*Call to Worship
Dear God, You are the One True God.
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit work together as One God.
Father God, You are the Source of all Life.
And You gave the World Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who took
The penalty for the World’s Sins.
God, Your Spirit is the Holy Spirit.
He is our Helper and our Comforter. The Spirit gives us
Your Blessed Assurance, Merciful God.

*Opening Hymn Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” 64

*Opening Prayer
Loving God, You are the Giver of All Life. You are a God of Love. Your mighty and loving Grace is an invaluable gift that none of us, not even the most moral and honorable among us, have earned. You have given us Your Grace freely out of Your abundant and unconditional Love, dear God. Heavenly Father, help us to imitate Your Grace with everyone around us, not just family and friends, but strangers, too, people from all walks of life and all nationalities. Remind us to forgive others just as You have forgiven us, Blessed Father. We ask this in the Mighty and Precious Name of Your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Psalter Reading Psalm 67 791

*Affirmation of Faith The Apostles’ Creed” 881

*Gloria Patri 70
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Passing of the Peace: Let us greet one another with love and peace.

“Let the Children Come!”
(Those 3 years of age through 8 years of age may go to Children’s Church.)

Anthem Lay Down Your Arms” Choir
Scripture Lessons Revelation 21:10, 22:5 Pages 249 & 250 (N.T.)
Acts 16:9-15 Pages 129-130 (N.T.)

*Gospel Lesson John 14:23-29 Page 105 (N.T.)

Sermon As One, Part One Tom Geddens

*Hymn Make Us One” (2x’s) TFWS 2224

Pastoral Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings
Offertory Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology 95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Closing Hymn Blessed Assurance” 369

*Benediction
*Benediction Response May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You” Choir & Congregation

*Please Stand As You Are Able

Leading in Worship Today

Guest Speaker: Tom Geddens AV Director: Marie Stiles
Music Director: Christopher A. McCroskey AV Assistant: Chris Derrick

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.

Today’s Lovely Flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory of all Service Personnel who have passed away in battle and in loving memory of George Hardee, by his family.

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

Patsy Shuler Marilyn Lloyd Tom Lloyd Ruth Frady Libby Strickland Christopher McCroskey
Rhett Hook Diane Muszynski Cristen Hipp Latson Lewis English Pearcy Hannah Glanz
John Ballentine Jeanette Hornsby Ray Frady Kaye Floyd

Shut-Ins: Gillett Hipp; Linda Maloch; Jean Raynor

Family and Friends: **Jim Lewis** (father of Mark Lewis); **Christina Lindemuth** (daughter of Karen Carter); **Steve Tolliver** (father of Kelsey Jones); **Lynn Rhode** (sister of Patsy Shuler); **James Leonard** (previous coworker of Mark Lewis); **Kathleen Varnadore** (Ted & Ruth Frady’s neighbor); **Paul Frenzel** (friend of Chris Derrick); **Sissy Henry** (former member of Trinity); **Sean & Tucker Smith** (cousins of Darlene Kelley); **Sonny Hardee** (brother of Lynn Martin); **Colby Martin** (son of Donna Muszynski); **Lynne Powell** (friend of the Ballentines and Branhams); **Ann Cullum** (friend of Bob Strickland); **Malcolm Skipper** (grandfather of Matthew Skipper); **Bryan Collard** (brother-in-law of Mary Sue Lewis); ; **Charlyn McNeill, Michael McNeill** (sister & brother of Mary Sue Lewis); **Missy Abrams** (stepdaughter of Lissa Abrams); **Mary Davis** (daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland); **Chuck Hardee** (cousin of Lynn Martin); **Bruce Beatty, Sandra Hornsby, Gloria Erd** (friends of Lynn Martin); **Pearl Geddens** (mother of Tom Geddens); **Nancy Wilson** (friend of Jeanette Hornsby); **David Turner** (brother of Pam Turner); **Chip Mixon** (friend of Tommy Gleaton); **James Boggs** (father of Claire Boggs); **Robert Bradley** (Business Associate of Simon Ross); **Monnie Tiller** (friend of Chris Derrick); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Haidee Baehr** (friends of Ruth Frady); **Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson** (cousins of Gale Frady); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (friends of Gale Frady); **Janet Beck** (friend 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 05/18 SS: 11 Worship: 51

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 05/18 \$ 4,729.50

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

TODAY Taste of Trinity

Ministry Team Meeting

05/26 Memorial Day

Office Closed

Exercise Class Will Not Meet

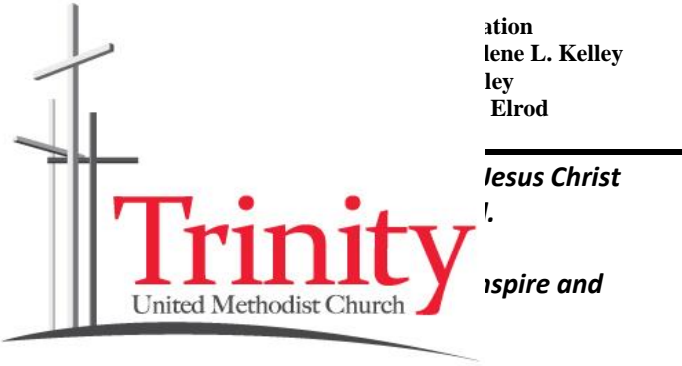
05/28 FH Reserved for District Luncheon, Noon

Choir, 6 p.m.

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

05/29 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

05/30 Office Closed



1201 Mohawk Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169
Telephone: 803.794.7777
E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com
Website: www.trinityumcwc.org

“As One, Part One”

(Read John 14: 23-29)

This is the Word of God for the people of God! Thanks be to God!

Let us pray: Blessed Father, please let Your Holy Spirit guide my words. May these words glorify You, dear God. It is in Jesus’s Holy Name that we pray. Amen.

The verses that I just read from the Gospel of John take place during the Last Supper that Jesus had with His disciples. Throughout this scene in John’s Gospel, Jesus is telling His disciples that He will be going away soon. He is alluding to His impending crucifixion followed by His resurrection. Once He is resurrected, He will appear in the flesh before His disciples a handful of times before ascending to Heaven to be with God the Father.

Jesus therefore is trying to reassure and comfort His disciples. Although He will not be with them in person much longer, His Father will be sending them the Holy Spirit to guide them and enable them in Jesus’ place.

In John 14: 26, Jesus tells His disciples that His Father will send them the Holy Spirit in His name, Jesus’ name. In just that one verse, Jesus succinctly summarizes the glorious unity of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Trinity is comprised of three Divine Persons- God the Father, Jesus, the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit- working in separate divine roles but coming together as One God.

I like how Pastor James Merritt, whom I like to watch on TV on Sunday morning before I come to church, described the Trinity. He said that God the Father is God without skin. He is not in the flesh. Jesus is God with skin. He came to us in the flesh. And the Holy Spirit is God under your skin, the skin of those who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Let us briefly identify the first Person of the Trinity: The Father. Most people, even those who are not Christians, know Him simply as God. And to be honest with you, that is all that you need to call Him! His Name is above all. God the Father is the head of the Trinity. That is because He is the source of all living things. He is our Creator and our Provider. No one and nothing is more powerful than God the Father. I’m a child of the Eighties, so I remember watching the TV show “Highway to Heaven.” Michael Landon and Victor French played angels who helped people in trouble in each episode. If you ever watched that show, you may recall that whenever they referred to God, they always called Him “The Boss.” God the Father is “The Boss” of the Trinity and “The Boss” of all of us.

The Father created all men and women in His image. And He loved all of us- everyone who is living and everyone who has lived- so much that He gave His Only Begotten Son.

And that brings me to the second Person of the Trinity: The Son. Jesus Christ. He was one-hundred percent God, and one-hundred percent Man. Jesus had to come into the world as an innocent baby and grow up to be a Man in order to feel what you and I feel: Pain. Sorrow. Hunger. God the Father could not experience those things, but God the Son, coming in the flesh, could. Jesus therefore knew what our hopes and fears are, knew what it is like to suffer, to bleed, to grieve. He came to take the penalty for our sins.

The third Person of the Holy Trinity is the Holy Spirit. Simply put, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. One of my Bible dictionaries defines the Holy Spirit as “The mysterious power of God.” I find that definition helpful for a couple of reasons. One, the Holy Spirit does appear to be mysterious in comparison to the Father and the Son for most people. And the Holy Spirit is the Power of God. Because the Power of God is a part of Who the Holy Spirit is, people get in the habit of mistakenly referring to the Holy Spirit as an “it” instead of “He.” I’ve been down that road myself a few times. I know that we are in an era where, for better or worse- and I won’t give you my opinion of it at the moment- but pronouns have become a big thing. Well, if you go back to John 14:26, Jesus says of the Holy Spirit, “He will teach you all things.”

Jesus uses a personal pronoun to describe the Holy Spirit, so the Holy Spirit is a Person, a divine Person, not just a source of energy. I listened to a lady in the Epiphany Ministry that I volunteer with. We minister to at-risk youth and incarcerated youth. She was reading from a devotional written for teenagers and the author of the devotional pointed out that the Holy Spirit is not “The Force,” which is a reference, of course, to the movie “Star Wars.” The author made a good point. People have mistakenly likened the Holy Spirit to the Force.

Although the New Testament is where we see the Holy Spirit taking a more visible role in God’s salvation story, He is actually mentioned several times in the Old Testament. In fact, the Holy Spirit is mentioned as early as the second verse of the Bible. Genesis 1:2 says, “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

My favorite reference to the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament is in the 51st Psalm, which is one of the most poignant Psalms that David ever wrote. He wrote the 51st Psalm as a way of painfully and emotionally throwing himself at the mercy of God after Nathan called him on the carpet for his adultery with Bathsheba and for getting her husband Uriah killed on the front lines. If you ever mess up (and I think that we all have!) and you beg God for forgiveness, the 51st Psalm is a powerful one to read. In Psalm 51:11, David writes, “Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.”

David was a man after God’s Own Heart. That is in both the Old and the New Testaments. What did he know about the Holy Spirit that he would plead with God, fearful of the prospect that God would take His Holy Spirit away from him? If you read David’s life story in the two Books of Samuel, you will easily see that he had many close calls during his tumultuous life. He had many ups and downs. I believe David knew exactly what Jesus would be talking about a thousand years later when Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as the Helper. In many translations of the Bible, Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Comforter instead of the Helper in John’s depiction of the Last Supper. I love both of those names!

In times when I have been weighed down by sorrow or confusion, when I have felt anxiety and self-pity swirling around in my heart, I have prayed a prayer like this: “God, I know that Your Holy Spirit is inside me, working as my Helper and my Comforter.” I draw strength from those kinds of prayers. Knowing that the Holy Spirit is working inside gives me God’s blessed assurance.

Earlier, I read this verse: John 14: 23, when Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep my word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”

Let that sink in for a minute. If you love Jesus, obey Him. Our Heavenly Father will not only love you, but He and Jesus will make their home with you. Talk about a happy home! And I have been my happiest when I have felt God and Jesus in my heart. My problem is, and some of y’all may have the same problem, is that I all too often allow the cares of the world to carry me away. I get bogged down in my own frustrations and fears and sometimes announce to the Divine Family: “Okay, everyone: It’s time to go home!”

I want the Father and Jesus to make a home with me! And I know that when they do, they’re bringing the Holy Spirit with them!

Regarding the unity of the Trinity and how the Holy Spirit helps cement that unity, Pastor John Piper probably describes it as eloquently as anyone. He wrote, “It will make a great deal of difference in your life if you believe that you are being indwelt and led and purified not by impersonal forces from a distant God, but a Person Who in His essence is the love of God. When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, He comes not merely as the Spirit of the Son, nor merely as the Spirit of the Father, but as the Spirit of infinite love between the Father and the Son, so that we may love the Father with the very love of the Son and love the Son with the very love of the Father.”

I cannot improve upon Pastor Piper’s beautiful and brilliant words, so I will just briefly say: The Father loves you, the Son died for you, and the Holy Spirit wishes to live inside of you. Three divine Persons working together as One God.

You may have noticed that this sermon's title is "As One, Part One." That means, yes, next Sunday will be Part Two. Today's sermon was about the unity of the Trinity. The sequel next Sunday will be on the unity of practicing Christians!

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! Amen!