

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost		
June 21, 2026		
Gathering		
Welcome		
Announcements and Prayer		
Prelude	Christopher A. McCroskey	
(Prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)		
*Call to Worship (Based on Romans 5:5)		
Hope		
does not disappoint us.		
Hope		
does not put us to shame.		
Because God’s love		
has been poured into our hearts		
through the Holy Spirit, our Comforter,		
who has been given to us, a gift of grace.		
*Opening Hymn	“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (vs. 1-3)	57
*Opening Prayer		
God of such gentle power, whose mighty wind stirred hesitant disciples to become preachers and teachers; whose mighty wind didn’t knock people down but lifted them higher to visions of profound community; bless us with that wind of inspiration today. Your gentle power on Pentecost built the church; your up-building power created a movement that weaves its way to us today. We give you thanks for the fresh winds of the Spirit, the loving and empowering Spirit that abides in hearts, giving insight to see beauty in the midst of routine and moving to help in the presence of need. Amen.		
*Psalter	Psalms 85 <i>Response</i>	806
*Affirmation of Faith	“The Nicene Creed”	880
*Gloria Patri		71
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: <i>Let us greet one another with love and peace.</i>		
“Let the Children Come!”		
(Those 3 years of age through 8 years of age may go to Children’s Church.)		
Anthem		Choir
Scripture Lesson	Romans 6:1b-11	Pages 147-148 (N.T.)

*Gospel Lesson	Matthew 10:24-39	Pages 15-16 (N.T.)
Scripture Lesson	Genesis 21:8-21	Pages 16-17 (O.T.)
Sermon	God Hears Your Cry	Tom Geddens
*Hymn of Invitation	“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”	140
Prayer to the Holy Spirit		329
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	“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”	TFWS 2146
*Benediction		
*Benediction Response	“May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You”	Choir & Congregation

*Please Stand As You Are Able

Leading in Worship Today

Worship Leader:	Tom Geddens	AV Director:	Marie Stiles
Music Director:	Christopher A. McCroskey	AV Assistant:	Chris Derrick; Erin Derrick
Guest Speaker:	Tom Geddens	Time Together:	Joyce Robinson; Slone Taylor
Liturgist:	Michael Kaven		

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**.

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

Hilda Edwards	Marilyn Lloyd	Ruth Frady	Rhett Hook	Raleigh Carter	Christopher McCroskey
John Ballentine	Diane Muszynski	Ray Frady	Latson Lewis	English Percy	Jeanette Hornsby
Hannah Glanz	Arvan Derrick	Fran Laska	Kaye Floyd	Libby Strickland	Jan Stamps
Jack Stevens					

Shut-Ins: Nell Cooke; Gillett Hipp; Linda Maloch

Family and Friends: **Vicary Whitaker** (*sister of Edwa Meek*); **Jack Reeves** (*uncle of Mary Sue Lewis*); **Wayne Gunter** (*uncle of Tony Scott*); **Marty Johnson** (former member); **Otis A. McCroskey** (*father of Christopher McCroskey*); **Connie Crouch** (*friend of Mary Sue Lewis*); **Kristie Carter** (*niece of Faye Grahl*); **George Hough** (*brother of Mary Louise Robinson*); **Cody Linholm** (*husband of Taylor Linholm*); **Donna Eidson** (*former Trinity pastor*); **Ghent Brewer** (*brother-in-law of Jeanette Hornsby*); **Kim & Sandra Meetze** (*friends of Martha Cooke*); **Matt Imel** (*husband of Holley Gleaton Imel*); **Cayla Watters** (*friend of Karen Carter*); **Tommy Stokes** (*nephew of Joyce Robinson*); **Kati Flowers** (*mother of friend of Blake Kamoroff*); **Christina Lindemuth** (*daughter of Karen Carter*); **Kathleen Varnadore** (*Ted & Ruth Frady’s neighbor*); **Paul Frenzel** (*friend of Chris Derrick*); **Sissy Henry** (*former member of Trinity*), **Colby Martin** (*son of Donna Muszynski*); **Lynne Powell** (*friend of the Ballentines and Branhams*); **Bryan Collard** (*brother-in-law of Mary Sue Lewis*); **Mary Davis** (*daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland*); **Connie Mason** (*friend of Lynn Martin*); **Nancy Wilson** (*friend of Jeanette Hornsby*); **David & Kristen Turner** (*brother and sister-in-law 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 06/14 SS: 14 Worship: 31

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 06/14 \$ 1,021.00

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

TODAY Father’s Day

06/22 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

06/23 GLIA Articles Due

06/24 T.a.G., 7 p.m.

06/25 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

(Last Class for the Summer)

06/26 Office Closed

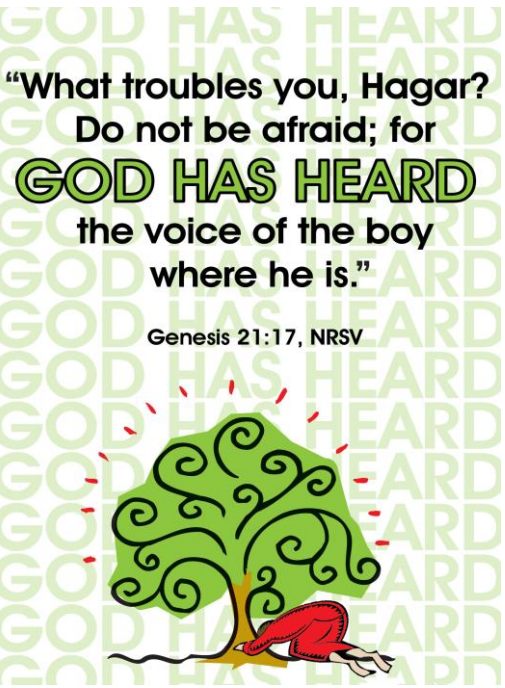


Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

The Congregation
Darlene L. Kelley
Leonard Fairley
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



Genesis 21:17, NRSV

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Sunday, June 28**

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held on **June 28**. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and fellowship!



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While we don't have anything scheduled for June, we will continue our Love Your Neighbor Ministry on **July 15** and **August 12** as we once again host some of the residents at Trinity. We will have additional information in July's GLIA.



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“God Hears Your Cry”

Tom Geddens

June 21, 2026

(Read Genesis 21:8-21)

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

Let us pray: Almighty God, remind us, dear Lord, that you hear the cries of Your children, that we are all precious to you. We thank You, God, for hearing our cries and giving us comfort and strength. In the Name of Your Son Jesus we pray. Amen.

The story that I just read to you from the first book of the Bible may be confusing if you are either not familiar with it or have forgotten many of the details leading up to it, so I will give you a quick version of the backstory. Abraham and Sarah were elderly and had not conceived a child. Although God promised Abraham that he would not only have a son but the son would be a part of a very important seed line (in fact, the most important seed line of all time, and more on that later), Abraham and Sarah became distressed when they kept trying to have a child but it had not happened. God made a promise to them, but they began doubting. We should all remember that God keeps His promises.

Abraham was 86 years-old and Sarah was 76. So one day, Sarah basically said to Abraham, “We’re no spring chickens and we need an heir. Why don’t you go to bed with Hagar?” Hagar was an Egyptian woman and a bondservant or slave to Sarah. It does not sound as though Sarah had to twist Abraham’s arm. He went to bed with Hagar. Don’t you love a man who obeys his wife? Anyway, Hagar gave birth to a son. He was named Ishmael, which means, “God hears.”

Flash forward. Abraham is now an incredible 100 years-old and his wife Sarah is 90 when she miraculously gives birth to the son that God had promised them: Isaac. Two or three years later, Isaac was weaned. What does “weaned,” w-e-a-n-e-d, mean? In Biblical days, it was when a child was no longer going to be nursed on mother’s milk and was now ready for solid food. Because the infant mortality rate was so high, as you can imagine, during Biblical days, parents would throw a joyous feast for the child in celebration. It was like saying, “Wow! Thank You, God, for allowing our precious child to make it this far!”

So that is where we pick up in our Old Testament reading this morning. Abraham and Sarah are throwing this feast in celebration of Isaac’s weaning. It was at this feast when Genesis 21:9 says that Sarah caught Ishmael laughing at Isaac. What made Ishmael laugh? We are not told. Ishmael was a teenager by this time. Isaac, young as he was, may have stumbled or tripped or did something awkward that caused Ishmael to laugh. Sarah felt highly insulted and she demanded that Abraham banish Hagar and Ishmael from their household.

After reading Abraham's story in Genesis, I cannot help thinking that at this point, Abraham probably thought to himself, "How do I keep getting into these messes?"

So Abraham prays to God and God tells him to do what Sarah has demanded him to do. Now, I cannot be the first person to read that in the Bible and to think, "Now God, why didn't You just tell Abraham to tell Sarah that she just needs to relax? Boys will be boys. It's not the end of the world!" It reminds me that we tend to forget all too often that God has a plan. We get displeased with God-I know I have several times-when moments in our lives do not work out as we would have liked. But we need to keep our trust in God because He does have a plan. And He shares His plan with Abraham, telling him that "in Isaac your seed shall be called."

God meant that Isaac would be an important player in what I called earlier the most important seed line of all time. Isaac would have two sons, one of whom was Jacob, Jacob would have 12 sons, one of whom was Joseph, and so on and so forth over many generations until finally we come to a carpenter in Nazareth named Joseph, whose wife would have a baby in a manger.

Genesis 21:14 tells us that Abraham banishes Hagar and Ishmael and hands them a single skin of water for their journey. This was the equivalent in their day of a canteen of water. So, if you have ever been hiking and carried a canteen of water, you know that that canteen only holds so much water. Their water runs out and they are in a barren land with no body of water in sight. Genesis 21:15 reveals that Hagar "placed the boy under one of the shrubs."

If you did not read the chapters preceding this scene in the Bible, you can be forgiven if you mistakenly believe that Ishmael must have been a small boy at this time. He was not. Ishmael was seventeen years-old or thereabouts. His strength was therefore going fast, obviously faster than his mother's. Hagar was having to hold him up instead of him holding her up.

Genesis 21:16 says, "Then she went and sat down across from him at a distance of about a bowshot." That is an interesting choice of words- "bowshot"- to describe the distance between mother and son in light of her son's future. Genesis 21:16 continues, "for she said to herself, 'Let me not see the death of the boy.'" So she sat opposite him and lifted her voice and wept."

That has got to be the most heartbreaking verse in Genesis. But then what follows is one of the most uplifting: "And God heard the cry of the boy. Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of Heaven, and said to her, 'What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the cry of the boy where he is.'"

We see now the fulfillment of Ishmael's name. Recall that his name means, "God hears."

And that, my brothers and sisters, is the big takeaway of the plight of Hagar and Ishmael: God hears your cry. Moreover, He hears your cry where you are. Where are you right now? Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Are you estranged from a family member? Are you suffering from a disease? Are you in the throes of addiction? Are you being abused?

It does not matter who you are or where you are. God hears your cry. He does not want you to suffer. He created you, He loves you, and He sent His only begotten Son to die for you. And it is through His Son and His Son only that you will receive everlasting life.

Twenty years ago, I met a woman who was coming off a volatile marriage and we began seeing each other. She was a fellow Christian and we would talk about how God had set us up. She wrote me once in an e-mail, “I love you more than I should right now, but I don’t worry about it, because God set us up.” Around that same time, many of you may remember a woman who was coming to our church who has since gone on to be with the Lord by the name of Shirley Scurry. If you were ever blessed enough to have met Shirley Scurry, you will recall that she was a very tenderhearted woman who was always smiling and loved Jesus. And she was always handing out these little gifts to all the folks here at church. That is probably what most of us remember about Shirley: She had a God-given gift for giving gifts.

My girlfriend never met Shirley. But I would show her every gift that Shirley gave me. Shirley was always paying me compliments and a compliment from Shirley was a warm source of pride for me. I would share every compliment that Shirley paid me with my girlfriend.

My girlfriend had a room in her house that she called her craft room where she would make a variety of crafts. She loved making wreaths for doors. One day when I went to her house, she had me follow her into her craft room. She walked over to the big table in the middle of the room where she made her crafts and picked up this big, beautiful wreath. She turned to me, holding up the wreath, and said, “Here: I want you to give this to Shirley.” I was so touched! “Oh, honey!” I said. “This is so beautiful and this is so thoughtful of you! Shirley is going to love this!”

And she did love it. I gave the wreath to her at church the next Sunday. This woman who had perfected the gift of giving gifts was in disbelief that someone had given her a gift! Shirley’s eyes were like saucers as she asked me over and over, “This is for me? This is for me?” She loved the wreath. And wouldn’t you know, the next Sunday, she presented me with a gift to take back and give to my girlfriend. That was the Shirley Scurry whom we all knew and loved: She was not about to be outdone in the Gift-Giving Department!

My girlfriend eventually ended our relationship. She ended up remarrying and, as I am sure you can guess, her second husband was not me. I was heartbroken. I prayed to God often

about my heartbreak and often my prayers to Him were bitter and self-pitying. I would say, "God, I thought You set us up. Why did You bring us together only to tear us apart?"

But God heard my cries where I was at. Those of you who remember Shirley Scurry remember that she one day stopped coming to Trinity on a regular basis but would still come here on occasion. And on those occasions, Shirley never failed to say to me, "I still got your old girlfriend's wreath on my front door!" She said to me one Sunday, "I've got a funny story about that wreath. An old friend of mine called me one day and said, 'Shirley, I was afraid that you had died!' And I said, 'You thought I had died! Why would you think that?' And she said, 'Because I drove by your house one day and saw this big wreath on your front door! And I thought that meant that you had died! So I started calling people and asking them, 'Did Shirley Scurry die?'"

Shirley got a big laugh out of that!

As I said earlier, when I was nursing my heartbreak over my old girlfriend ending our romance, I cried out to God many times in prayers that were tightly wrapped in anger, heartache, frustration and self-pity. And I know that God heard my cries. He heard me where I was. Over time, the Holy Spirit laid on my heart His answer to my question as to what had been His will for my failed romance. It was to bring a little joy to a special woman with a huge heart for giving gifts. My old girlfriend, out of the kindness and the love in her heart, made a special gift for a special woman whom she had never even met before. She just heard me talking about her. Shirley Scurry has since gone on to be with the Lord. The woman who loved giving gifts has received the gift of eternal life. I give God thanks for my old love giving Shirley a little bit of love before she left us.

As with Ishmael, God hears your cry where you are. In the name of God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ and our Comforter the Holy Spirit. Amen.