

## ***Eighth Sunday after Pentecost***

July 14, 2024

Welcome and Announcements  
Birthday Celebration

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

Call to Worship "Let There Be Peace on Earth" Choir  
Greeting

\*Hymn "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" 384  
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.)*

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 55:6-12 Page 650 (O.T.)  
Psalter Psalm 51:1-17 785-786

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Page 165 (N.T.)  
Gospel Reading Matthew 27:11-14 Pages 34-35 (N.T.)  
Sermon "Love Heals" Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

\*Hymn "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" TFWS 2223

\*Affirmation of Faith "Affirmation from Romans" 887  
\*Gloria Patri "Glory Be to the Father" 70

Pastoral Prayer

Confession and Pardon 890  
Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings  
Offertory Choir  
\*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

The Great Thanksgiving 13-14  
Breaking of the Bread

\*Hymn "One Bread, One Body" 620

\*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: Darlene L. Kelley Time Together: Ruth Frady  
Music Director: Christopher A. McCroskey

**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 **Paul Lagatore** on his birthday July 4 and the anniversary of his death today, 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	Ruth Frady	Becky Derrick
Patsy Shuler	John Ballentine	Jimmy Grahl	Latson Lewis	Pam Turner	Ray Frady

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

**Family and Friends:** **Gayle Messer** (*friend of Laurie Knapp*); **Deanne Summer** (*partner of Martha Cooke*); **Kelsey Molotsky** (*granddaughter of friend of Bob Strickland*); **Meg Sansbury**; **Mary Ann Rentz** (*stepmother of Marty Johnson*); **Mary Perry** (*friend of Marty Johnson*); **Chantel Griffin** (*sister of Erin Derrick*); **Russell Eubanks** (*son-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting*); **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*); **Lawrence Gilbert** (*friend of Becky Derrick*); **Bob Bohnstengel** (*spouse of Jo Ann Heiting's cousin*); **Missy Abrams** (*stepdaughter of Lissa Abrams*); **Mary Davis** (*daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland*); **Sandra Hornsby, Gloria Erd** (*friends 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*); **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*); **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 07/07 SS: 11      Worship: 36

**OUR GIFTS ...**

General Fund 07/07 \$ 4,089.77

**OUR SERVICE...**

**OUR WITNESS.”**

**Upcoming Events**

07/15 Exercise, 10:30 a.m

07/18 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

07/19 Office Closed



Ministers  
Pastor  
Resident Bishop  
District Superintendent

The Congregation  
Darlene L. Kelley  
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***



**HOLY COMMUNION**

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The Trinity Ladies Group **will not meet** in July. There **will** be an outing on **August 10**. The plan is to go to Laura's Tea Room in Ridgeway. Reservations are for 11:30 a.m. Contact Marie Stiles at (803) 463-9706 if you are interested in being added to the group email and text for notification.

### **T.a.G. Group**

The T.a.G. Group **will not meet** in July and August. They will resume meeting on Wednesday, September 4, at 7 p.m.



**Sunday, July 28**

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

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



Marie Stiles has provided new name tags. Please remember to wear the name tags so Pastor Darlene Kelley and her husband, Craig, can learn our names.

Also, please remember to keep them on during Time Together and Taste of Trinity. A basket will be provided for you to put them in as you leave.



A sign-up sheet for Liturgists (Lay Readers) is on the round table in the Gathering Area. The readings for the next six Sundays can be found beside it. If you would be willing to read either the Old Testament Reading or the Epistle Reading for one of those Sundays, please list your name and indicate which reading you have chosen.

Trinity United Methodist Church

Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

July 14, 2024

Love Heals

During my fifteenth summer on this glorious globe, I got a worker's permit and started my first real job as the counter-girl at the Catonsville Dunkin' Donuts. I had pink yarn for the end of my pig tails, which matched my pink uniform, and I served up coffee and French crullers, and by the time I was ready to move on, I'd worked my way up to "donut finisher"...which sounds like a lot more fun than it is.

But that job at Dunkin' Donuts had a great impact on the trajectory of my life because it was the first time I realized I could serve a donut and coffee to someone and make a little money for it.

So for nearly a third of my life, I was one of those stereotypical actresses, going on auditions and slingin' hash and pouring beer and generally coming between folks and their grub. There were a few busy days behind the taps in Greenwich Village when I coulda sworn I served a cold one to half the planet.

So, I guess what I'm trying to say is, I've talked to a whole lot of people from all over the world. I've heard a lot of stories, a lot of bad jokes, more cussing than most sailors, and more bad lines than a cargo container full of Hallmark cards.

But the one thing I've never ever heard anybody say is "I've got too much love. I'm overwhelmed by the love surrounding me.... One more hug, compliment or display of affection and I'm a goner".

John Wesley said, "An ounce of love is worth a pound of knowledge", and that's a quote that makes me glad to be a Methodist.

The foundation of our faith is love; the fruits of our faith are love, joy and peace but there are days, many days when it's easy to forget that.

And some days it's harder than others, but we can look to Christ as our model. We can love because He first loved us.

And we can learn how to love, and we can grow into love.

And with lots of prayer and a little work, we can grow into healthier, happier relationships.

If you're wondering why I choose this morning's Gospel message instead of following the lectionary, which will be what I usually do...it's because I wanted to share one of my favorite examples of following Christ, an example that's helped me be a little healthier and happier, a model for the difference between reacting and responding.

All the Gospels contain a very similar version of this story. Jesus is standing trial, brought before Pilate and then Herod, and they try to test him; but Jesus doesn't play their games. He never explains himself. He never defends himself. He stands firm. He is the perfect example of calm confidence.

And he's a model for us. So pay attention this week to how you respond or react. When tested do you stand in calm confidence or do you find yourself doing a lot of defending and explaining?

Do you give yourself time to take a deep breath and say a little prayer, surrender your feelings to God before you take hold of an offense or return a hurt? How can we all learn to follow Christ

more closely? And what does following the example of Christ mean for our church? I think when we love like Jesus, not only do we help heal the world, but we attract others. We can be true fishers of people, and our bait is love. Radical Love...Jesus Love!

In his book *The Kingdom of God Is a Party*, Tony Campolo relates an experience he had late one night in Hawaii. After speaking at a conference and not being able to sleep from hunger and jet lag, Campolo leaves the hotel in search of a meal. This is what he writes:

*Up a side street I found a little place that was still open. I went in, took a seat on one of the stools at the counter, and waited to be served. This was one of those sleazy places that deserves the name, "greasy spoon." I did not even touch the menu. I was afraid that if I opened the thing something gruesome would crawl out. But it was the only place I could find.*

*The fat guy behind the counter came over and asked me, "What d'ya want?"*

*I said I wanted a cup of coffee and a donut.*

*He poured a cup of coffee, wiped his grimy hand on his smudged apron, and then he grabbed a donut off the shelf behind him. I'm a realist. I know that in the back room of that restaurant, donuts are probably dropped on the floor and kicked around. But when everything is out front where I could see it, I really would have appreciated it if he had used a pair of tongs and placed the donut on some wax paper.*

*As I sat there munching on my donut and sipping my coffee at 3:30 in the morning, the door of the diner suddenly swung open and, to my discomfort, in marched eight or nine provocative and boisterous prostitutes.*

*It was a small place, and they sat on either side of me. Their talk was loud and crude. I felt completely out of place and was just about to make my getaway when I overheard the woman beside me say, "Tomorrow's my birthday. I'm going to be 39."*

*Her "friend" responded in a nasty tone, "So what do you want from me? A birthday party? What do you want? Ya want me to get you a cake and sing 'Happy Birthday'?"*

*"Come on," said the woman sitting next to me. "Why do you have to be so mean? I was just telling you, that's all. Why do you have to put me down? I was just telling you it was my birthday. I don't want anything from you. I mean, why should you give me a birthday party? I've never had a birthday party in my whole life. Why should I have one now?"*

*When I heard that, I made a decision. I sat and waited until the women had left. Then I called over the fat guy behind the counter, and I asked him, "Do they come in here every night?"*

*"Yeah!" he answered.*

*"The one right next to me, does she come here every night?"*

*"Yeah!" he said. "That's Agnes. Yeah, she comes in here every night. Why d'ya wanta know?"*

*"Because I heard her say that tomorrow is her birthday," I told him. "What do you say you and I do something about that? What do you think about us throwing a birthday party for her—right here—tomorrow night?"*

*A cute smile slowly crossed his chubby cheeks, and he answered with measured delight, "That's great! I like it! That's a great idea!"*

*Calling to his wife, who did the cooking in the back room, he shouted, "Hey! Come out here! This guy's got a great idea. Tomorrow's Agnes's birthday. This guy wants us to go in with him and*

*throw a birthday party for her—right here—tomorrow night!"*

*His wife came out of the back room all bright and smiley. She said, "That's wonderful! You know Agnes is one of those people who is really nice and kind, and nobody does anything nice and kind for her."*

*"Look," I told them, "if it's okay with you, I'll get back here tomorrow morning about 2:30 and decorate the place. I'll even get a birthday cake!"*

*"No way," said Harry (that was his name). "The birthday cake's my thing. I'll make the cake."*

*At 2:30 the next morning, I was back at the diner. I had picked up some crepe-paper decorations at the store and had made a sign out of big pieces of cardboard that read, "Happy Birthday, Agnes!" I decorated the diner from one end to the other. I had that diner looking good.*

*The woman who did the cooking must have gotten the word out on the street, because by 3:15 every prostitute in Honolulu was in the place. It was wall-to-wall prostitutes and me!*

*At 3:30 on the dot, the door of the diner swung open, and in came Agnes and her friend. I had everybody ready (after all, I was kind of the M.C. of the affair) and when they came in we all screamed, "Happy birthday!"*

*Never have I seen a person so flabbergasted so stunned so shaken. Her mouth fell open. Her legs seemed to buckle a bit. Her friend grabbed her arm to steady her. As she was led to sit on one of the stools along the counter, we all sang "Happy Birthday" to her.*

*As we came to the end of our singing with "happy birthday, dear Agnes, happy birthday to you," her eyes moistened. Then, when the birthday cake with all the candles on it was carried out, she lost it and just openly cried.*

*Harry gruffly mumbled, "Blow out the candles, Agnes! Come on! Blow out the candles! If you don't blow out the candles, I'm gonna hafta blow out the candles." And, after an endless few seconds, he did. Then he handed her a knife and told her, "Cut the cake, Agnes. Yo, Agnes, we all want some cake."*

*Agnes looked down at the cake. Then without taking her eyes off it, she slowly and softly said, "Look, Harry, is it all right with you if I mean is it okay if I kind of what I want to ask you is is it O.K. if I keep the cake a little while? I mean, is it all right if we don't eat it right away?"*

*Harry shrugged and answered, "Sure! It's O.K. If you want to keep the cake, keep the cake. Take it home, if you want to."*

*"Can I?" she asked. Then, looking at me, she said, "I live just down the street a couple of doors. I want to take the cake home, okay? I'll be right back. Honest!"*

*She got off the stool, picked up the cake, and carrying it like it was the Holy Grail, walked slowly toward the door. As we all just stood there motionless, she left. When the door closed, there was a stunned silence in the place. Not knowing what else to do, I broke the silence by saying, "What do you say we pray?"*

*Looking back on it now, it seems more than strange for a sociologist to be leading a prayer meeting with a bunch of prostitutes in a diner in Honolulu at 3:30 in the morning. But then it just felt like the right thing to do. I prayed for Agnes. I prayed for her salvation. I prayed that her life would be changed and that God would be good to her.*

*When I finished, Harry leaned over the counter and with a trace of hostility in his voice, he said, "Hey! You never told me you were a preacher. What kind of church do you belong to?"*

*In one of those moments when just the right words came, I answered, "I belong to a church that throws birthday parties for prostitutes at 3:30 in the morning."*

*Harry waited a moment and then almost sneered as he answered, "No you don't. There's no church like that. If there was, I'd join it. I'd join a church like that!"*

*Wouldn't we all? Wouldn't we all like to join a church that throws birthday parties for prostitutes at 3:30 in the morning? Well, that's the kind of church that Jesus came to create!*

Thank you, Tony Campolo! I love that story.

And I pray we can create a church full of love here at Trinity....a church full of GRACE, a church that practices Jesus Love.

Because if we love folks...we'll help heal the world, we'll be doing God's work, and we will truly be God's people!

Pray with me:

God of Unfailing love,

Help us to love you with our whole heart, and help us to love our neighbors so well that we become a beacon of your grace. Amen.