

***Tenth Sunday after Pentecost***  
**July 28, 2024**

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

Greetings, Announcements & Prayer

\*Call To Worship  
A summer stillness rests in each morning.  
**See how good God is.**  
Long days of light, warm air and sunbeams.  
**Praise our God, our Creator!**  
Summer wonder, summer rest, summer worship.  
**For life and for love, for the joys of summer—  
let all the people sing praises to God!**

\*Opening Hymn *“Gather Us In”* TFWS 2236

\*Opening Prayer  
**God of Miracles,**  
**You came into our world to share with us the New Life that begins now and transcends death.**  
**When we fall away, loving God, call us back. When we can’t hear your voice above the buzzing of**  
**the world around us, loving God, call to us again and again. Help us to be mindful and present.**  
**Help us to breathe in your grace, for we wait for you to come into our lives in a new way. Heal us**  
**and make us your own, and guide our feet always into the ways of your peace and love. Amen**

\*Affirmation of Faith *“A Modern Affirmation”* 885

\*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.**

Old Testament Lesson 2 Samuel 11:1-15 Pages 279-280 (O.T.)  
\*Psalter Psalm 14 746-747

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

Anthem *“Break Thou the Bread of Life”* Choir

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

Scripture Lessons Ephesians 3:14-21 Page 183 (N.T.)  
John 6:1-21 Page 94 (N.T.)

Sermon *“Hope”* Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

\*Hymn of Invitation *“Spirit of the Living God”* 393

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 and ever. 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 *“My Hope Is Built”* 368

\*Dismissal With Benediction

\*Benediction Response *“May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You”* Choir

\*Please Stand As You Are Able

***Leading in Worship Today***

Pastor: Rev. Darlene L. Kelley AV Director: Marie Stiles  
Music Director: Christopher A. McCroskey AV Assistant: Chris Derrick  
Liturgist: Sue Ballentine

**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	Ruth Frady
Patsy Shuler	John Ballentine	Jimmy Grahl	Latson Lewis	Becky Derrick

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

**Family and Friends:** *Ima Thibodeaux (friend of Christopher McCroskey); Keith Jordan (nephew of John & Kay Jordan); Deanne Summer (partner of Martha Cooke); Kelsey Molotsky (granddaughter of friend of Bob Strickland); Meg Sansbury; Mary Perry (friend of Marty Johnson); Chantel & Dave Griffin (sister and brother-in-law 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 ...**

In-Person Attendance 07/21 SS: 8      Worship: 36

**OUR GIFTS ...**

General Fund 07/21      \$ 5,373.23

**OUR SERVICE ...**

**OUR WITNESS.”**

**Upcoming Events**

**TODAY** Taste of Trinity

Administrative Team and Ministry Team Joint Meeting

**07/29** Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

**08/02** Office Closed

**Readings for August 4**

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

Psalms 51:1-17

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35



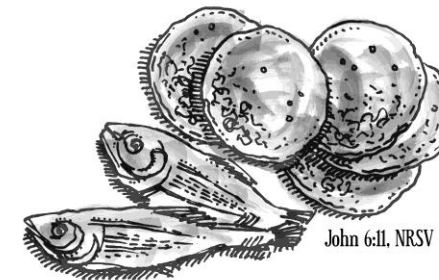
**Ministers**  
**Pastor**  
**Resident Bishop**  
**District Superintendent**

**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**

Then Jesus took the loaves,  
and when he had given thanks,  
he distributed them to those  
who were seated; so also the fish,  
as much as they wanted.



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### Today

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held today following the service. Plan to stay and enjoy this wonderful opportunity to share great food and fellowship!

### Administrative and Ministry Teams Joint Meeting Sunday, July 28

The Administrative Team and Ministry Team will have a joint meeting immediately following Taste of Trinity.



### Sunday, August 4 During the Worship Service

On Sunday, August 4, we will pray over the children and all current and past school workers. We want to send our pupils back to school with the blessings of the Lord to watch over them and help them have an amazing school year.

### 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.

### Exercise Class

The Exercise Class **will not meet in August**. They will resume classes on Thursday, September 5.



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.



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.



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.

Trinity United Methodist Church

July 28, 2024

Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

## Hope

*“Hope” is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul -  
And sings the tune without the words -  
And never stops - at all -  
~ Emily Dickinson*

*We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.  
~Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*Hope is the pillar that holds up the world. Hope is the dream of a waking man.  
~Pliny the Elder*

But for those of us working to follow Christ, perhaps, Paul says it best.  
He certainly says it over and over in Romans: *Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope (5:3 & 4).*

Romans 12:12 ~ *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*

Romans 8:24-25 ~ *For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

And in his letter to the Hebrews, Paul talks about hope based on the enduring promises of God.

*For God is not unjust; Paul assures us, he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. <sup>11</sup> And we want each one of you to show the same diligence, so as to realize the full assurance of hope to the very end, <sup>12</sup> so that you may not become sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises (Hebrews 6: 10-12).*

Paul continues:

*Human beings, of course, swear by someone greater than themselves, and an oath given as confirmation puts an end to all dispute. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, when God desired to show even more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it by an oath, <sup>18</sup> so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God would prove false, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us.*

*<sup>19</sup> We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest for ever.... (Hebrews 6: 16-20).*

*Seize the hope set before us!* That feels like words to live by. *Seize the hope set before us....* because once again...it's not about us...it's about God. We have Jesus "a forerunner on our behalf".

So, just like we can love because God first loved us, so we can have hope based on the promises of God. It's not about our piety, our worthiness, our goodness...it's about God's goodness. It's about Jesus.

And I don't know about you, but I'm always relieved whenever I'm reassured that it's not about us.

And this morning, we learn that the crowds are gathering. They are following Jesus because he is healing people. He gives sight to the blind; he lifts the lame so they walk again. And the crowd grows, and now it's a "large crowd". John tells us there are thousands.

And it's getting late and it's time to eat and the crowd is hungry, but where is a store to buy food for all of these people, and how would we ever raise enough money to buy all that's needed?

Then John tells us: *One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' <sup>10</sup> Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.'*

*Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all.*

*Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.*

*When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.*

*When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'*

We know this story. We've heard it before, but how amazing to take it in again—twelve baskets of leftovers! *Seize the hope set before us!* God's grace is abundant.

Seize hope. Expect miracles.

Now, as modern folk, we may wrestle a bit here and there with miracles. We may be discouraged in our faith, living in a world that scoffs at the miraculous and has so much respect for the cold, hard facts. We've been watching a whole lot of CSI.

We know it's only the evidence that doesn't lie.

We may be left doing a balancing act in a world that no longer expects the miraculous. Yet, the feeding of the five thousand is a great illustration not only of the miraculous but also of God's bounty.

Seize hope. Expect miracles. Believe in abundance.

The crowd is hungry. Where will they buy so much bread?

*'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' <sup>10</sup> Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all (6:9 & 10).*

Jesus told them to sit down, and he gave thanks to God Almighty—just as He will at the Last Supper, and he distributed the loaves among the hungry thousands, and John tells us:

*When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' <sup>13</sup> So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup> When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world' (6:12 & 13).*

Seize hope. Expect miracles. Believe in abundance, for with Jesus *nothing may be lost*.

There are a few postmodern scholars who suggest the feeding of the five thousand, which is recorded in all of the Gospels, may have been a “stone soup” kind of miracle. Do you remember the story of the stone soup?

In a hungry town that had very few resources, a man puts a stone in a big pot of water, puts it over a fire and declares that he is making “Stone Soup”. If only he had an onion, he muses to the gathering townspeople, the soup would be perfect. And someone comes up with an onion.

Soon others are contributing to the stone soup and when folks start to share the little bits and pieces they have, a real pot of soup is created and the whole town eats.

Skeptics may appreciate that interpretation of events. They're looking for a logical explanation for how two fish and five loaves of bread fed thousands of people.

But a logical explanation takes some of the magic out of the story for me. Jesus becomes a little more human and far less Divine, and for the record, I don't need a logical explanation. I've dated too many men to worship one of them. Yet, perhaps either way you look at it—there's a miracle passing through the crowd that day along with the loaves and the fishes.

And the feeding of the five thousand is just the beginning.

Later, after his disciples left to cross the lake to Capernaum:

*the lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup> When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup> But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid' (6:18-20).*

Jesus came to the boat walking across the water. This one may be a bit harder for the skeptics to explain—even the disciples were freaked out at this one. John tells us they were “terrified”. “It is I, do not be afraid” Jesus assures them, like he has so many times, and then the boat is at shore (6:20).

Performing miracle after miracle, sign after sign, Jesus healed them; he fed them; he walked among them

Seize hope. Expect miracles. Believe in abundance. It's all about Jesus.

*When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'*

The people who ate the loaves and fishes and witnessed twelve bushels of leftovers being gathered that nothing would be lost—the people are so impressed with Jesus they want *to take him by force to make him king*. How impressed are we?

Do we believe in miracles? Are we ready to: Seize hope. Expect miracles. Believe in abundance.

Because it's all about Jesus, and when we expect miracles...we'll get miracles. Amen.

Will you pray with me? O God of miracles, help us to believe. Help us to grow in faith, walk in obedience and trust in your promises this hour and all the days of our lives.

Amen.