

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 9, 2025

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

Greetings, Announcements & Prayer
Birthday Celebration

*Call to Worship
In beauty and mystery,
We see the face of God.
In the common and the ordinary,
We know the love of Christ.
In the song and in the embrace,
We share the joy of faith.
In word and in deed,
Let us worship our God of love!

*Opening Hymn *"I've Got Peace Like a River"* TFWS 2145

*Opening Prayer
God of Wisdom and Power,
Speak to us this day. Open our ears and our minds to hear your words. Awaken our hearts to respond with love. Inspire our actions that we might serve others with confidence and commitment. Envelop us in your love that believing, hoping, and enduring may become our way of life, for we pray in the name of the One who created and called us, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*Psalter Psalm 138 853-854
*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 the Children Come!" Erin Derrick
(Those 3 years of age through 8 years of age may go to Children's Church.)

Anthem *"Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord"* Choir
Scripture Readings Isaiah 6:1-13 Pages 605-606 (O.T.)
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Pages 166-167 (N.T.)

Gospel Reading Luke 5:1-11 Page 62 (N.T.)

Homily *"The Humility of Peter"* Tom Geddens

*Hymn *"Two Fishermen"* TFWS 2101

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 *"Here I Am, Lord"* 593

*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*
Time Together: *Jack Stevens; Pam Turner*

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	Patsy Shuler	Marilyn Lloyd	Tom Lloyd	Ruth Frady	Christopher McCroskey
Kathy Aiello	Diane Muszynski	Latson Lewis	English Pearcy	Ray Frady	Hannah Glanz
Kaye Floyd	Libby Strickland				

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

Family and Friends: **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); **Bobby Johnson** (friend of Billy Pearson); **Rev. Donna Eidson** (former pastor of Trinity); **Ima Thibodeaux** (friend of Christopher McCroskey); **Keith Jordan** (nephew of John & Kay Jordan); **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); **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); **James Boggs** (father of Claire Boggs); **Bill Areheart** (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); **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 02/02 SS: 9 Worship: 25

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 02/02 \$ 7,552.50

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

TODAY Birthday Celebration

Super Bowl Sunday

02/10 Exercise, Class, 10:30 a.m.

02/11 Grieving with God, 11 a.m.

02/12 Choir, 6 p.m.

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

02/13 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

02/14 Office Closed

02/15 Trinity Ladies Group, 9:30 a.m.

@ Lizard's Thicket Hwy 1

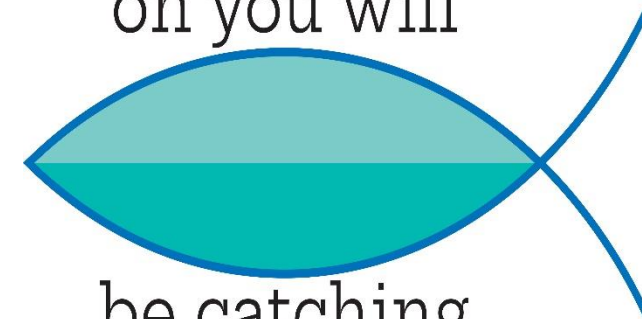


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lene L. Kelley
ley
Elrod

Jesus Christ

inspire and

“From now
on you will



be catching
people.”

LUKE 5:10, NRSV

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E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com
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Souper Bowl Sunday



Today is **Souper Bowl Sunday** and the children and youth will be collecting donations for a local charity. Please give generously to help those less fortunate.



Grieving with God
Tuesday, February 11

All who are on the journey of grief are invited to join us each second Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room of the church. Retired Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplain from Richland Hospital, Jerry Fonte, facilitates discussion,



Saturday, February 15

The Trinity Ladies Group will meet at Lizard's Thicket on Hwy 1 at 9:30 a.m. on **Saturday, February 15**. They will be meeting on the third Saturday of each month. Contact Marie Stiles at (803) 463-9706 if you are interested in being added to the group email and text for notification



Safe
Sanctuary Training

Sunday, February 16
Following Worship

HOT TOPICS
COLD BEER

Monday, February 17

The group will meet at WECO on **Monday, February 17, at 7 p.m.** If you have any questions, please see Slone Taylor or Patsy Boggs. If you are interested in attending and would like email or text message updates, please email Slone Taylor at Slonetaylor21@yahoo.com or text her your cell phone number to (803) 397-7294 and she will add you to her list.



Valentine's Party at The Pines
Saturday, February 22
2 p.m.

“The Humility of Peter”

By Tom Geddens

(Scripture For the Message: Gospel Reading: Luke 5: 1-11)

This is the Word of God for the people of God! Thanks be to God! Let us pray: Father God, remind us, please, to be humble, to clothe ourselves in humility. Remind us to remember that we are all sinners, no matter how good we may think we are. We therefore have a powerful need for a Savior, and you have given us a Savior, Lord, in the form of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, in Whose Precious Name we pray. Amen.

About ten years ago, I was rummaging through some of my old books and came across a paperback copy of the short novel “Frankenstein” by Mary Shelley. I read it back in high school and decided to re-read it when I came across it that day. And as I was reading it for the second time, I decided to take to the Internet and read some of the reviews of the book from just regular folks like us- not the literary critics. I like doing that just to see if other readers had the same impressions that I had about the same book. I loved what one reader observed. She wrote that the novel “Frankenstein” was “the story that you thought you knew.” What she meant by that was that there have been so many movies based on the novel “Frankenstein” and so many sequels to those movies that many people have a preconceived notion of what the novel “Frankenstein” must be like, so when they sit down to actually read it, they are amazed to see how different it is from the many movies that it inspired.

In the same way, there are several stories from the Bible that we thought we knew. We hear them told in church, we read portions of them in Sunday School and in Bible studies, and we sometimes see them depicted on television and in movies. It is therefore easy to get an image in your mind of how the stories go, but then you open up the Bible for yourself and you receive reminders of details that you forgot that appear to be small but really are not.

The miracle of the huge catch of fish on Peter’s boat that I just read is a good example. Because of the profound impression that this made on Peter and because Luke tells us that Peter, along with his brother, Andrew, and their partners, James and John, dropped their nets and followed Jesus, it is easy to think of Jesus’s stepping onto Peter’s boat as the life-changing moment in which Peter met Jesus. It is sometimes portrayed that way in movies about Jesus. But this was not the first time that Peter met Jesus. Nor was it even the first miracle from Jesus that Peter witnessed. In just the preceding chapter of Luke’s Gospel, Luke tells us that Jesus enters the home of Peter and his wife and heals Peter’s mother-in-law of a fever. And then when you read John’s Gospel, John reveals in his first chapter the moment that Peter met Jesus. Then in the second chapter, John tells us about Jesus’s first miracle: Turning the water into wine at the wedding in Cana. John later reveals in his fourth chapter what was Jesus’s second miracle: Healing the Roman nobleman’s son. Peter was a witness to both of the first two miracles.

But it was this miracle, the huge catch of fish, that sent Peter to his knees! It was this miracle that told Peter that he was truly in the presence of the Lord. When Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law in Chapter Four of Luke’s Gospel, that was not enough to make Peter drop to his knees. What does that tell us? Well, you heard Peter describe himself in Luke 5: 8 as “a sinful man.” Maybe that was Peter’s way of admitting that he was a bad male: After all, he apparently cared more about fishing than he cared about his mother-in-law!

Just kidding, folks! That’s just a joke. But the question as to why that miracle resonated with Peter in a profound way in which the earlier miracles did not is a fascinating one and no, I don’t think it was because he didn’t love his mother-in-law. Of course he did! But it is something that I wish for you to think about. It is not, however, the theme of today’s message. That is another theme for another sermon, as I like to say. Today’s theme has to do with one of the character traits that Peter possessed that helped send him to his knees and caused him to confess to Jesus that he was a sinner. And that character trait was humility.

Let us look again at Luke 5:8. When the prodigious catch of fish threatened to overwhelm Peter’s humble boat, Luke writes, “When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’s knees, saying, ‘Depart from me, for I am sinful man, oh, Lord!’” What did Peter mean by “Depart from me?” Well, to give you a pop-cultural analogy, it was like that recurring skit on “Saturday Night Live” back in the early Nineties: “Wayne’s World.” When Wayne and Garth would meet one of their rock idols, like the band Aerosmith, they would drop to

their knees and cry, “We’re not worthy! We’re not worthy!” Peter was telling Jesus that he was not worthy enough to be in Jesus’s presence. That was awe on Peter’s part, obviously, but it was also humility. He was acknowledging the incomparable greatness of the Son of God.

How often do we acknowledge the greatness of Jesus Christ? Has He just become an image on stained glass and in paintings for most of us? Peter then describes himself as “a sinful man.” No, Peter wasn’t saying that he was evil. He was instead acknowledging that he was a sinner, just as we all are sinners. Too many people nowadays recoil and take offense at being called a sinner. “I’m a good person!” they protest. But Peter was not saying that he was not a good person. By admitting that he was a sinner and sinking to his knees at Jesus’s feet, Peter acknowledged that he needed a Savior. And God gave all of us a Savior in the form of His only begotten Son.

It takes not only faith but humility to admit that you need a Savior. In fact, you might say that humility is a necessary ingredient for faith. Most people know what humility is in a general sense, in a secular sense. Humility is usually perceived as the ability to keep one’s ego in check. Many people bristle at the word “humility” because they associate it too closely with its sister words: “Humiliate” and “Humiliation.” No one likes to be humiliated. But genuine humility should be a strength and not a weakness. It does not mean allowing yourself to be hurt or exploited. It means being confident enough not to boast. It means being gracious when others help you or praise you. Humility in the Biblical sense, in the Christian sense, encompasses all of that, but ultimately it means that you acknowledge that you need God, and that you need a Savior, who is God’s Son. You acknowledge that you cannot receive eternal life based on your own good deeds, no matter how many or how great your deeds are. Humility in the Christian sense means that you understand that you have not earned God’s grace. God has instead given His grace to you free of charge. Humility in the Christian sense also means that you understand that in all the good that you do in life and all the challenges that you endure that your strength, your hope, your guidance and all the mercy that you receive comes from God’s unconditional love for you and Jesus’s atoning death for your sins.

I believe that Psalm 25: 8 -9 captures the humble yet hardy spirit of Peter. In those verses, David writes, “Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He teaches sinners in the way. The humble He guides in justice, and the humble he teaches His way.” David mentions God teaching and guiding. And who does He teach and guide but sinners and the humble. Who needs God’s guidance more than sinners? And who are the sinners but all of us? We all have sinned and have fallen short of God’s glory. And we have to be humble in order to make ample room in our hearts for God’s wisdom. We have to be willing to receive His teachings and not be so absorbed with our own pride and our own desires that we end up dismissing the necessity for putting our trust in God and not be grateful for the sacrifice of His only begotten Son. Let us all follow Peter’s lead and bow before the Christ the King, admit to our sins and admit that we are in need of a Savior.

I want to finish this message by reminding us that Jesus told Peter in Luke 5: 10 that from now on he would “catch people,” in other words, bring people to Christ. But before that, before the enormous catch of fish, Jesus told Peter in Luke 5: 4, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

Peter had to go deep in order to catch those elusive fish. How deep are we willing to go in order to bring a child of God to Christ? It is not just a question that I’m asking you all. I’m asking myself, too. How deep am I willing to go in order to bring a child of God to Christ? This is something that we all need to pray about.

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