

THE SUNDAY SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

Sunday August 23, 2020, 10:00am

“The mission of First United Methodist Church is to win and nurture souls for Jesus Christ by sharing and living the message of salvation.”

A TRINITARIAN HYMN OF THANKS FOR CHRISTIAN TEACHERS

(Tune: *Ellacombe* 7.6.7.6 D)

Same as the hymn, “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” (*Hymnal*: 203)

1. All praise to God our Father, the source of every good!  
For minds to search out secrets, and learn the ways of truth.  
The disciplines and virtues for this great task we pray,  
and teachers who will guide our path along the way to you.
2. To our great rabbi Jesus Christ, we lift our voice in praise!  
For holy words and mighty deeds that showed your kingdom near.  
O may we ever follow those who first followed him,  
and find in all our teachers a model of his ways.
3. The Spirit is our holy guide into the ways of life!  
We look for light upon the page and fire within our hearts.  
Inspire our teachers, God we pray, with insights from above,  
that by their love and joyful lives, we may true students be.
4. For those you send and who prepare their minds and hearts aright,  
to teach the children everywhere the things that bring delight,  
we honor them and you, O Lord, for this great gift you give,  
that in our learning we become your children once again.

Pastor Phil Thrailkill  
Main St. UMC  
Greenwood, SC

ENTRANCE

Songs for the Gathering of the People ..... Mary Lynn Hart, Jackson Rushing  
Prelude: “When the Saints Go Marching In” ..... Bryson Hunter: Piano  
Chiming the Hour ..... Leighton, Ashton, Sawyer Becker  
Welcome, Invitation to Silence ..... Pastor Phil Thrailkill: Interim Minister

+Greeting ..... Trinitarian Greeting, Psalm 100:1-2  
As the friends of God, let us bless the Lord.  
Blessed be God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.  
And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.  
“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!  
Serve the Lord with gladness.  
Come into God’s presence with singing!

Recorded Hymn: “Fairest Lord Jesus”

+Mutual Blessing and Common Prayer of Confession and Pardon ..... *Hymnal*: 890  
The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us confess our sin before God and one another:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we thank you for the benevolent influence of your church in these United States,  
where the stories of Scripture have been read and the power of Jesus proclaimed.  
But we have fallen on hard times of our own making.  
We have sought private prosperity and forgotten the common good.  
We have indulged in luxuries and vices that would shame our parents.  
We have spent and not saved; we have spent and not given,  
and now we are spent as our moral capital is nearly exhausted.  
So start us with, O Lord, and start here in your own house with your own people.  
Send upon us the Holy Spirit of conviction and repentance.  
For Jesus’ sake, forgive us, reclaim us, restore and renew us in this great faith,  
that we may be a people who love and bring glory and not shame to your name.  
We wait upon your holy presence and the gift of pardon.  
Amen. (Silence is kept for personal confession of sin. Pardon is announced.)

+Act of Praise: “Glory Be to the Father” spoken in unison ..... *Hymnal*: 70  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, in now and ever shall be.  
World without end, Amen, Amen.

Concerns and Announcements, The First Two Catechism Questions

**PROCLAMATION AND PRAISE**

United Methodist Teaching on Jesus Christ . . . . . *The Book of Discipline 2016: 73*

**U.M. Confession of Faith, Article II: Jesus Christ (From the E.U.B. Church)**

“We believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, in whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united./ He is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit./ As ministering Servant he lived, suffered and died on the cross. He was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to be with the Father./ from whence he shall return. He is eternal Savior and Mediator, who intercedes for us, and by him all men will be judged.”//

Sermon Lesson, “A Downwardly Mobile Savior” . . . . . *Philippians 2:1-18*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon: “Classic Christianity III: The Creed and Jesus Christ” Pastor Phil Thrailkill, Interim Minister  
What keeps me from being a whole-hearted follower of Jesus Christ in his church?

**RESPONSES TO THE WORD**

Silence with the Word of God and the Spirit of God

**+Confessing The Trinitarian Faith of the Church**

Sisters and brothers, let us love one another,  
that with one heart and one voice we may confess our ancient and apostolic Christian faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

+A Litany For All Who Work in Schools: Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

**SENDING FORTH**

Recorded Song of Praise: “A Hymn of Thanks for Christian Teachers”. . . Pastor Phil, Ruth Anne Jones

+Dismissal with Blessing, . . . . . Pastor Phil Thrailkill

Postlude: “Ode to Joy” . . . . . Bryson Hunter: Piano

Please leave your Offering in the basket near the door as you exit. . . . . Theodore Burns: Usher

**PHILIPPIANS 2:1-18 “A DOWNWARDLY MOBILE SAVIOR”**

External Opposition (1:27-30) To Internal Life (Divided)

1) **v. 1-3 COMPLETE MY JOY, BE A UNITED CHURCH: BASIS(v.1) + GOAL(v.2) + APPEAL(v.3).** All Four Reasons For Unity Are True *In Christ/ In The Spirit*  
 So if, therefore, (which there is!) Rapid Series of Clauses: Heart-felt Appeal  
 a there is any encouragement in Christ, (which there is!) 4 Motivations (The Solid Grounding)  
 b if any incentive (comfort) of love, (which there is!) *Fellowship, 1:5, 27, Gal. 3:2, 1 Cor. 12:3*  
 a' if any participation (*koinonia*) in the Spirit, (which there is!) 1:8, Double Virtue: Affection/Sympathy  
 b' if any *affection (compassion) and sympathy (mercy)*, (which there is!) Union With Christ/Spirit Cancels Factiousness

2) **COMPLETE MY JOY** by being of the *same mind*, *Make me happy!* 10x in Phil., 1:7, Common Way Of Thinking/Acting  
 b having the *same* love, 4 Outcomes (The Task: Unity Of Mind (2x), Love, Accord)  
 b' being in *full* accord Lit. “united in soul”= soulmates, Unity Does Not = Uniformity  
 a' and of *one mind*. *unanimous*, 1:27, Common Purpose, Unity From Christ/Spirit & Hard Work Of The Community  
 v.3 Points To Problem In Community//vv.14-16

3) **v.3 DO NOTHING WITH BAD MOTIVES: KILLS CHURCH.** Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, 90-109  
 (-) Do nothing from *selfish ambition(faction) or conceit(empty glory)*, 1:17, Double Vice: Selfishness/Conceit, Gal. 5:20  
 (+) but in humility count others better than yourselves. Lev. 16:29, Alien Virtue: *Humility* (2:8, 3:21, 4:12), Mk. 10:33-34  
 Paul Wants Unity In Love/Service, Not Uniform Robots

3) **v.4 CARE FOR “THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS”.** Take Neighbor Into Account  
 Let each of you look not (only) to *his own interests*, but also to the interests of others. *only* Not In Gk.  
 Listen, Love, Learn, Serve

4) **vv.5-11 STORY OF JESUS CHRIST: HUMILITY AND OBEDIENCE.** *Practical Wisdom/Mind-* 10x:(1:7, 2:2[2x], 5, 3:15[2x],19,4:2,10[2x])  
 a) **vv.5-7 Pre-Existence & Incarnation: Empty Self.** Indicative + Imperative(*Is/Ought*)  
 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 4:2, Communal/Social Reality  
 //Hymns: Eph. 5:19, Col. 1:15-20, 3:16; I Tim. 3:16  
 a “*who*, though he was in the form (the very nature) of God, Jn. 17:5, Pre-existence  
 b did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, An “Advantage” To Exploit  
 but emptied himself, *Kenosis*, Self-giving, Self-limiting God  
 a' taking the form (the very nature) of a servant, = *Slave* (Offensive: Lowest Of Low), Down  
 b' being born in the likeness of men. Incarnation: Assumes Full Humanity; Sin Excepted  
 vv.5-11 = Drama Of Salvation, Echoes 3:20-21

b) **v.8 Earthly Ministry: Humble/Obedient Self.** Christ Acted  
 And being found in human form/ he humbled himself Rather Die Than Disobey, Dt. 21:23  
 and became obedient unto death, *even death on a cross*. Humiliation/Exaltation Theme  
 See Mark 10:45, High To Low Position

a') **vv.9-11 Resurrection And Return: Vindicated Self.** God's Initiative: Resurrection!  
 Therefore also God has highly exalted him Resurrection/Ascension/Session = Cosmic Lord  
 and bestowed on him the name Humanity Welded Into God's Heart!  
 which is above every name,  
 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, Is. 45:23, Rev. 4:2-11, Before All  
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth, Humans/Demons-Angels/The Dead  
 and every tongue confess that “*Jesus is Lord,*” to the glory of God the Father.” No Exceptions!  
 Christ, Spirit (v.1), Father (v.11), Pliny *Letters* 110

3') **vv.12-13 CARE FOR “YOUR OWN SALVATION”, OBEY.**  
 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, //Christ's Obedience v.8  
 not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, 1:27, Test Of Character  
 continue to work out *your (pl.) own salvation* with *fear and trembling*; Double Virtue: 1 Cor. 2:3, Eph. 6:5  
 for God is at work in(among) you, both *to will and to work* for his good pleasure. Double Goal  
 God's Grace Energizes/Grounds Our Efforts

2') **vv.14-16 DO ALL THINGS WITHOUT BAD ATTITUDES, EYE TO THE FUTURE.**  
 (Continue to) Do all things without *grumbling or questioning*, Ex. 16:7, Double Vice: Grumbling/Questioning  
 that you may be *blameless and innocent*, Double Virtue: Blameless/Innocent  
 children of God without blemish in the midst of a “*crooked and perverse generation,*” 1:28, Opponents? Dt. 32:5 LXX  
 among whom you shine(appear) as lights (stars) in the world, Is. 49:6, Double Vice: Crooked/Perverse  
 holding fast (holding forth?) the word of life,  
 so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not *run in vain or labor in vain*. Gal. 2:2, Double: Run/Labor  
 1 Cor. 3:13, 4:1-5

1') **vv. 17-18 REJOICE WITH ME.** Libation Poured Over Sacrificial Animal  
 Even if I am to be poured as a libation upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, 4:18b, Martyr's Death Or Service?  
 I am *glad and REJOICE* with you all. Double Virtue (2x): Be Glad/Rejoice  
 Likewise you also should be *glad and REJOICE* with me.