MEDITATION



Josh Tucker St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And

Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Matthew 28:16-20

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

This past Sunday (May 31) was Holy Trinity Sunday – a time in the Christian church that we celebrate the presence of God being revealed to us in three distinct ways: God the Father and Creator, God the Son in Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit. It is on this Sunday that the lectionary provides us this text from Matthew's gospel known as the great commission. This is the last scene recorded in the gospel where the newly resurrected Jesus comes to his disciples for one last set of instructions, one last portrayal of wisdom and will for his closest friends.

The pairing of this scripture with the celebration of the church doctrine of the Trinity leads me to think about what it means to em-

body the belief of the Trinity. What does being a Trinitarian Christian look like? We profess our faith in God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit so how can we faithfully live out our belief?

I think Jesus' commission in Matthew 28 gives us preciously a faithful path to live into the doctrine of the Trinity. In his great commission, Jesus instructs his disciples and us today, to go out into all the world and make disciples, baptism them and teach them all that he himself has taught them. And so I believe that to be a Trinitarian Christian, we have to begin to take seriously this commission; we have to prioritize our ministry so that making disciples is at the top of our purposes.

And realize that this is hard work, people of God. It takes a lot of time and energy to set out to intentionally make disciples; to model and encourage the practices of discipleship (daily prayer, weekly worship, regular Bible Study, a heart for service, the desire for spiritual friendships, and a giving spirit). And its difficulty is only magnified with all the cultural and institutional challenges that tempt our mission and ministry. My prayer for us this day is that we can identify that one person in our lives that needs spiritual encouragement, prayer and guidance and that needs us to model for them what it means to be a Trinitarian Christian - that we can identify that person and begin an intentional relationship with them so that they can see God working through us in their lives. My prayer is that we can all live into our calling to re-present God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit in all that we say and do. Amen.

Free food distribution

Life of Worship, 403 Cherokee St., will offer free food distribution to help area residents on Friday, June 5, from 11 am-12 noon. A valid ID is required. The church is behind Farmers Furniture and Fidelity Bank on S. Battleground Avenue.

Homecoming June 7

El Bethel United Methodist Church will hold Homecoming on Sunday, June 7. Pastor Tom Jolly will preach at the 11 a.m. worship hour. Lunch will be served following the morning worship service. Everyone welcome.

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

KINGS MOUNTAIN Long Creek Presbyterian Church 701 Long Creek Road 704-629-4406

Love Valley Baptist Church 2032 Bethlehem Road 704-730-0075

Macedonia Baptist Church 1101 S. Battleground Avenue 704-739-6811

Midview Baptist Church 703 Margrace Road 704-739-6711 Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church 220 N. Watterson Street 704-739-8354

Mountain View Agape Church 506 Sparrow Springs Road 704-739-0160

Mt. Olive Baptist Church Compact School Road 704-739-4516

Mt. Zion Baptist Church 704-739-8354

New Beginnings Church of Jesus Christ 541 Crocker Road 704-730-9507

New Bynum Chapel AME Zion Church N. Cansler Street 704-739-2606

New Camp Creek Baptist 863 New Camp Creek Ch. Road 704-487-7128

New Life Family Worship Center 428 Oak Grove Road 704-739-9371

New Way Missionary Baptist Church 105 Waco Road 704-724-0414

Oak Grove Baptist Church 1022 Oak Grove Road 704-739-4833

Oak View Baptist Church 1517 York Road 704-739-7831

Pathway Baptist Church 3100 Parkdale Circle 704-734-0852

Patterson Grove Baptist Church 301 Oak Grove Road 704-739-5826

Peoples Baptist Church 1010 Groves Street 704-739-0398

Proclaiming the Word Ministries 7011 Cleveland Avenue

Progressive Church of Our Lord 1001 Cleveland Avenue

704-734-1070

Resurrection Lutheran Church 600 Crescent Circle 704-739-5580

Royal Praise Ministries 2055 Shelby Rd.

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church 201 N. Piedmont Avenue

The Favor Center Church 602 Slater Street 828-381-4777

Second Baptist

704-739-4216

704-739-8920

N. Cansler Street

704-739-1256

208 Mail Road

704-692-3007

704-739-4716

Church

120 Linwood Road

339 Shady Grove Road

St. Paul United Methodist

Sunrise Baptist Church

Temple Baptist Church

612 N. Cansler Street

Church

Unity AME Zion Church 948 Unity Church Road **Shady Grove Baptist Church** 704-228-0328

1608 Shelby Road

704-739-6764

True Gospel Holiness Church

Bethelehem Baptist Church

1017 Bethlehem Rd. • Kings Mountain

Vestibule AME Zion Church 2175 Vestibule Church Road 704-739-7961

Westover Baptist Church . 114 Westover Drive (704) 739-2187

GASTONIA Bethesda United Methodist Church 3714 S. New Hope Rd

Grace Community Advent Christian Church 206 West 3rd Avenue 704-739-9230

GROVER Bethany Baptist Church 423 Cleveland Avenue 704-937-3010

Carolina Praise and Worship Center 201 N. Main Street

First Apostolic Church of Blacksburg 205 E. Cherokee St. Blacksburg, SC

704-937-7541

864-839-18/3

WACO **New Testament Missionary Baptist Church** 2103 Capernium Rd



Notice: In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next week.



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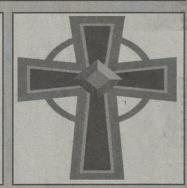
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