



August 24, 2026

Houston Trinity News

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9 (NRSV)

Friends,

I was sitting in the Church office this morning looking out the window across the field toward Pine Forest Country Club. I enjoy looking at the beauty of a golf course: manicured fairways, rolling greens surrounded by sand bunkers, trees lining the course. However, what really caught my eye was a chameleon on the window of my office. I watched as it turned green, then turned a shade of brown as it moved from the rose bush to the brick.



You know, as a society we have become very chameleon like. We just want to blend in. We avoid standing out. We are conflict averse. We just want to do our thing and not cause any issue or stir up any trouble. Just blend into the crowd. The problem with that is two-fold. First, not expressing our views. Going along with the crowd can lead to mob mentality. It can lead to acceptance of whatever seems to be the norm. Acceptance of whatever everyone else seems to be accepting even if we don't really agree with it.

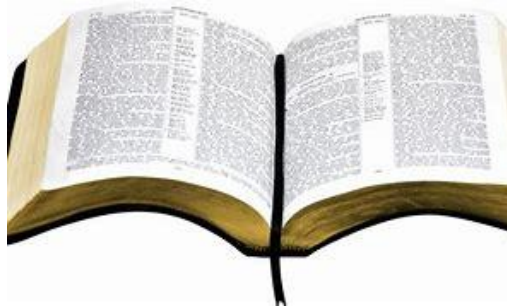
More importantly the problem created is not following the example or the teachings of Jesus. We talked about this on Sunday. Jesus calls us to act upon his example. And his example is simply not one of blending into the crowd. Jesus may have told his disciples not to tell anyone he was the Messiah (Matthew 16:20); he may have told those he healed not to say anything (Mark 1:43-44); he may have vanished after healing the lame man (John 5:12-13) but he was never afraid to step into the middle of anything to make a point about his Father, or the kingdom, or life, or anything else.

We aren't supposed to blend it. We are supposed to stand out. Not in some obnoxious way, not in some pompous way, not some "holier than thou way", but in an honest, open, grace filled, loving and caring way. We are supposed to follow the example of Jesus. Caring for the sick and the lame, welcoming the sinners (by the way that is all of us), feeding the hungry. We are called to share the Gospel with our actions. How we live our lives. If the way to share the Gospel is

through how we live, then we certainly can't live blending in with the world. No one is going to see that.

Be bold. Step out of the crowd. Show the world it is loved even when it doesn't seem very lovable. Let someone know you care. Don't blend into the crowd. Proudly clothe yourself in Christ. Stand up. Stand out. Actions speak louder than words.

God bless you. See you Sunday



Scripture Readings

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." 4 When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 6 He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9 The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. 10 So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" 12 He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

13 But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" 14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He

said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”
15 God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’:
This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

Exodus 3:1-15 (NRSV)

21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” 23 But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

27“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Matthew 16:21-28 (NRSV)

Calendar Reminders - August

August 2 - Sunday Worship - Communion

August 3 - Bible Study - ZOOM - 7:30 - Exodus - led by Pastor Manuel

August 5- Wednesday Night Bible Study - Job- 6:30 - in person and ZOOM

August 9 - Sunday Worship

- Confirmation
- Backpack Blessings

August 10 - Bible Study - ZOOM - 7:30 - Joshua - led by Pastor Manuel

August 12- Wednesday Night Bible Study - Job - 6:30 - in person and ZOOM

August 16 - Sunday Worship

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August 17 - Bible Study - ZOOM - 7:30 - Joshua - led by Pastor Manuel

August 19- Wednesday Night Bible Study - Job - 6:30 - in person and ZOOM

August 23 - Sunday Worship

- Worship Committee Meeting
- Council Meeting
- Church Directory
- August 24 - Bible Study - ZOOM - 7:30 - Joshua - led by Pastor Manuel

August 27- Wednesday Night Bible Study - Job - 6:30 - in person and ZOOM

August 28 - Youth Night - 6:30 - 9:00 PM

August 29 - Women of Faith Prayer Meeting - 2:30

August 30 - Sunday Worship

- Congregational Visioning Workshop

Lessons in Leadership



New Sermon Series - Lessons in Leadership

As we transition from summer to fall, ready to reenter the classrooms of our lives we are called back together to work out how we will live in community as a witness to our faith. Our new sermon series will give us an opportunity for an attitude check.; a time for us to focus our values on creating a community that is faithful to God and each other. We are going to use the stories of Biblical leaders to place ourselves in the correct leadership frame of mind.

We are looking for you. Invite a friend.

Series Titles

August 23 - Power

August 30 - Acceptance

September 6 - Special Guest no sermon from the series

September 13 - Conflict and Grace



Third Visioning Workshop - This Sunday after Worship

Don't forget to join us for this month's visioning session. We will recount the information we gathered last month and we will look at three more questions we need to ask ourselves about the future.

Your participation is important. Please join us.

Youth Night

Youth night was a great success. Our next Youth Night will be August 28th at the Church. Join us for fun and fellowship as we take a quick break from our back to school activities.

Make sure to RSVP to the email you received. If you didn't receive an invitation, please contact Blessings Ignacio to be added to the email list.



2026 Congregational Focus Corner



Community Outreach/Missions

We are nearing the first actions of our Missional Community program. Stay tuned for exciting information of the first effort we are taking in our community.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Velma Bailey, Mei Mei, Angela Leslie or any member of our Outreach committee.



Samaritans Purse - Operations Christmas Child

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in our outreach to Samaritans Purse. We have distributed all of our Christmas boxes and they are slowly returning. When they are all received we will take them to FFAUMC for distribution.

Your generosity will touch the lives of many young boys and girls. God bless you.

Prayer

August Prayer Focus - Acts 2:42

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Our prayer focus for August is an important reminder that we are called to devote ourselves to learning, to fellowship, to praying and to breaking bread together.



During this month pray unceasingly for each other, for the church, and for the world. When the Holy Spirit helps us align our prayers with the works of God, they are powerful. Remember that we are created in God's image, called to continue Jesus' ministry and mission and this world and convicted to that work through the Holy Spirit. Allow the Spirit to guide your prayers and they can create works greater than we can imagine.

As we continue to walk our prayer journey this year pray daily to understand where our faith lies. Pray daily to understand that the power of men is nothing compared to the power of God. pray daily that we, the body, the church are beholden only to Christ, not to men.

If you are interested in being a part of the planning for our monthly prayer focus, please contact Mel Bernardo or any member of the Prayer Team.

News from the Marvin Rader School

School opens Today, June 8

School opens on Monday, June 8. But our regular classes start on June 15th. We will have a three-day orientation and classes will only be from 8am to 11 am.

The Parents Orientation will be held on June 11 at 9 am.

Our Faculty have been busy with each preparation for their classes and room assignment. The renovation of the roof had been done. Hopefully it works well when the typhoon season comes.

We are looking forward to having more than 60 learners. As of now we have 64.

Regards to all and please keep us in your prayers.

Prayer Corner

Please let Nini or me know if you would like to have your prayer request added to the newsletter.

This weeks' prayer requests.

Prayers for Healing

Jose Liwanag
Saffa Gabba
Christopher Hilton
Bruce Jocz
Pam Custer
Anita Solas
Louise Mosley
Michael Bhola
Jared Davis
Rev. Steven Newcombe - FUMC
Bill Robinson
Josh Bridges
Florante Paz
Fawn Cumby
Christian Mirasol
Leticia Abenojar
Juanita Miller
Ruben Paz
Shellie Robertson
Teddy Ellison
Mel Bousley
Ben Bailon
Zandy Aquino
Ed Roethlein
Linda Litt

Prayers for the World

The peace of God to reign.
For the Marvin Rader School

Open Hearts and Minds; Eyes that See and Ears that Hear

Houston Trinity United Methodist Church

Prayers for Comfort

The Rillo family as they grieve the passing of Rod this week.

August Prayer Focus - Acts 2:42

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.



Gracious God, as we embark on this new journey to cast our vision, we seek Your wisdom. Help us to put aside our understanding and trust fully in the direction that You will send us.

Open our minds to think beyond what we can imagine. Open our hearts to feel the Spirit working here. Open our eyes and ears to see and hear the direction you wish us to travel.

We hear your call Lord, upon the life of Houston Trinity and we want to answer. Yet we are not sure how. We pray Lord, that You bless us, bless our visioning exercises, bless our decisions so that we may go into your world and bless everyone we meet.

Guide our thoughts and actions so our choices will reflect Your will. May we participate in this effort not swayed by the past but grounded in your divine truth.

Give us peace of spirit and confirmation that we are proceeding on the right path. We surrender our plans to Your and pray that You lead us in Your perfect way.

We pray all this in the name of your son, our Redeemer, our Savior, Jesus Christ,

AMEN



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