

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: *John D. Jordan* AV Assistant: *K. C. Warble*
Choir Director: *Christopher A. McCroskey*
Church Musician

“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS...”

Lynn Martin Oren Edwards Patsy Shuler Dean Frye
Steve White Latson Lewis George Taylor Steve Aiello

Shut-Ins: Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Carolyn Hardee; Francis & Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; Shirley Padgett; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; Wayne Tallon; Irvin Wells

Family and Friends: **Lisa Baghdady** (a friend of Edwa Meek); **Joyce Richards** (wife of Boots Morgan's cousin); **Chip Hooker** (Wayne Hooker's father); **Robert Bradley** (Business Associate of Simon Ross); **Mildred Hart** (mother of Dee Senn); **Dave Burrell** (Business Associate of Tommy Gleaton); **Gene Odom** (grandfather of Mark Branham); **Gary Becton** (friend of Mark Branham); **Audrey Cassidy** (sister-in-law of Mary Louise Robinson); **Rusty Browning** (friend of Erin Derrick); **Monnie Tiller, Mrs. Miles, Jerry Fowler** (friends of Chris Derrick); **Donna Walker** (coworker of Jack Stevens); **Kelly Knapp** (wife of Laurie Knapp's nephew); **Paul Kidney** (son-in-law of Charles & Jackie McNeill); **Ruby Pennington** (friend of Laurie Knapp); **Sara Krisnow** (niece of Marty Johnson); **Rick Baldwin** (nephew of Tommy Johnson); **Judy Bauer** (cousin of Marty Johnson); **Iris Turlington** (aunt of John Zeigler); **Betty Jean Newton** (sister-in-law of Mary Kamoroff); ; **Tonya Spires** (friend of the Derricks); **Vivian Almendinger** (great-niece of Christopher McCroskey); **J. B. & Stephanie Martindale** (cousins of Christopher McCroskey); **Linda Hargett** (stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Ollie Shelly** (friend of the Derricks); **Brenlee Carnes**; **Danielle Spotts** (co-worker of Kathy White); **Vickie Edwards** (neighbor of Kathy White); **Robert Holladay** (brother of Carolyn Hardee); **George Duke, Vicki Beatty, Connie Mason, Brenda Grier** (friends of Lynn Martin); **Heather Stevens, Diane Kelsey, Erma Ruff, David Price & Family, Mark Leonhart, Ty Moore, George Dorn** (friends of Kay Jordan); **Teddy Derrick** (uncle of Arvan Derrick); **Haidee Baehr** (friends of Ruth Frady); **Dianne Schmotzer** (sister-in-law of Gale Frady); **Dan Connor, Denise Paul** (cousin of Gale Frady); **Billy Johnson, Max Johnson** (friends of Gale Frady); **Ray Culbreth's Group House**; **Nellie Gantt** (mother of friend of Ray Culbreth); **Amelia Zinski** (great-niece of Linda Maloch); **Wayne Blair** (son of Dot Johnson); **Xavier Crane** (grandnephew of John Ballentine); **Janet Beck** (friend of Jo Ann Heiting); **Vera Von Glahn** (sister-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting); **Michael Carter** (son of Esther Carter); **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 ...

In-Person Attendance 03/14 Worship: 13

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 03/14 \$ 830.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS.”



Ministers	The Congregation
Pastor	John D. Jordan
Resident Bishop	Jonathan Holston
District Superintendent	Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform

Fifth Sunday
in
Lent

1201 Mohawk Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169

Telephone: 803.794.7777

E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com

Website: www.trinityumcwc.org

John 12: 20-33

Some Greeks want to see Jesus. They go with their request to Phillip. Why Phillip? He was from Galilee and had no apparent connection to these Greeks. Phillip was the first to give the invitation to come and see. Remember, back in Chapter 1 when Phillip told Nathaniel about Jesus, he told Nathaniel to come and see.

Phillip goes to Andrew. There seems to be no apparent reason for this. Why couldn't Phillip just go straight to Jesus? Again, this goes back to Chapter 1. Andrew is the first to respond to Jesus' invitation to come and see. These first two disciples to respond to and give an invitation to come and see were bringing these Greeks who want to come and see to Jesus.

Ok, so now we know why Phillip and Andrew were involved but what was the big deal about these Greeks coming to see Jesus, and why did he go into this whole "my hour has come" discourse? We don't even know if Jesus even spoke to these Greeks. It seems kind of disconnected.

But it really isn't disconnected. This is right after Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. In John, the story of the entry into Jerusalem ends with the Pharisees saying, "Look, the world has gone after him." Now the world, these Greeks, are coming after him, coming to see Jesus.

The Greeks, of course, were gentiles. Gentiles were not permitted in the Temple to worship God. They were only allowed in the outmost court. In fact, the portals to the inner courts of the temple were guarded and had an inscription that read, something to the effect of "Let no gentile enter under the penalty of death." In other words, any gentile who attempted to enter the temple was to be killed.

Also, the Greeks had been the ones who desecrated the temple by devoting it to Zeus, forcing participation in Greek religious festivals and banning the Torah and Torah observances. So, there was no particular love lost between the Greeks and the Jews.

But now these Greeks are coming to see Jesus. They want to see Jesus. This is a sign that the time of Jesus' glorification was near, for the world was being drawn to him. Jesus, when he was glorified, would draw all people to him and through him to God. The world was being drawn to him.

The world is still being drawn to Jesus. There are still "Greeks" out there who want to come and see Jesus. I am using the term Greeks here to refer to outsiders, as those Greeks who came to see Jesus were outsiders. There are many outside the church that want to see Jesus.

I know you may say that if there were so many people wanting to see Jesus, why is church attendance down? What makes you say that people want to see Jesus?

I say that because there are many who are looking for something else in their lives. They are looking for something that gives their lives meaning and purpose. They want healing from pain, rather than the anesthetizing effects of alcohol, drugs, sex or other addictions. If you do not believe people are looking for something, go to Amazon and search self help books. You will find over 9,000 titles, including *The Five Minute Coffee Self Talk Book*. I don't know about you but I get a lot more out of drinking my coffee than talking to it. People are looking for something to give their life meaning and purpose.

We have so much more to give people than talking to their coffee. WE HAVE JESUS! We have the Son of God sent into the world to save us from sin, to heal our brokenness and restore us into relationship with God! We have the means through which all people can be reconciled to God. People can come here to Trinity to see Jesus and be reconciled to God.

But why aren't they coming? Why aren't people today coming like those Greeks to see Jesus? Perhaps it is because we have been too busy building walls and guarding the gates to keep people out. We are fine with folks coming to see Jesus, as long as they look like us, dress like us, smell like us and act like us. But those people who are different from us, maybe it would be better if they found Jesus somewhere else.

My previous appointment before coming to Trinity was a downtown church in a small town. It was the church of the professionals in town, the doctors, lawyers, teachers, and other upper crust type folk. There was one couple, an interracial couple, that the church had provided some financial assistance for rent and utilities. They lived in a mobile home in a run-down mobile home park on the "other" side of town. Their clothes were worn and hygiene was not always the best. One day they came by and asked me if they could come to church there. I must confess that my first thought (unspoken) was, "I don't know if you would be comfortable here." Meaning I don't know if this congregation would be comfortable with you being here. We often do that don't we? We say we want them to be comfortable when the reality is that they make us uncomfortable.

However, the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, don't be a hypocrite. Don't preach being inclusive and inviting all people then turn these people away because they are different, because they are "Greek".

Phillip and Andrew went and told Jesus that these Greeks wanted to see him. They responded to the invitation to come and see Jesus by bringing these Greeks to see Jesus.

And by the way, the word translated as see does not mean see in the physical sense, with the eyes, but to see to understand and gain knowledge. The Greeks did not want to see Jesus, they wanted to know Jesus.

There are "Greeks" out there that want to see and know Jesus. There are many outside the church who are looking, searching for something that will give meaning and purpose in their lives. There are those people in our neighborhood, community and our lives that we see every day that want to come to know Jesus.

And this is the place where they can come to know Jesus. They may be people that look like us. They may be people that live on Central Avenue. They may be people that don't dress nicely or even smell nice. But they want to come to know Jesus.

So, let us be like Andrew and Phillip. When someone, even "Greeks", tell us they want to know and to have something more in their lives, let's bring them to Jesus. Let's bring them here to Trinity, or to whatever church you who are watching online may attend, so they can come to know Jesus as we know Jesus and have the eternal life that we have. Let us be like Andrew and Phillip.