

First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>“I Love You, Lord”</i>	Choir
Centering Words		

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Candle		
*Hymn	<i>“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”</i>	211

Prayer of the Day		
The Lord’s Prayer		895

Proclamation of the Word

Prayer of Illumination		
Old Testament Reading	Joel 2:21-27	803 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalm 126	847
*Hymn	<i>“Now Thank We All Our God”</i>	102
Gospel Reading	Luke 21:25-36	83 (N.T.)

Anthem	<i>“We Gather Together”</i>	Choir
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Old Testament Reading	Jeremiah 33:14-16	698 (O.T.)
Sermon	<i>Thankful for God’s Righteousness</i>	Rev. John D. Jordan

Response to the Word

*Affirmation of Faith	<i>“The Apostles’ Creed”</i>	881
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Presentation of Tithes & Offerings		
Offertory		Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology	<i>“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”</i>	95

*Hymn	<i>“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”</i>	196
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*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response	<i>“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”</i>	Choir
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*Postlude		Christopher A. McCroskey
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*The Congregation May Stand

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor:	John D. Jordan	AV Assistant:	Chris Derrick
Choir Director:	Christopher A. McCroskey	Time Together:	Wayne & Charlie Hooker
Church Musician			

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. We ask that you also please fill in the pew pad as it passes to register your attendance with us. **Large print hymnals** are available from the ushers.

You may join as a member into the life and work of this congregation by Confession of Faith or by Transfer of Membership from another church. If you would be interested in becoming a member, please speak to the pastor.

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...

John Ballentine	Becky Derrick	Jeanette Hornsby	Patsy Zeigler	Dale Wells	Charles McNeill
Pauline Wenner	Bill Pearson	Latson Lewis	Irvin Wells	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler
George Taylor	Oren Edwards	Bonnie Ramsey			

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

Family and Friends: **Alva Humphries** (*friend of Marty Johnson*); **Family of Brenda Jackson** (*aunt of Melissa Abrams*); **George Teague** (*father of friend of Ellen Matthews*); **Mildred Hart** (*mother of Dee Sem*); **Bill Areheart** (*friend of Bonnie Ramsey*); **Jane & Bob Bryant** (*sister and brother-in-law of Patsy Zeigler*); **Wessli-Ann Hardee Singleton** (*niece of Lynn Martin*); **Addie Kinard** (*cousin of coworker of Edwa Meek*); **Stuart & Penny Lloyd** (*son & daughter-in-law of Tom & Marilyn Lloyd*); **Cindy Ellenberg** (*friend of Ray Frady*); **Megan Corby** (*daughter of Carlis Edwards*); **Mitch Kelly** (*Dale Wells' nephew*); **Chip Hooker** (*Wayne Hooker's father*); **Robert Bradley** (*Business Associate of Simon Ross*); **Dino & Wanda Moore** (*friend of Tommy Gleaton*); **Dave Burrell** (*Business Associate of Tommy Gleaton*); **Gary Becton** (*friend of Mark Branham*); **Wade Albert Payne** (*friend of Mary Louise Robinson*); **Audrey Cassady** (*sister-in-law of Mary Louise Robinson*); **Monnie Tiller** (*friend of Chris Derrick*); **Betty Jean Newton** (*sister-in-law of Mary Kamoroff*); **Beth Ann Feimster** (*sister of Christopher McCroskey*); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (*stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey*); **Katelyn Rose** (*daughter of co-worker of Kathy White*); **Vickie Edwards** (*neighbor of Kathy White*); **Heather Stevens, 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*); **Denise Paul** (*cousin of Gale Frady*); **Dan Conner, 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*); **Vera Von Glahn** (*sister-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting*); **Debby Harden, Walt & Janet Beck** (*friends of Jo Ann Heiting*); **Jeff DuBrul** (*son-in-law of Walt and Janet Beck*); **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 11/21 SS: 6 Worship: 24

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 11/21 \$ 2,590.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Calendar for this Week

11/29 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
12/01 Advent Bible Study, 12 p.m.
Choir, 6:30 p.m.
12/02 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
12/03 Office Closed



Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

The Congregation
John D. Jordan
Jonathan Holston
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



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Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Thursday we ate our fill of turkey, dressing, sweet potato soufflé, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and pecan pie (with plenty of whipped cream). We watched football, took a nap, and maybe played games together. We spent the day with family and friends. It was a day of counting our blessings and giving thanks to God for all our blessings.

We have so much for which to thank God. We all have enough food to eat. We all live in nice houses in safe neighborhoods. We all have cars and ways to get around. Our children can go to school. We have access to health care. We have clothes to wear. We have family and friends. We can gather in this place to worship God. I could probably go on for much longer, but we have that leftover turkey and dressing in the refrigerator that needs to be eaten. We have received so many blessings from God.

As I look at all the blessings God has given me, I feel like Kris Kristofferson as he penned these words, "Why me Lord, what have I ever done to deserve even one of the pleasures I've known."

I have so much in terms of material things. I have family and friends. I have the privilege of being the pastor of this church, where we come together to worship God despite our differences. I have an incredible daughter with an equally awesome son-in-law. I have Kay, who has been with me for 41 years, and her love that I don't always understand. God has given me so many blessings that I do not deserve. So, I give God thanks for all of these blessings I have done nothing to earn.

We have not done anything to deserve the blessings God has given us. We continue to sin by thought, word, and deed. We remain in a state of sin with a propensity to sin. But God still blesses us. Why?

Perhaps the answer to that is in the phrase from Jeremiah, *Adoni tsideiqunu*. The LORD is our righteousness. The Hebrew word, *tsadeq*, has a double meaning. One is a legal connotation. As a legal term, righteousness means to be judged rightly. It would be that a just verdict has been rendered.

In the context of Jeremiah, the LORD was right in punishing Judah by its defeat to the Babylonians. However, Judah was punished by the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, faithful, forgiving iniquity but still punishing the guilty. Ah, the punishment only lasted to the third and fourth generations, but the steadfast love kept to the thousandth generation. By the way, a thousand generations would be 25,000 years, so pretty much forever. The God who judges and punishes Judah does not punish forever but seeks to restore Judah to God. God's love for Judah is greater than God's anger toward Judah. Thus Jeremiah makes this proclamation just before the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians. God will restore Judah.

The same God who punished and restored Judah seeks to restore us. The God we proclaim is restoring us and all creation because of the divine steadfast love. This restoration began with the birth of Jesus, who revealed God's Kingdom to the world. God's love remains with us even when God may be angry with us.

As we speak of God's steadfast love, we may shift to the second meaning of righteousness, which is relational. Righteousness means to have a proper relationship. As God created us from his love, we are to love God. This love of God is steadfast, meaning God will not break the relationship with us. It is a generous love. Thus God constantly gives us undeserved blessings.

We are to reciprocate by allowing God to align our lives to the will of God. We seek to do God's will in everything we do. God's primary intention is that we love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and we love our neighbor as ourselves. We seek to draw closer to God every day of our lives. We grow deeper in love with God and for our neighbor. God desires to have an intimate relationship with us. God wants us to love God and neighbor. It is that simple.

The LORD is our righteousness means the LORD is the one who will judge us. The LORD will judge us with steadfast love and mercy. The LORD will forgive our sins. The LORD may punish us in that there are consequences for our sins, but the LORD always seeks to restore us into a proper relationship.

The Lord kept the promise to Jeremiah. The exile did end. The people did return, and the city and temple were rebuilt. The Lord did cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David. The LORD revealed divine righteousness through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The LORD has promised that the Son will return one day, and we can stand before the Son.

The blessings God has given us have come from God's righteousness. God's justice comes from steadfast love and mercy, not power and punishment. Our blessings come from God's desire for us to be in an intimate relationship with God. God restores us into a holy relationship and aligns our will to the divine will. We freely align our will to God, who only wants good for us and from us. God, whose love for us and all creation is so steadfast that the Son was given as the means by which restoration would take place.

We may give thanks for the material blessings God has given us: food, houses, clothes, and cars. We give thanks for our relationships, family, and friends. We give thanks for the education of our children and grandchildren. We give thanks for safety and security. These things are great and wonderful, but they are not the most significant thing for which we can give God thanks.

The most incredible thing is that The LORD is our righteousness. We receive the LORD's justice and the LORD's love, and for that we give thanks above all else.