

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey
(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

Call to Worship "I Love You, Lord" Choir
Greeting 6

*Hymn "Heralds of Christ" 567
Opening Prayer 6
(Please register your attendance on the pew pads provided.)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Prayer for Illumination 6

Old Testament Reading Malachi 3:1-4 Page 841 (O.T.)
New Testament Reading Philippians 1:3-11 Page 187 (N.T.)
Canticle of Zechariah Luke 1:68-79 208

*Hymn "Soon and Very Soon" 706

Gospel Reading Luke 3:1-6 Page 59 (N.T.)
Sermon *Who Are God's Messengers?* Rev. John D. Jordan

Response to the Word "The Apostles' Creed" 7

Invitation 7
Confession and Pardon 8
Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

Thanksgiving and Communion 9-11

*Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" 220

*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve" Choir
*Postlude Christopher A. McCroskey

*The Congregation May Stand

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: John D. Jordan AV Director: Marie Stiles
Choir Director: Christopher A. McCroskey Time Together: Mary Louise Robinson
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	Kay Jordan	Patsy Zeigler	Dale Wells	Charles McNeill
Pauline Wenner	Bill Pearson	Latson Lewis	Irvin Wells	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler
George Taylor	Oren Edwards	Bonnie Ramsey	Jeanette Hornsby	Jimmy Grahl	

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*); **Mildred Hart** (*mother of Dee Senn*); **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 ...

Attendance 11/28 SS: 4 In-Person Worship: 15

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 11/28 \$ 2,259.82

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS."

Church Calendar

TODAY Lunch Bunch
12/06 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
12/08 Advent Bible Study, 12 p.m.
 Wonderful Wednesday Meal, 5:30 p.m.
 Devotional, 6:15 p.m.
 Choir, 6:30 p.m.
12/09 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
12/10 Office Closed



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



Second Sunday of Advent

1201 Mohawk Drive
 West Columbia, SC 29169
 Telephone: 803.794.7777
 E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com
 Website: www.trinityumcwc.org



**December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd
12 p.m.**

The Gospel of Matthew begins with an unusual genealogy of Jesus. What makes this genealogy remarkable is that it includes five women. Biblical genealogies did not usually include women. One of the women is Mary, the mother of Jesus, so it is not too surprising that she is included. However, the other four are startling. These women are Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba.

During the four Wednesdays in December (the 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd), we will study the stories of each of these women as our Advent Bible Study. The story of Tamar is in Genesis 38. The story of Rahab is in Joshua 2 and 6:22-25. Ruth, of course, has her own book. We initially find Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11-12:25, and she plays a significant role in the succession of Solomon after David's death (1Kings 1). As we study the stories of these women, we want to ask the following questions. What are the common threads of each of these women? What is the importance of each one's story? What is the message from their inclusion in the genealogy of Jesus?

The study will be held at noon on Wednesdays in December in the sanctuary and will also be live-streamed. We will begin with the story of Tamar, so please read in advance and email me with any questions or observations you may have. I look forward to seeing you as we study these remarkable women.



Christmas Cards Needed

Trinity will once again be providing Christmas Cards to Trinity shut-ins and to Asbury Arms residents. There are 55 Asbury Arms residents and 10 local Trinity shut-ins from our prayer list. They are Shirley Butler, Esther Carter, Carolyn Hardee, Gillett Hipp, Georgeann Pace, Shirley Padgett, Jean Raynor, Claudia Sineath, Wayne Tallon and Irvin Wells. The deadline for the cards to be included in the bags is Sunday, December 12.



**December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd
12 p.m.**

The Gospel of Matthew begins with an unusual genealogy of Jesus. What makes this genealogy remarkable is that it includes five women. Biblical genealogies did not usually include women. One of the women is Mary, the mother of Jesus, so it is not too surprising that she is included. However, the other four are startling. These women are Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba.

During the four Wednesdays in December (the 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd), we will study the stories of each of these women as our Advent Bible Study. The story of Tamar is in Genesis 38. The story of Rahab is in Joshua 2 and 6:22-25. Ruth, of course, has her own book. We initially find Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11-12:25, and she plays a significant role in the succession of Solomon after David's death (1Kings 1). As we study the stories of these women, we want to ask the following questions. What are the common threads of each of these women? What is the importance of each one's story? What is the message from their inclusion in the genealogy of Jesus?

The study will be held at noon on Wednesdays in December in the sanctuary and will also be live-streamed. We will begin with the story of Tamar, so please read in advance and email me with any questions or observations you may have. I look forward to seeing you as we study these remarkable women.



Christmas Cards Needed

Trinity will once again be providing Christmas Cards to Trinity shut-ins and to Asbury Arms residents. There are 55 Asbury Arms residents and 10 local Trinity shut-ins from our prayer list. They are Shirley Butler, Esther Carter, Carolyn Hardee, Gillett Hipp, Georgeann Pace, Shirley Padgett, Jean Raynor, Claudia Sineath, Wayne Tallon and Irvin Wells. The deadline for the cards to be included in the bags is Sunday, December 12.



**Wonderful Wednesday
December 8
5:30 p.m.**

The last Wonderful Wednesday of the year will be held on December 8. The meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. and a devotional will begin at 6:15 p.m. The meal will be prepared by Wayne and Charlie Hooker:

- Pork Loin
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Green Beans
- Bread
- Dessert

Reservations will be in the bulletin on Sunday, December 5, or you can call the Church Office by noon on Monday, December 6.



Sunday, December 19th

As we approach the second year anniversary of COVID-19's affect on our church life here at Trinity UMC of West Columbia, we're very grateful to be able to perform a Christmas Cantata for the congregation once again. When deciding on the theme for this year, it seemed only appropriate to title it, **"What Endures in the Face of Adversity"**. It begins by recounting the present and past examples of adversities. Then we'll look back into the signs of adversity found in the birth narratives of Jesus that offer us so much joy each year. We hope that you are able to join us on Sunday December 19th at 11:00 a.m. as we look at the words and music that tell the story of how his life among us is said to have begun.



**Wonderful Wednesday
December 8
5:30 p.m.**

The last Wonderful Wednesday of the year will be held on December 8. The meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. and a devotional will begin at 6:15 p.m. The meal will be prepared by Wayne and Charlie Hooker:

- Pork Loin
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Green Beans
- Bread
- Dessert

Reservations will be in the bulletin on Sunday, December 5, or you can call the Church Office by noon on Monday, December 6.



Sunday, December 19th

As we approach the second year anniversary of COVID-19's affect on our church life here at Trinity UMC of West Columbia, we're very grateful to be able to perform a Christmas Cantata for the congregation once again. When deciding on the theme for this year, it seemed only appropriate to title it, **"What Endures in the Face of Adversity"**. It begins by recounting the present and past examples of adversities. Then we'll look back into the signs of adversity found in the birth narratives of Jesus that offer us so much joy each year. We hope that you are able to join us on Sunday December 19th at 11:00 a.m. as we look at the words and music that tell the story of how his life among us is said to have begun.

We don't think about messengers much anymore. We receive our messages on our devices via text, email, or voicemail. I receive my messages on this 2 ½ x 5-inch box. I can send a message to any of you with the same box. We can send a message to the other side of the world in seconds. Our messaging technology is mind-boggling.

But not too many years ago, people sent messages to each other via a human messenger. The time it took for one to receive news depended on the distance it took to deliver. The message could travel by boat, airplane, horseback, truck, and foot. The way we deliver messages has changed, but still, people send and receive messages and news.

Each of the passages we read today tells of messages and messengers. Each messenger comes with a different message.

Malachi speaks of an unidentified messenger who is coming to prepare a way for the LORD. This messenger is like a refiner's fire and fuller's soap. The refining fire separates the precious metal, gold and silver, from the impure metal. The fire removes all impurities. The fuller's soap was used to clean the wool, making it white before being spun into yarn. The message of Malachi is that one is coming who will prepare and purify.

Some say this passage points to John the Baptist, some say Jesus. In our context today it appears that this passage points to John the Baptist as the Lectionary places it with the message of John. This passage is also read on the Feast of the Purification, the day Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the Temple (Luke 2: 22-38). By the placement of this passage as the Old Testament text for these events involving both John the Baptist and Jesus, the messenger may be both John and Jesus. John to prepare the way and Jesus to give the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Luke 1: 68-79 are the words of Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist. He recounts the promise that God remembers the holy covenant and would rescue Israel so they may serve God without fear. He tells the baby John that his mission would be to go before the Lord and prepare his ways. He was to tell the people that salvation was coming and their sins would be forgiven. John was to be the dawning of light that would overcome the darkness.

Luke 3: 1-6 tells of John's mission as he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He was the one that, according to Isaiah, was to prepare the way of the Lord so all flesh could see the salvation of God.

Then there was Paul, who carried the Gospel throughout Asia Minor, Greece, and Rome. We read from just one of the many letters he wrote to churches he established. He was a messenger who carried the Good News throughout the world.

Malachi, Zechariah, John, and Paul all point to Jesus. All were messengers who gave the Good News of Jesus coming into the world. They were messengers sent from God to give God's Good News to a broken world. And there were all the other prophets and apostles who gave God's message to the world in which they lived.

These were God's messengers 2,000 years ago. Yet the world remains broken. We see so much anger, hatred, and division in the world. Violence seems rampant. I read today of a 14-year-old boy who was shot 18 times while waiting on a bus. We hear so much of addictions to alcohol, opioids, and other drugs taking the lives of many. We may wonder where God's messengers are today.

Billy Graham is the last one I consider. He was a great preacher who led many to Christ, but he is gone. There are all the televangelists but most of them appear more concerned with how much money they take in than how many souls they save. So we can't help but wonder, "who are God's messengers today and where are they?"

God's messengers today are not found on television or radio. They are not found on stage in large arenas. God's messengers are found sitting in the pews of every church in the world. **WE** are God's messengers. God's messengers are not just the preacher in the pulpit but also the people in the pew. Each of you sitting here today, watching online, or reading these words is one of God's messengers. We who have experienced the Gospel are to then share the Gospel. Paul thanks God for the Philippians because they shared the Gospel from the first day. We are to share the message of God found in the Gospels.

What is this message of God? Is it the right doctrine? No. Is it right theology? No. Maybe it is doing the right things- going to church, taking communion, reading the Bible, and praying daily? No, these are things we do in response to receiving the Good News. Must be having the correct stance on social issues- abortion, race, homosexuality, healthcare, poverty, war, and so on. No, these are all things that Wesley would consider opinions, not essentials.

The message of God that we are to share is that God is love. God loves humanity so much that God came to earth 2,000 years ago in the form of a baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a feed trough. God came to an ordinary peasant family from a little village in a backwater province. God came into the world with a young woman as a mother and an everyday laborer as a father. God came into the world in a very ordinary way.

God loves the ordinary common everyday people. God loves the outcast and those on the fringes of society. God also loves the rich and powerful. God loves the CEO and the janitor that cleans to CEO's office. As God loves all equally regardless of status, we who claim to love God can only love all. This is the Good News. This is the message we are to spread. As St Theresa of Avila wrote:

Christ has
No hands but yours;
Yours are the eyes
Christ's compassion to the world;
with which he is to go about
yours are the hands

No body now on earth but yours;
No feet but yours;
Through which is to look out
Yours are the feet
doing good;
with which he is to bless now.¹

Our eyes are to look out with Christ's compassion, seeing and responding to the needs of the people around us. Ours are the feet with which Jesus goes about doing good. Ours are the hands with which Jesus blesses others.

¹ St Teresa of Avila, In *A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants*, By Rueben P. Job and Norman Shawchuck, (Nashville: The Upper Room, 1983) 22-23

Ours are the feet and hands which carry the message of God's saving love through Jesus Christ. We are the messengers to bring the Good News of God's love to West Columbia and throughout the world today.