

Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021

Welcome and Announcements
 Birthday Celebration

Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”</i>	Choir
Centering Words		

Opening Prayer		
*Hymn	<i>“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”</i>	203

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Prayer of the Day		
The Lord’s Prayer		895

Proclamation of the Word

Prayer of Illumination		
Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 12:2-6	610-611 (O.T.)
New Testament Reading	Philippians 4:4-7	189 (N.T.)

*Hymn	<i>“To God Be the Glory”</i>	98
Gospel Reading	Luke 3:7-18	59-60 (N.T.)

Anthem	<i>“On a Night of Wonder”</i>	Choir
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Old Testament Reading	Zephaniah 3:14-20	829 (O.T.)
Sermon	<i>Rejoice! God Comes!</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>“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”</i>	224
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*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response	<i>“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”</i>	Choir
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*Postlude		Christopher A. McCroskey
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*The Congregation May Stand

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor:	<i>John D. Jordan</i>	AV Director:	<i>Marie Stiles</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Christopher A. McCroskey</i>	AV Assistant:	<i>Chris Derrick</i>
Church Musician		Time Together:	<i>Ruth Frady</i>

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.

A Gift to Trinity is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Bonnie Ramsey on her birthday December 9, by her sister by heart, Annie.

“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	Kelsey Tolliver
Brandon Jones					

Shut-Ins: Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Nell Cooke; 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 ...

In-Person Attendance 12/05 SS: 10 Worship: 25

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 12/05 \$ 7,192.39 God's Helping Hands YTD: \$ 961.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Calendar for this Week

TODAY Birthday Celebration

Staff-Parish Meeting in FH following Worship

12/13 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

12/14 Prepare Bags for Shut-ins & Asbury Arms, 10:30 a.m. in FH

12/15 Advent Bible Study, 12 p.m.

Choir, 6:30 p.m.

12/16 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

FH Reserved, 6:30 p.m.

12/17 Office Closed

God's Helping Hands Food Giveaway for Residents of Lexington County, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m..

Columbia Community Concert Band @ Trinity Baptist, 7:30 p.m. (Leave Trinity at 6:45 p.m.)



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



Third Sunday of Advent

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Advent Bible Study
December 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.

This Wednesday, December 15th, we will study the story of Ruth, who has her own book. On Wednesday, December 22nd, we will study the story of Bathsheba, initially found in 2 Samuel 11-12:25. She also 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. 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
Christmas Cards Needed

Our shut-ins really appreciate our Christmas cards! We ask everyone to please remember to write cards to them and bring them by **this Sunday Dec 12**. Just put them on the table in the Gathering Area. The cards will be added to the gift bags and delivered so **addresses are not needed**. Our local shut-ins are: Georgeanne Pace, Esther Carter, Gillett Hipp, Shirley Butler, Wayne Tallon, Shirley Padgett, Claudia Sineath, Jean Raynor, Carolyn Hardee and Irvin Wells.

We will also be delivering bags and cards to the 55 Asbury Arms residents. Those cards can also be placed on the Gathering Area table.

Volunteers are needed to put the bags together. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday morning, December 14, at 10:30 a.m. All help will be appreciated.



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**Columbia Community Concert Band
Christmas Concert
Friday, December 17 @ 7:30 p.m.**

The **Columbia Community Concert Band's Christmas Concert** will be held on **Friday, December 17**, at 7:30 p.m. The concert will be held at Trinity Baptist Church located at 2003 Charleston Highway in Cayce. The bus will leave the Gunter Circle parking lot at **6:45 p.m.** A sign-up sheet will be in the Gathering Area. Admission is free.



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.



**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
Friday, December 24
6 p.m.**



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**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
Friday, December 24
6 p.m.**

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

The scene is a courtroom. The prosecution has made its case, and it is an airtight case if there ever was one. The defendant has nothing to say in defense. The judge renders the verdict. Guilty! Guilty! Guilty! The defendant hangs their head in shame, awaiting the sentence. The defendant trembles as the sentence is read. Death and destruction is the sentence.

This is the image one gets from Zephaniah. God has passed judgment on Judah for their turning from God and worshipping other gods. God has passed judgment on the nations who enticed Israel and Judah to worship their gods. God has passed judgment and the day of the execution is coming. The LORD, Adoni, is coming to execute divine judgment against Judah and the nations that have led her to sin, to turn away from Adoni.

We stand at the defendant's bench. We have turned away from God. We may not have worshipped other gods such as Baal or Asherah, but we have let other things come before God. We may have let a desire for money, power, or status come before our desire for God. We may have let a desire for approval from others take precedence over God's approval. We may have wanted to judge others instead of loving others, usurping God's prerogative to judge. We may have led others away from God. We may have presented an image of God that people may want not to be part of. We have turned away from God and now stand at the defendant's bench awaiting divine judgment and execution.

The day of the LORD comes. The day the LORD comes to execute divine justice. The guilty verdict has been rendered. The LORD comes as a warrior wielding a sword to kill and destroy all who have turned from him. The Lord comes to destroy Judah and all the nations that have led her astray. They all are guilty and require execution. God will gather all nations to, "pour out upon them my indignation, all the heat of my anger; for in the fire of my passion all the earth shall be consumed." (3: 8b)

We are guilty of the times and ways we have turned from God. We stand, trembling, waiting for God to execute divine judgment on us. We wait for God to pour out indignation, anger, and fire to consume us.

But then God does the unexpected. Instead of gathering all the nations to destroy them, he changes their speech. He changes all to one pure language so all may call upon the name of the LORD, all may call on Adoni. All may repent, turn from serving other gods, and serve the LORD. God puts aside the sword of the executioner and opens his arms to change all people to serve him.

Even as we deserve the sentence of death, God puts aside the sword of the executioner, opens his arms, and changes us so we may serve him.

This brings us to the passage we read today. Instead of destruction, God is coming to restore. God is coming to restore all nations. God is coming to give victory and renew Judah in his love. God will deal with oppressors, save the lame and gather the outcasts. God will change the shame of the oppressed, broken, and outcast to praise. God has taken away the judgments against Judah and will restore her fortunes.

God will restore our fortunes. Oh, we may not be blessed with wealth, fame, status, and power. The fortunes to which we are restored are much greater than those insignificant earthly things. We are restored into a relationship with God. When we turn from the world and toward God, God transforms us. God takes us out of the muck and mire of sin and purifies us so we may serve him. All we have to do is turn from fleeing from the sentence we deserve and into the arms of the God who restores us into the divine presence.

So we sing aloud, doesn't matter if we are off-key, we sing. We shout! We praise God from whom all our blessings flow. God comes to us.

God came into the world in the form of a human baby. God walked the hills of Galilee. God fished in the sea. God taught from the mountainsides. God walked the streets of Jerusalem. God hung on a Roman cross and died, but God did not stay dead. God came into the world bearing the name Jesus. God came into the world to save the world.

God did not leave the world. The presence of God remains in the world in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to us today in this place and tomorrow wherever we are, purifying, and restoring us so we may serve God each and every day.

God comes. So we rejoice. God saves and restores when death and destruction are deserved. We rejoice, not only during this time of Christmas but every day. Every day let us sing:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

He rules the world with truth and grace!

Joy to the world the Savior reigns!

He comes to give us the joy of serving the LORD, who metes out love and restoration instead of death and destruction. Let us always rejoice in the LORD who comes to us.