

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
November 13, 2022

Leading in Worship Today

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

Welcome and Announcements
 Birthday Celebration

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

Call To Worship "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" Choir
 Centering Words

*Hymn "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand" 724

Opening Prayer
 The Lord's Prayer 895

Proclamation of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Page 197 (N.T.)
 Psalter Psalm 118 839-840

*Hymn "Marching to Zion" 733

Gospel Reading Luke 21:5-19 Pages 82-83 (N.T.)

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 65:17-25 Pages 659-660 (O.T.)
 Sermon "God Is Creating" Rev. John Jordan

Response to the Word "The Apostles' Creed" 881
 Pastoral Prayer

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings
 Offertory Christopher A. McCroskey

*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

*Hymn "My Hope Is Built" 368

*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response "Give Thanks" Choir

*Postlude Christopher A. McCroskey

*The Congregation May Stand

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** in loving memory of their son, **Altie Hooker**, by **Wayne and Charlie Hooker**.

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

Patsy Zeigler	Kaye Floyd	Ruth Frady	Charlie Hooker	Hilda Edwards	Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl	Lynn Martin	Marty Johnson	Steve Aiello	Patsy Shuler	George Taylor
John Ballentine	Jackie McNeill	Dale Wells	Latson Lewis	Becky Derrick	Kenny Long

Shut-Ins: Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Gillett Hipp; June Hutto; Georgeann Pace; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath

Family and Friends: **Beverly Lipscomb** (sister-in-law of John Jordan); **Ross Deal** (grandson of Mary Kamoroff); **Jimmy Dawkins** (friend of Jeanette Hornsby); **David Turner** (brother of Pam Turner); **Chip Mixon** (friend of Tommy Gleaton); **Ron Walker** (friend of Tommy & Chris Gleaton); **Merit Takach** (friend of Joyce and Brent Robinson); **Frankie Hendrix** (cousin of Billy Pearson); **Howard Stephens** (former church member); **James Boggs** (father of Claire Boggs); **Stacy Coggins** (daughter of Steve Aiello); **Dan & Leslie White** (brother & sister-in-law of Steve White); **Cindy Bassett, Alva Humphries** (friends of Marty Johnson); **Bill Areheart** (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); **Hayley Beaudoin** (niece of Edwa Meek); **Max Nova** (son of friend of Edwa Meek); **Addie Kinard** (cousin of coworker of Edwa Meek); **Stuart & Penny Lloyd** (son & daughter-in-law of Tom & Marilyn Lloyd); **Megan Corby** (daughter of Carlis Edwards); **Chip Hooker** (Wayne Hooker's father); **Robert Bradley** (Business Associate of Simon Ross); **Gary Becton** (friend of Mark Branham); **Wade Albert Payne** (friend of Mary Louise Robinson); **Florence Lee Carter, Monnie Tiller** (friends of Chris Derrick); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Alexa Lookingbill** (wife of coworker of Kathy White); **Katelyn Rose** (daughter of co-worker of Kathy White); **Vickie Edwards** (neighbor of Kathy White); **Beverly Jordan** (sister-in-law of John Jordan); **Teddy Derrick** (uncle of Arvan Derrick); **Haidee Baehr** (friends of Ruth Frady); **Dianne Schmotzer** (sister-in-law of Gale Frady); **Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson** (cousins of Gale Frady); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (friends of Gale Frady); **Bryson Raszewski** (grandson of Caroline Hutton Raszewski); **Amelia Zinski** (great-niece of Linda Maloch); **Wayne Blair** (son of Dot Johnson); **Walt & Janet Beck** (friends of Jo Ann Heiting); **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 11/06 SS: 11 Worship: 44

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 11/06 \$ 4,190.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

TODAY Birthday Celebration

Church Council, 12:15 p.m.

11/14 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

11/15 Grief & the Holidays, 7 p.m.

11/16 T. a. G. Meeting, 7 p.m.

11/17 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

Readings for November 20

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79 (Canticle of Zechariah)

Colossians 1:11-20

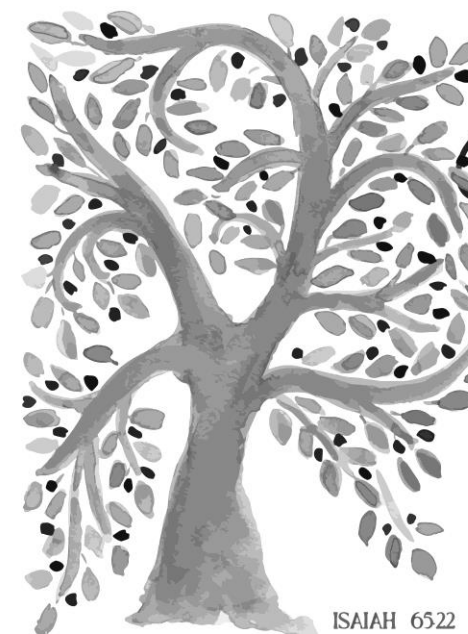
Luke 23:33-43



Ministers	The Congregation
Pastor	John D. Jordan
Resident Bishop	Jonathan Holston
District Superintendent	Rev. Fran M. Elrod

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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**TODAY
12:15 p.m.**



**Tuesday, November 15
7 p.m.**

Tuesday, November 15, at 7:00 p.m, we will have a discussion on *Grief and the Holidays* with Rev. Dr. Charles Pollock and Rev. John Jordan. Dr. Pollock has been chaplain at Prisma Health for twenty years, mostly in hospice. He has led the Grief Support Group at Prisma Baptist. He presently works in the Spiritual Care and Education Department. He is the president of the South Carolina Society of Chaplains. Rev, Jordan is the pastor at Trinity UMC West Columbia. Prior to entering the ministry, Rev. Jordan worked as a social worker with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health for eighteen years. He has also worked as a hospice Chaplain/Social Worker for four years. We will meet in the sanctuary. The discussion will be live streamed and archived on the Trinity UMC West Columbia, YouTube Channel.



**Saturday, November 26
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Join us on Saturday, November 26, as we decorate for the Advent season. We will start at 9 a.m. and hope to finish by noon.



**BEGINS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30
12 P.M.**

On Wednesday, November 30, we will begin our weekly Advent Study, *All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas*. Within the context of Advent and preparing for the coming of Jesus, we will examine the Wesleyan theology of grace, piety, mercy, and response. Join us at noon in the sanctuary or online on our YouTube channel.



Instead of purchasing poinsettias this year, we ask that you give an honorarium or memorial for a loved one. All money given in lieu of poinsettias will go to *United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for their Hurricane Ian Disaster Response*. We would like to have all donations in by December 11. A special insert listing memorials and honorariums will be in the bulletin on December 18.

In Memory of _____ By _____

In Memory of _____ By _____

In Memory of _____ By _____

In Memory of _____ By _____

In Honor of _____ By _____

In Honor of _____ By _____

In Honor of _____ By _____

In Honor of _____ By _____

Total Donation Attached \$ _____ **Please make checks out to Trinity and write UMCOR on the memo line.**

Additional forms will be available in the Church Office.



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Isaiah 65: 17-25

Genesis 1 tells us that God created the heavens, the Earth, and all therein in six days. On the seventh day, God rested. Many believe that “God rested” means God stopped creating. That theology seems to fit more with the Deist view of the enlightenment rather than the Biblical view.

Think about it, does a creator stop creating? Did Van Gough paint one painting then stop? Did Beethoven compose only one symphony? Did Shakespeare write only one play? No, Van Gough painted many artworks. Beethoven composed nine symphonies; plus concertos and other musical pieces. Shakespeare wrote numerous plays and sonnets. These and all creative persons continue creating throughout their lives. If human creators continue creating, wouldn't the divine creator continue creating?

Last Sunday's devotional in *The Upper Room* was written by an artist. She described how she liked to live with a painting after she finished. She would let the painting sit but might add a splash of color or a flower to enhance the painting. Thus, her finished painting may be different from what she originally intended.

Throughout the Bible, there are indications that God is continually creating. The passage from Isaiah 65 begins with God saying, “I am about to create...”. The Hebrew tense is ambiguous. It could be read in the future tense as the NRSV translates or in the imperfect as in, “I am creating... “ in the CEB. Either way, the verb describes ongoing actions. God did not stop creating on the seventh day but continues to create.

In this passage, God is creating new heavens and a new earth. Notice that the old heavens and earth will not be destroyed but shall not be remembered. This new creation will be so glorious that one would not remember the old. There will be no sound of weeping or distress. Infants will live. Childbearing will be without pain. People will live much longer lives, one hundred will be considered young. People will live as long as trees. How long is that? On the Mount of Olives, some olive trees are thought to be 2000 years old.

People shall eat the fruit of their vineyards and the produce from their fields. What one grows will not be taken away from them. Labor shall not be for the benefit of some imperial power but each will enjoy the fruit of their labor.

There will be a new order where all political structures will be transcended. The Promised Land will no longer be Canaan or Israel but the whole earth.¹ In this new order, predators and prey will eat together.

This sounds wonderful but we may ask, “If God promised this over 2,500 years ago, why are we in such chaos now? Infants still die. Only a few live to be a hundred. Childbearing is still painful. People still get sick. There is plenty of weeping and cries of distress. When is this new creation going to be?”

This new creation began in the time of Isaiah with the restoration of Israel. It continued through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This new heaven and new earth are being created now. God is creating new heavens and new earth.

¹ Barry G. Webb, *The Message of Isaiah* (Dowers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1996) 245.

Chapter 65 begins with God saying, “I was ready to respond to those who didn’t ask. I was ready to be found by those who did not look for me. I said ‘I’m here! I’m here to a nation that did not call my name.’” (v.1 CEB).

The ones that enter into this new heaven and earth are those that seek and serve God. The line between the chosen and unchosen is not ethnic or political, but personal and confessional.² God’s chosen people are not those of a particular nationality or ethnicity. God’s chosen people are those who seek God with a humble and contrite spirit (66:2b).

Those who seek God may enter the new creation. Those who turn to God, seeking God’s grace and mercy may enter the new creation. Those who ask for God to pull them out of the muck and mire of sin may enter the new creation. Those who seek and ask for forgiveness with a humble and contrite heart may enter the new creation.

When we seek God and ask for forgiveness with a humble and contrite heart. God begins creating. God begins creating us anew. God cleanses us, removing the muck and mire of sin from us. God removes all attitudes, thoughts, and feelings that keep us from loving God and our neighbor. God creates us anew so we can be God’s servants in this world to bring about the new creation as envisioned by Isaiah.

Entering the new creation is not just being saved from sin. Entering the new creation is based on being a servant of God, which is what we are saved for. We are saved to serve God to bring about God’s new creation.

We serve God by opposing oppressive structures in our society, thus freeing both the oppressed and the oppressor. We serve God by breaking down the social barriers which keep us from loving our neighbor. We serve God by serving the least and the marginalized, not the rich and powerful. We serve God by decrying violence in all forms: physical, psychological, social, and relational. We serve God by seeking a halt to all conflicts.

Now you may say, “I can’t do any of that.” That may be true but God can and will use every one of us to bring about new creation as long as we seek God and listen to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit reveals to us what we need to change within ourselves so we can more effectively serve God.

I had one of those revelations last week. I made the flyer for our discussion of grief and the holidays. I downloaded pictures, one depicting a person grieving and others celebrating the joy of the holidays. I noticed all the pictures I had downloaded depicted primarily white folk but didn’t think much about it. When I printed the flyer one of the pictures came out solid green, not once but twice. I deleted the picture that was green and replaced it with a picture of an Afro-American family. It then printed perfectly, every copy.

This revealed to me that I still have some deeply embedded racist tendencies. These tendencies interfere with my effectiveness as God’s servant for they create a subtle barrier to seeing all people as God’s children.

So, God is working on me, creating me anew. God is working on each of us creating us anew. All who seek God humbly and contritely, God will create anew. As we serve God and participate in making creation new, we will enter into God’s new creation.

² Ibid.