

Transfiguration Sunday
February 19, 2023

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| Welcome and Announcements | | |
| Prelude | | Christopher A. McCroskey |
| Call To Worship | <i>“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”</i> | Choir |
| Greeting | | |
| *Hymn | <i>“I Stand Amazed in the Presence”</i> | 371 |
| Opening Prayer | | |
| The Lord’s Prayer | | 895 |
| Proclamation of the Word | | |
| Prayer of Illumination | | |
| Old Testament Reading | Exodus 24:12-18 | Pages 69-70 (O.T.) |
| Psalter | Psalms 99 | 819-820 |
| *Hymn | <i>“Holy Ground”</i> | TFWS 2272 |
| New Testament Reading | 2 Peter 1:16-21 | Page 226 (N.T.) |
| Anthem | <i>“Near to the Heart of God”</i> | Choir |
| Gospel Reading | Matthew 17:1-9 | Page 23 (N.T.) |
| Sermon | <i>“A Voice From The Cloud”</i> | Rev. John Jordan |
| Affirmation of Faith | <i>“The Apostles’ Creed”</i> | 881 |
| Pastoral Prayer | | |
| Presentation of Tithes & Offerings | | |
| Offertory | | Christopher A. McCroskey |
| *Doxology | <i>“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”</i> | 95 |
| *Hymn | <i>“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”</i> | 103 |
| *Dismissal With Benediction | | |
| *Benediction Response | <i>“May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You”</i> | Choir |
| | May the Lord, Mighty God bless and keep you forever, Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and see God’s face and God’s grace forever, May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever. | |
| *Postlude | | Christopher A. McCroskey |
| | *The Congregation May Stand | |

Leading in Worship Today

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|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 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>Joyce Robinson Slone Taylor</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.

TODAY’S LOVELY FLOWERS are given to the **Glory of God** and in memory of our beloved **Jackie McNeill**, by the **Trinity UMC Choir**.

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

Patsy Zeigler Becky Derrick Cristen Hipp Dale Wells Patsy Shuler Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl Latson Lewis Steve Aiello Kaye Floyd John Ballentine Hilda Edwards

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

Family and Friends: **Gloria Erd** (friend of Lynn Martin); **Pearl Geddens** (mother of Tom Geddens); **Laura Horlbeck** (niece of English Percy); **Andrew Jordan** (nephew of John Jordan); **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); **Alva Humphries** (friend of Marty Johnson); **Bill Areheart** (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); **Hayley Beaudoin** (niece 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); **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); **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); **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 02/12 SS: 13 Worship: 30

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 02/12 \$ 2,746.93 Souper Bowl 02/12 \$ 372.55

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

- 02/20 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
Grief Support Group, 11 a.m.
02/21 GLIA Articles Due
Pancake Supper, 6 p.m.
02/22 Ash Wednesday Service, 6 p.m.
T.a.G., 7 p.m.
02/23 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

Readings for February 26

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11



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| 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



Transfiguration
SUNDAY

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**Monday, February 20
11 a.m.**

The need for a grief support group arose from the presentation we had on Grief and the Holidays in November. I am glad to say that arrangements have been made and the Church Council approved. The first session will be held Monday, February 20, at 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. Future sessions will be every third Monday at the same time and place. The group will be facilitated by Jerry Fonte. Jerry is a recently retired chaplain from Prisma Health with many years of experience. The group is open to anyone who needs support as they experience grief. Please share this with anyone you know who could benefit from this type of support.



**Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper
Tuesday, February 21, at 6 p.m.**

Plan now to join us on Tuesday, February 21, at 6 p.m. for a wonderful pancake supper prepared by the Trinity Men.



Wednesday, February 22, at 6 p.m.

The Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, February 22, at 6 p.m. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, beginning a period of reflection and penance. In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday also marks the beginning of preparation for the understanding of the death and resurrection of Christ.



Sunday, February 26

The covered-dish lunch on January 29 was enjoyed by everyone who attended! There was plenty of food and excellent fellowship. The decision was made to hold a church-wide covered dish lunch, now to be known as *Taste of Trinity*, on the fourth Sunday of every month. The next one will be held on Sunday February 26, immediately following the worship service. Plan now to bring a covered dish and enjoy the food and the fellowship!



**COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND'S
WINTER CONCERT
FEBRUARY 26, 2023, 4:00 PM
AIRPORT HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

The 42nd season continues as we present our Winter Concert on Sunday, February 26, 4 p.m., in the Auditorium at Airport High School. Selections include a variety of music from James Bond and Harry Potter movies as well as a John Philip Sousa march or two. A signup sheet will be placed on the round table in the Gathering Area in a couple of weeks if you'd like to reserve a seat on the bus which will leave from the Gunter Circle parking lot at 3:20 p.m. on the day of the concert. Chris Derrick will once again be your most capable chauffeur for this event, so please join us for a relaxing musical afternoon!

The clouds hung low over the mountain as we began our hike. The clouds hid the mountaintop. We thought the clouds would lift and our view unobstructed by the time we reached the mountaintop.

A light, misty rain began as we hiked up the mountain. Rather than lifting, the clouds became thicker and thicker. We could see no more than a few feet around us. Suddenly, we reached the top. We saw the steps of the observation tower that promised magnificent views. That was all we could see, just the steps leading into the cloud. We climbed the steps and onto the observation deck. Instead of magnificent views, the cloud was so thick we could barely see across the platform.

The cloud obliterated the promised views. We could barely see the tops of the trees below. This thick cloud completely enveloped us. In the nothingness of the cloud, we sensed a voice saying, "Wait for what I am about to reveal."

We waited. Gradually, the clouds lifted, revealing a glorious view of the valley below. The sky, which had been dull and grey, was now a bright blue. Various shades of green covered the mountainside and the valley below. We heeded the voice and were rewarded with the promised view. I believe the voice we sensed was the voice of God.

In today's passages from the Old Testament and Gospel, God appeared and spoke in a cloud. Throughout the Bible, the appearance and voice of God were often from a cloud. Moses received the Torah from a cloud. When the tabernacle was completed, God's presence entered in the form of a cloud. When the temple was completed, the same occurred. Ezekiel described the splendor of God as a cloud on a rainy day that spoke to him.

At Jesus' baptism, the heavens (clouds?) opened, and a voice from heaven spoke. Darkness (clouds?) covered the earth at the crucifixion. Jesus ascended in a cloud and will return in a cloud. The cloud motif links the Old and New Testaments.

In today's passage, Peter, James, and John saw Jesus with Moses and Elijah. When Peter offered to build three dwellings, a cloud overshadowed them.

The word translated as overshadowed is only used five times in the Bible. Three times are in the stories of the transfiguration, indicating being overshadowed by the presence of God.

The presence of God is often more acute in the nothingness which envelops us like a cloud. We felt God's presence in the nothingness surrounding us on the mountain we hiked. In nothingness, when we are emotionally, spiritually, mentally, and physically numb, God's presence is with us. All we can do in the cloud's nothingness is cry out to God and listen. Often in the nothingness, we hear, maybe not audibly, the voice of God.

We feel most alone in nothingness. We are afraid of nothingness. We cannot sense anything around us, like we could perceive nothing on the mountain. At that point, we recognize our need for God. We hear the voice of God in nothingness. We know that we are not alone and God is with us.

However, we are not distracted in the cloud. We can see nothing, so we are more acutely aware of our other senses. When we are not distracted by other sights or sounds, we may more easily hear God's voice and sense God's presence.

In Centering Prayer, one sits in silence for 20-30 minutes. It is difficult at first because one is easily distracted. As one continues this practice, it is easier to disregard distractions. To a degree, one places themselves in a cloud to sense God's presence.

The voice of God can be frightening. God spoke from the cloud, overcoming the disciples with fear. Encountering the divine is scary. Jesus told the disciples, "Get up and do not be afraid." The divine Son told them not to be afraid of God. The divine Son was with them, touching them and allaying their fear.

Likewise, Jesus is with us, allaying our fears as we encounter the divine. In this passage, there is an interesting little detail. God tells the disciples to listen to Jesus. The word, listen, is imperative, a command. Listening goes beyond hearing with the ears. God means for them to hear, heed, obey, and understand what Jesus teaches.

The first thing Jesus tells them is, "Get up and do not be afraid." Do not be afraid of God.

We are not to be afraid of God, in awe, yes; terrified, no. We are to hear, heed, obey, and understand the voice of God.

We find ourselves in clouds, in nothingness. At those times, we may be terrified, but Jesus says do not be afraid. Listen, you may hear the voice of God. Then heed God's voice, understand God's call, and obey. We can do so because, while the voice comes from the cloud, the presence of God is with us. God is with us in the cloud.

When we listen to the voice of God from the cloud, then understand, heed, and obey the voice what is to come will be revealed. For Peter, James, and John Christ's glory was revealed as they experienced the resurrected Jesus. For those of us who hiked up the mountain, a magnificent view was revealed. Whenever we hear, heed, understand, and obey God's voice from the cloud, what we are to do and be will be revealed.