

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 5, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

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

Call to Worship "Majesty" Choir

Greeting

*Hymn "For All the Saints" 711

Opening Prayer

Prayer for Illumination

"Let the Children Come!"

(Those 3 years of age through 8 years of age may go to Children's Church.)

Epistle Reading 1 John 3:1-3 Page 230 (N.T.)

Psalter Psalm 34 769-770

*Hymn "Christ for the World We Sing" 568

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:1-12 Pages 9-10 (N.T.)

New Testament Reading Revelation 7:9-17 Page 240 (N.T.)

Sermon "Saints Around the Throne" Rev. John D. Jordan

*Response to the Word "The Apostles' Creed" 881

*Gloria Patri "Glory Be to the Father" 70

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation

Confession and Pardon

Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory "For the Bread Which You Have Broken" Choir

Duet by Dan Greshel and Laurie Knapp

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

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Remembering the Saints and The Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer

*Hymn "Marching to Zion" 733

*Dismissal With Benediction

*Benediction Response "May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You" 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

Pastor: John D. Jordan AV Director: Marie Stiles

Music Director: Christopher A. McCroskey AV Assistant: Chris Derrick

Time Together: Jack Stevens; Pam Turner

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 our Lord and in celebration of the marriage of **Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Alexander Kamoroff**. Sam and Morgan exchanged vows on November 4th. Sam is the son of Allan Kamoroff and the grandson of Mary Kamoroff. The flowers are given by **Bonnie Ramsey and Mary Kamoroff**.

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

Patsy Zeigler Becky Derrick Kaye Floyd Dale Wells Patsy Shuler Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl Latson Lewis John Ballentine Jack Stevens Dolly Pearson Steve White

Shut-Ins: Esther Carter; Gillett Hipp; Linda Maloch; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; George Taylor

Family and Friends: Charlyn McNeill (*sister of Mary Sue Lewis*); Elizabeth Kelsey & Jamie Barnett (*friends of John & Kay Jordan*); Alex Courtney (*friend of great nephew of Joyce Robinson*); Lawrence Gilbert (*friend of Becky Derrick*); Bob Bohnstengel (*spouse of Jo Ann Heiting's cousin*); Judy Spence (*former member*); Anne Piercy (*former member*); Missy Abrams (*stepdaughter of Lissa Abrams*); Mary Davis (*daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland*); Lauren & Leah Grace Edwards (*granddaughter & great-granddaughter of Hilda Edwards*); Gloria Erd (*friend of Lynn Martin*); Pearl Geddens (*mother of Tom Geddens*); Beverly Lipscomb (*sister-in-law of John Jordan*); Ross Deal (*grandson of Mary Kamoroff*); Nancy Wilson (*friend of Jeanette Hornsby*); David Turner (*brother of Pam Turner*); Ernie & Betsey Hendrix, Chip Mixon (*friends of Tommy Gleaton*); Ron & Janet Walker (*friends of Tommy & Chris Gleaton*); Merit Takach (*friend of Joyce and Brent Robinson*); James Boggs (*father of Claire Boggs*); Stacy Coggins (*daughter of Steve Aiello*); Dan & Leslie White (*brother & sister-in-law of Steve White*); Sweat Family (*friends of Marty Johnson*); Alva Humphries (*friend of Marty Johnson*); Bill Areheart (*friend of Bonnie Ramsey*); David Grandshaw (*brother-in-law of Edwa Meek*); Hayley Beaudoin (*niece of Edwa Meek*); Addie Kinard (*cousin of coworker of Edwa Meek*); 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, Teddy Derrick (*uncle of Arvan Derrick*); Haidee Baehr (*friends of Ruth Frady*); Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson (*cousins of Gale Frady*); Dan Conner, Max Johnson (*friends of Gale Frady*); Bernardo Velasquez, 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 ...

Attendance 10/29 SS: 13 Worship: 28

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 10/29 \$ 1,816.84

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Church Calendar

11/06 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
11/08 SPRC, 6 p.m.
Choir, 6 p.m.
T.a.G., 7 p.m.
11/09 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
Killingsworth Gala, 6 p.m.
11/10 Office Closed

Readings for November 12

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13



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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The SPRC will meet this **Wednesday, November 8**, at 6 p.m. in the Conference Room.



Tuesday, November 21
11 a.m.

The Grief Support Group will meet on Tuesday, November 21, at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room. This group is open to everyone.



Sunday, November 26

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held on Sunday, November 26. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and great fellowship!

REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS

Members

Shirley Butler
George Henry
June Hutto
Jackie McNeill
Melton Martin
Jewel Percy
Mildred Perry
Bill Smith

Constituents

Steve Aiello
Preston Cantrell
Georgeann Pace
George Taylor, Jr.
Irvin Wells

Family and Friends of Members and Constituents

Eunice Johnson (Aunt of Jim Stiles)
Rev. Thom Jones (Beloved United Methodist Minister)
Paul Lagatore (Friend of Laurie Knapp)
Bishop Jack Meadors (Early Mentor of Joe Alley)
Nell Rabon (Friend of Joyce Robinson)
Connor Stokes (Great-Nephew of Joyce Robinson)
Dr. Martha White (Sister of Toni White)

Revelation 7: 9-17

This is one of my favorite passages from the Bible. In the beginning of all the horrible apocalyptic images in Revelation, as the seals are being broken, the four horsemen emerging and amid images of disaster and carnage we have this passage. It is a passage I often read with hospice patients and at funerals, because it is, to me, the true image of our hope in eternal life.

The 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel have been gathered in (don't take the number literally - 144,000= 12x12 - is a perfect complete number meant to be read symbolically). Now that the house of Israel has been gathered in, here come people from all nations, tribes, languages and peoples. All people from everywhere, more than one could count, come and stand before the throne, not to be judged but to praise and worship God, day and night.

To that early church, that small community of Jesus followers that was experiencing sporadic persecution, martyrdom and exile, this would be an image of hope. If we maintain our faith and hold true to the teaching and resist the temptations of the world, this will be our reward. The numbers indicate growth beyond their imaginings, that the gospel would be spread to all the world and all peoples would come to God.

It is with this hope that Paul encourages the church in Thessalonica. 1Thessalonians 4:13 "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope." The hope that Paul is talking about is, I believe, held in this image from Revelation, that those who believe and maintain their faith will be gathered before the throne of God, not to be judged but to be in the presence of God. Eternal life is being in the presence of God who created and gave life.

This is heaven. Take your streets paved with gold, the pearly gates and all those other images. Give me this one! Being in the presence of God the Creator, worshiping God with people from every nation, race, gender, language, ethnicity, sexual orientation, all those human barriers we create to divide are broken down and we all just praise and worship God. That is heaven!

Each person that these candles represent is one that is now in that great multitude. They have been gathered around the throne of God and worship God for all eternity and God will shelter them. Under God's shelter there is no hunger or thirst. Instead of hot blazing sun and scorching heat there is cool shade. Instead of the confusion and loss of self that comes from dementia there is a mind that is sharp and full of memories. Instead of the pain and suffering of cancer there is wholeness and completeness. They have been made whole, they have been made clean. They have been made perfect as they approach the throne of the God whose essence is perfect complete love and they get to bask in that love forever.

This is why Paul says that we do not grieve as others that have no hope. We grieve and as Christians we should grieve with hope. We grieve because we have lost our mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, uncle, aunt, cousin, or friend. We grieve with hope that one day we will pass through that portal called death which the Eastern Church views as "a portal from this sinful world into a world without sin", without separation from God. We grieve with the hope that we will also be gathered in under that shelter of God. We will see the Glory that is God. We will be reunited with the loved ones that these candles represent, joining them around the throne to praise and worship God, forever and ever. Amen