

Christ the King Sunday
November 26, 2023

Welcome and Announcements		
Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	“Majesty”	Choir
Greeting		
*Hymn	“We Gather Together”	131
Opening Prayer		
The Lord’s Prayer		895
Proclamation of the Word		
Prayer of Illumination		
“Let the Children Come!”		
<i>(Those 3 years of age through 8 years of age may go to Children’s Church.)</i>		
Old Testament Reading	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Pages 760-761 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalms 100	821
*Hymn	“Rescue the Perishing”	591
Epistle Reading	Ephesians 1:15-23	Page 182 (N.T.)
Anthem	“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”	Choir
Gospel Reading	Matthew 25:31-46	Page 32 (N.T.)
Sermon	“The King Judges”	Rev. John Jordan
*Affirmation of Faith	“The Apostles’ Creed”	881
*Gloria Patri	“Glory Be to the Father”	70
Pastoral Prayer		
Presentation of Tithes & Offerings		
Offertory		Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology	“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”	95
*Hymn	“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”	581
*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

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...

Patsy Zeigler Becky Derrick Kaye Floyd Dale Wells Patsy Shuler Christopher McCroskey
Jimmy Grahl Latson Lewis John Ballentine Jack Stevens 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*); **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 ...

In-Person Attendance 11/19 SS: 12 Worship: 36

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 11/19 \$ 9,860.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

TODAY Taste of Trinity following Worship

Church Council following Taste of Trinity

11/29 Choir, 6 p.m.

T.a.G., 7 p.m.

12/01 Office Closed

12/02 Decorate for Advent/Christmas, 9 a.m.

Readings for December 3

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37



Ministers
Pastor
Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

The Congregation
John D. Jordan
Jonathan Holston
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



1201 Mohawk Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169
Telephone: 803.794.7777

E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com

Website: www.trinityumcwc.org

Exercise class

The Exercise Class is taking a break for the remainder of the year. The class will resume on Thursday, January 4.



Today following Worship

Join us after worship today as we enjoy our church-wide covered dish luncheon. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and great fellowship!



Church Council will meet today immediately following Taste of Trinity.



In lieu of Poinsettias this year, we will be collecting funds for the University of South Carolina Food Pantry. The pantry provides students in need with food as well as toiletries, school supplies and small housewares as needed. The deadline for turning in the information for gifts in lieu of poinsettias is **Monday, December 11**. Inserts will be in the bulletin and can be picked up in the Church Office. Please call if you need one mailed or emailed to you. A special insert listing memorials and honorariums will be in the bulletin on December 17.



Saturday, December 2
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join us on Saturday, December 2, as we decorate for the Advent season. We will start at 9 a.m. and hope to finish by noon.



12/17 Christmas Cantata

12/24 Lessons and Carols, 11 a.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, 6 p.m.

12/25 Christmas Day
Office Closed

Soon, and very soon, we are going to see the King.

That King is the incarnate Son of God sent by God into the world. Jesus is the presence of God in the world, establishing God's rule on Earth. Satan and all other kings are pretenders.

God created the earth and all therein, including humans. God created all people in the divine image. It stands to reason that only the Creator can rule creation. God, the creator, sent the Son into the world to save the world.

Some believe that God will save the ones predestined for salvation. God will save the few who are truly righteous. Some say God will save only Christians, and some say only their brand of Christians.

But God is the creator of all and desires for all to be saved. God gives divine grace to all people. John Wesley flatly denies the doctrine of predestination. In his sermon "Free Grace" he points to several texts:

a clear proof that Christ died, not only for those that are saved,
He is "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world (John 1:28);"
the whole world (1 John 2:2);" "He (the living God) is the savior of all
tasted death for every man (Heb. 2:9).¹

"Destroy not him with thy meat for whom Christ died (Rom. 14:15)
but also for them that perish; He is the "Savior of the world (John 4: 42);"
"He is the propitiation, not for our sins only, but also for the sins of
men (1Tim, 4:10);" "He gave himself a ransom for all (1 Tim. 2:6)" "He

Wesley believed that God gave grace and salvation to all people.

If that is the case, why am I up here preaching to you? Why are you sitting here listening to me ramble on for 15- 20 minutes? I know you might be getting a nice little nap, but wouldn't you be more comfortable in your Lazy Boy? Why don't we just go home?

King Jesus is coming to save, but he is also coming to judge. He is coming to judge who enters the Kingdom of Heaven and who will not. Those who are righteous will enter eternal life; the unrighteous will go away to eternal punishment.

For Matthew's audience, the righteous were those who stayed alert and were prepared, like the wise bridesmaids. They were those who continued to work to expand God's Kingdom, like the servants who multiplied their talents. They were the ones who remained true to the faith even in the face of adversity and uncertainty. They were the ones who responded to God's grace by living the message of the Gospel and doing God's will. They fueled their faith to be drawn closer to God and know God's love better.

¹ John Wesley, "Sermon 110, Free Grace," In *The Sermons of John Wesley: A Collection for the Christian Journey*, Kenneth J. Collins and Jason E. Vickers, Eds. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013) 27.

This is our criteria for judgment. We stay awake and alert. We fuel our faith to be drawn closer to God. We do the work God has for each of us to expand God's kingdom. We respond to God's grace by living the message of the Gospel. We remain true to the faith even in the face of adversity and uncertainty.

Then we come to today's passage, and wait a minute! This passage says we will receive the Kingdom if we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit prisoners. Does that mean we just have to do good, and we will enter the Kingdom?

At first glance that may seem to be the case, but let's take a closer look.

The Son of Man will come in his glory and sit on his throne. All the nations will be gathered before him. Remember, Matthew was writing to a primarily Jewish Christian community. The word, *ethnos*, translated as nations, refers to gentiles. It may also refer to pagans or heathens. These are the people outside the Jewish Christian community. (Also, remember at the time of Matthew, Christianity was considered a sect within Judaism.)

So, oh boy, those non-believers will get their just desserts. But Jesus separates them like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He says to those on his right that they are blessed and will enter the Kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. They are blessed and enter the Kingdom because when Jesus was hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, and imprisoned they took care of him. They ask, when? Jesus replies whenever you did it to the least and the marginalized people.

To those on his left, Jesus says, get away from me and get ready for the fire. They ask, why, and Jesus replies because they did not care for him. They did not care for the least and the marginalized.

This passage is not about how the community, the church, will be judged, but those outside the community. Those inside the community will be judged by their alertness to the coming and perseverance in doing good deeds.² Those within the community do good deeds in response to God's grace. They were aware of God's prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace. Those outside the community are judged by how they respond to the needs of their fellow humans.

Though the specifics of Judgement differ, there is one underlying element to the King's Judgement. In both cases, those inside and outside the community, are judged by the love command.³ Those inside the community know the love that comes from God and respond by loving their neighbor. Those outside know God's love but do not know the source. Though they do not know the source of love, they love their neighbor.

By this passage, we see that salvation is for all regardless of their conception of God. Those who know and profess Christ and live according to the command to love can come before the throne with the assurance of salvation. Even though they may not know the source of their love, those who love are also saved. But those who reject God's love, whether or not they profess Christ, are doomed to punishment.

We know the source of love. We bask in God's love daily. We live out God's love by loving our neighbors, particularly the least and marginalized. Therefore, we have the assurance of our salvation.

² Donald Senior, *The Gospel of Matthew*, (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997) 163.

³ Ibid.