

***Second Sunday after the Epiphany***  
**January 14, 2024**

***Leading in Worship Today***

Welcome and Announcements		
Prelude	Christopher A. McCroskey	
Call To Worship	<i>“We Three Kings”</i>	Choir
Greeting		
*Hymn	<i>“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”</i>	139
Opening Prayer		
The Lord’s Prayer		895
<b>Proclamation of the Word</b>		
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	1 Samuel 3:1-10	Page 242 (O.T.)
Psalter	Psalms 139	854-855
*Hymn	<i>“Lord, Speak to Me”</i>	463
New Testament Reading	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	Page 160 (N.T.)
Anthem	<i>“Open My Eyes, That I May See”</i>	Choir
Gospel Reading	John 1:43-51	Page 90 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>“Can Anything Good Come Out of...”</i>	Rev. John Jordan
*Affirmation of Faith	<i>“The Apostles’ Creed”</i>	881
*Gloria Patri	<i>“Glory Be to the Father”</i>	70
Pastoral Prayer		
Presentation of Tithes & Offerings		
Offertory		Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology	<i>“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”</i>	95
*Hymn	<i>“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought”</i>	128
*Dismissal With Benediction		
*Benediction Response	<i>“May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You”</i>	Choir

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

***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.***

\*The Congregation May Stand

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

Patsy Zeigler    Jim Stiles    Kaye Floyd    Becky Derrick    Patsy Shuler    Christopher McCroskey  
Charlie Hooker    Latson Lewis    John Ballentine    Mary Kamoroff    Steve White    Jimmy Grahl  
Taylor Linholm

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

**Family and Friends:** **Bryan Collard** (brother-in-law of Mary Sue Lewis); **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); **Sweat Family** ( friends 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](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com).

**OUR PRESENCE ...**

**In-Person Attendance 01/07    SS: 13    Worship: 34**

**OUR GIFTS ...**

**General Fund 01/07    \$ 2,885.00**

**OUR SERVICE ...**

**OUR WITNESS."**

**Upcoming Events**

**TODAY** Birthday Celebration

**01/15** Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

**01/17** Wednesday's Words, 11:30 a.m.

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

**01/18** Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

**01/19** Office Closed

**Readings for January 21**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20



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

---

***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](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com)  
Website: [www.trinityumcwc.org](http://www.trinityumcwc.org)



**Mondays & Thursdays  
10:30 a.m.**

The Exercise Class meets every Monday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to join the class at any time. It's a great way to start the year!



**Wednesday's Words  
Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.**

This month I will continue the series Finding and Keeping Joy based on the *Book of Joy* by Bishop Desmond Tutu and the Dali Lama. You may participate in person in the sanctuary or on our YouTube channel. After this series, I will begin a series on United Methodist beliefs. This will be ongoing and open to any topics you might like to discuss. Come or tune in on Wednesdays at 11:30 am.



**Sunday, January 28**

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, resumes this month and will be held on Sunday, January 28. It will continue on the fourth Sunday of every month. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and great fellowship!



Church Council will meet on Sunday, January 28, immediately following Taste of Trinity.



**Mondays & Thursdays  
10:30 a.m.**

The Exercise Class meets every Monday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to join the class at any time. It's a great way to start the year!



**Wednesday's Words  
Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.**

This month I will continue the series Finding and Keeping Joy based on the *Book of Joy* by Bishop Desmond Tutu and the Dali Lama. You may participate in person in the sanctuary or on our YouTube channel. After this series, I will begin a series on United Methodist beliefs. This will be ongoing and open to any topics you might like to discuss. Come or tune in on Wednesdays at 11:30 am.



**Sunday, January 28**

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, resumes this month and will be held on Sunday, January 28. It will continue on the fourth Sunday of every month. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and great fellowship!



Church Council will meet on Sunday, January 28, immediately following Taste of Trinity.

John 1: 43-51

Before starting, I will be naming some towns and types of people with the question “Can anything good come from...?” Please understand that I am using these as rhetorical illustrations and do not intend to put down anyone. If I do so, I beg your forgiveness; it was unintentional.

Jesus was on a roll! He had just come onto the scene, and he was gathering disciples. John pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God, and two of John’s disciples left him to follow Jesus. One, Andrew, went and told his brother, Simon, that they had found the Messiah. Andrew brought Simon to Jesus and Jesus renamed him, Peter.

The next day, Jesus found Phillip and told Phillip to follow him. Phillip was excited! He found his friend, Nathaniel, and told him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote. We have found the Messiah! He is Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth!

Suddenly, this rapid movement and gathering of disciples came to a screeching halt. For the first time, there was resistance to Jesus’ calling. Nathaniel was skeptical, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

“Can anything good be out of Nazareth?” This question brought Jesus’ momentum to a screeching halt. Rather than dropping everything and following Jesus, as everyone else so far, Nathaniel questioned if Jesus was the Messiah.

Nathaniel rejected Jesus as the Messiah. The basis upon which Nathaniel rejected Jesus was nothing he heard Jesus say. His rejection was not about anything Jesus did. It was about Jesus’ birthplace, his heritage.

Why did Nathaniel think so little of Nazareth? We do not know. Maybe, Nazareth was perceived as a lower-class village, like some consider mill towns. Perhaps, it was simply that Nazareth was another insignificant village in Galilee. Nathaniel could have thought that the Messiah would come from Jerusalem, not some backwater place like Nazareth. Whatever the reason, Nathaniel resisted Phillip’s witness because of where Jesus was from.

We may think that is stupid. Resisting someone’s witness to Jesus because of where they are from? Nathaniel had not even seen or spoken to Jesus. How could he resist Phillip’s witness to Jesus? Nathaniel is an idiot!

Before we get too far into righteous indignation, let’s stop for a minute. In Clarence Jordan’s *Cotton Patch Gospel*, Nathiel’s question is framed as, “Can anything good come from Valdosta” (besides football teams)? People across the river may say, “Can anything good come from West Columbia?” We may say, can anything good come from Swansea, Hopkins, or Red Bank?” We may say can anything good come from Mississippi? Can anything good come from Mexico? Do we resist someone’s witness because of where they are from?

We may resist someone’s witness because they are from a different place from us. Not necessarily geographically, but a different culture, race, ethnicity, or lifestyle.

Can anything good come from someone who is dark-skinned?  
Can anything good come from someone who wears a turban or sari?  
Can anything good come from someone who has purple hair?

Can anything good come from someone who wears a dashiki?  
Can anything good come from anyone who is covered with tattoos, has body piercings, or  
has purple hair?  
Can anything good come from somebody who is different from us?

We may resist the witness of someone who has a questionable past.

Can anything good come from someone who has been in DJJ or DOC?  
Can anything good come from someone who has been in foster care?

Can anything good come from someone struggling with addictions or mental illness?  
Can anything good come from a poor person or a homeless person?

Are we quick to reject someone's witness because of where they are from, what they wear, the color of their skin, their lifestyle or history, personal or family? I will be honest. I have. I have been quick to consider the foreign doctors I worked with as not as smart as the American doctors. I also quickly learned that this was not the case as there were many American doctors I would not refer anyone to. I have been quick to tune out preachers and presenters who were different. I have been quick to resist someone's witness because they were different and if we are honest with ourselves, we all have.

Notice how Phillip dealt with Nathaniel's resistance. He did not try to argue the issue. He did not reject Nathaniel. He did not admonish Nathaniel or try to defend himself. He simply offered an invitation, "Come and see." He overcame Nathaniel's resistance by inviting Nathaniel to experience what he had experienced with Jesus.

As Nathaniel was coming toward Jesus, Jesus told Nathaniel what he was, "an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." Nathaniel recognized the truth, Jesus knew him even before Jesus met him, even before Phillip called him. At that point Nathaniel confessed the truth; Jesus was the Son of God, the King of Israel. Nathaniel knew that something good came out of Nazareth, the Messiah.

Even though we may be resistant to the witness of others, if we accept their invitation, we may see Jesus. When we let go of our preconceived notions of who is "good" and who is "bad", our resistance will break down. We can accept their invitation and see Jesus in them.

If we remember that all people are created in the image of God, we can see Jesus in all people. We can let go of our resistance and hear their witness. We may respond to their invitation to see Jesus in the way they see Jesus. We may see ourselves the way Jesus sees us. We can see Jesus more clearly, and confess Jesus as the Son of God and King of all people.

May we let go of our preconceived notions, for something good, the Messiah, may come from anywhere.