

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
January 28, 2024

Leading in Worship Today

Welcome and Announcements
 Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

Call To Worship "O How He Loves You and Me" Choir
 Greeting

*Hymn "O Worship the King" 73

Opening Prayer
 The Lord's Prayer 895

Proclamation of the Word
 Prayer of Illumination

"Let the Children Come!"
(Those 3 years of age through 8 years of age may go to Children's Church.)

Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Page 172 (O.T.)
 Psalter Psalm 111 832-833

*Hymn "We, Thy People, Praise Thee" 67

New Testament Reading 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Page 161-162 (N.T.)

Anthem "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" Choir

Gospel Reading Mark 1:21-28 Page 37 (N.T.)
 Sermon "The Beginning of Wisdom" 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 "Only Trust Him" 337

*Dismissal With Benediction

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

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.***

*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 Jimmy Grahl Taylor Linholm

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

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.

OUR PRESENCE ...

In-Person Attendance 01/21 SS: 10 Worship: 35

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 01/21 \$ 4,925.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

01/29 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

01/31 Wednesday's Words, 11:30 a.m.
T.a.G., 7 p.m.

02/01 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

02/02 Office Closed

02/03 Service for Carlis Edwards, 2 p.m.
Visitation to follow in Gathering Area

Readings for February 4

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39



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



The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority.

Mark 1:22

1201 Mohawk Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169
Telephone: 803.794.7777
E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com
Website: www.trinityumcwc.org

**Administrative Team & Ministry Team Combined Meeting
Meets today following Taste of Trinity**

The Administrative Team and Ministry Team will meet together today immediately following Taste of Trinity.

This year, we begin a new organizational structure. The structure consists of an Administrative team, which handles all the administrative tasks of the church, a Ministry team, which handles all the ministry functions of the church, and a prayer team that prays for the teams. The Members of each team are listed below:

Administrative Team- functions as Trustees, SPRC, and Finance Committees

Tom Geddens- SPRC/Chair	Sue Ballentine- Lay Leader	Chris Derrick- SPRC
Ted Frady- Trustee	Jo Ann Heiting- Treasurer	Wayne Hooker- Trustee
Brandon Jones- Young Adult	Bonnie Ramsey- Finance	Marie Stiles- Delegate to AC

Ministry Team- Coordinates all ministry activities of the church

Patsy Boggs	Erin Derrick	Ruth Frady
Dan Greshel	Jeanette Hornsby	Kelsey Jones
Mary Sue Lewis	Jim Stiles	Slone Taylor

Prayer Team- Prays for the committees whenever they meet

Becky Derrick	Hilda Edwards	English Pearcy
John Zeigler	Patsy Zeigler	

**Administrative Team & Ministry Team Combined Meeting
Meets today following Taste of Trinity**

The Administrative Team and Ministry Team will meet together today immediately following Taste of Trinity.

This year, we begin a new organizational structure. The structure consists of an Administrative team, which handles all the administrative tasks of the church, a Ministry team, which handles all the ministry functions of the church, and a prayer team that prays for the teams. The Members of each team are listed below:

Administrative Team- functions as Trustees, SPRC, and Finance Committees

Tom Geddens- SPRC/Chair	Sue Ballentine- Lay Leader	Chris Derrick- SPRC
Ted Frady- Trustee	Jo Ann Heiting- Treasurer	Wayne Hooker- Trustee
Brandon Jones- Young Adult	Bonnie Ramsey- Finance	Marie Stiles- Delegate to AC

Ministry Team- Coordinates all ministry activities of the church

Patsy Boggs	Erin Derrick	Ruth Frady
Dan Greshel	Jeanette Hornsby	Kelsey Jones
Mary Sue Lewis	Jim Stiles	Slone Taylor

Prayer Team- Prays for the committees whenever they meet

Becky Derrick	Hilda Edwards	English Pearcy
John Zeigler	Patsy Zeigler	

Psalm 111

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.”

That is the truth! You are wise to fear the LORD. The LORD can call you right now, this very minute, and if you are a sinner, He will throw you into the fires of hell. You will be weeping, wailing, and gnashing teeth. If you are smart, you will fear the LORD and do whatever the LORD tells you. Straighten up and fly right!

Many interpret this phrase like this. Be afraid of the LORD because he holds your eternal life in his hands. But that is not what this phrase means. In fact, the meaning of the phrase is far from that interpretation. To understand the phrase, we must break it down.

First, what is meant by fear? Does fear mean to be afraid of the LORD? No, far from it. Fear means to be in awe of the greatness of God. Look at what the psalmist says earlier. “Great are the works of the LORD.” “Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.” “The LORD is gracious and merciful.” “He provides food for those who fear him.” “He has shown his people the power of his works.” “The works of his hands are faithful and just.” Those words do not sound like someone who wants you to be scared of them. In fact, it sounds more like someone who wants you to approach them.

We approach the LORD with reverence. We recognize his holiness and our unholiness. With awe and reverence, we are drawn closer to God to be cleansed and made holy. We begin the path towards wisdom.

Then what is wisdom? Is wisdom knowing all of the laws and obeying the laws? The ability to make the right decisions is a component of wisdom, but it is not wisdom. The wisdom that comes from the fear of the LORD is the desire to follow and imitate God. Wisdom is our desire to obey God. As Albert Edward Day, the Methodist pastor and writer wrote, “Obedience is indispensable. *Not to a static code*, however helpful it may be at times. *But to obedience to God*, who is present with us in every situation and is speaking to us all the time.”¹

Wisdom is not obedience to the law but to God. Wisdom is the desire to follow, obey, and imitate God. Wisdom is responding to the presence of God now, and the word God is speaking to us today. God did not stop speaking with the completion of the Bible but is speaking to us today. Wisdom is listening and responding to God’s word today. Wisdom is prayer, study, and listening to discern God’s call for us as individuals and as the church.

Complete wisdom is not fearing the LORD. Before you start claiming I am contradicting myself, look at the phrase again. “The fear of the LORD **is the beginning of wisdom.**”

¹ Albert Edward Day, *The Captivating Presence*, In *A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants*, by Rueben P. Job and Norman Shawchuck (Nashville: Upper Room Books. 1983) 67.

While our awe and reverence of the LORD is wise, it does not give us wisdom. Wisdom comes from continually working to follow and imitate God. We are not made holy because we fear the LORD, but we begin the process of becoming holy. As we continue to follow, obey, and imitate the LORD, we increase in wisdom. This process of increasing in wisdom and holiness is the way of salvation.

This week, I found this little pamphlet attached to the Gunter Circle mailbox. It presents an ABC salvation. A is admitting that you are a sinner. B is believing in what Jesus has done for you. He died for your sins. C is calling upon Jesus now.

I don't know about the group that placed these pamphlets, but many believe that is all one needs to do to be saved. I agree to an extent. I agree that these ABCs are the **beginning** of salvation, wisdom if you will. But salvation, wisdom, does not end there. Salvation comes from continually striving to grow in wisdom. We desire to follow God more closely.

The ABCs may keep us out of hell, but they do not draw us closer to heaven. Marcrina Wiederkehr wrote, "We became so busy keeping out of hell that we forgot we are on the way to heaven."² We go on to heaven by growing in our desire to follow God more closely, obeying God's call for us today, and being as close an imitation of God as we can be.

Our fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. Accepting Jesus as our Savior is the beginning of our salvation. May we continue to grow in wisdom. May we grow in our desire to follow and imitate God through the example of Jesus. Each day, we take a step closer to heaven.

² Marcina Wiederkehr, *A Tree Full of Angels*, In *A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants*, by Rueben P. Job and Norman Shawchuck (Nashville: Upper Room Books. 1983) 195.