

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 4, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

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

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

*Hymn "On Eagle's Wings" 143
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 Corinthians 9:16-23 Page 162 (N.T.)
Psalter Psalm 147 859-860
*Hymn "People Need the Lord" TFWS 2244

Gospel Reading Mark 1:29-39 Pages 37-38 (N.T.)
Old Testament Reading Isaiah 40:21-31 Pages 634-635 (N.T.)
Sermon "Waiting for the LORD" 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 Christopher A. McCroskey
*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord's Prayer
Breaking the Bread
Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" 452
*Dismissal With Benediction
*Benediction Response "May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You" Choir & Congregation

*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 God** and in celebration of **Mary Kamoroff's 86th birthday** on February 7th, with love from **her family**.

“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 ...

Attendance 01/28 SS: 12 Worship: 38

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 01/28 \$ 1,470.96

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

02/05 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

02/07 Wednesday's Words, 11:30 a.m.

Choir, 6 p.m.

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

02/08 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

02/09 Service for Larry Butler, 2:30 p.m.

Office Closed

Readings for February 11

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9



Ministers

Pastor

Resident Bishop

District Superintendent

The Congregation

John D. Jordan

Jonathan Holston

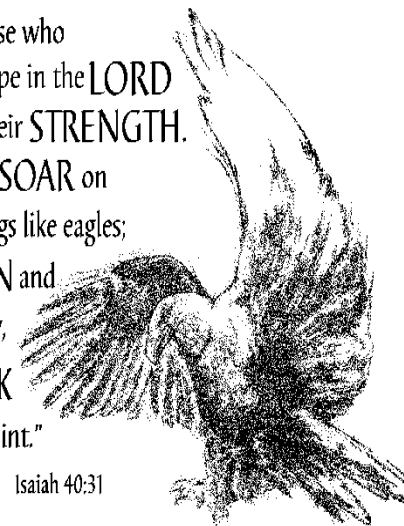
Rev. Fran M. Elrod

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform

“But those who
hope in the LORD
will renew their STRENGTH.
They will SOAR on
wings like eagles;
they will RUN and
not grow weary,
they will WALK
and not be faint.”

Isaiah 40:31



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Sunday, February 11

For over 30 years, the Souper Bowl of Caring movement has been inspiring people across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities. On Sunday, February 11, Trinity youth will once again collect donations to help a local charity. Please plan to help them achieve their goal of helping others in our community.



Grieving with God
Tuesday, February 13
(Change of Date)
11 a.m.

The Grief Support Group will now meet on the **second Tuesday of every month** at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room. This group is open to everyone.



Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper
Tuesday, February 13, at 6 p.m.

Plan now to join us for our annual Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 21 at 6 p.m. Invite your friends and neighbors to come and enjoy pancakes, sausage, and possibly bacon as we prepare for the season of Lent



Wednesday, February 14, at 6 p.m.

The Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, February 14, at 6 p.m. We begin the season of Lent by acknowledging and mourning our sinfulness.



Sunday, February 25

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, resumes this month and will be held on Sunday, February 25. It will continue on the fourth Sunday of every month. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and great fellowship!



Columbia Community Concert Band's
Winter Concert
February 25 at 4:00 p.m.
Airport High School Auditorium

The 43rd season continues as we present our winter concert on Sunday, February 25, 4 p.m., in the Auditorium at Airport High School. Selections include a variety of music from American Classics to River Dance to our usual march or two. This concert features our talented saxophone players in "What a Wonderful World" made so famous by Louis Armstrong. Look for the signup sheet on the round table in the Gathering Area if you'd like to reserve a seat on the bus which will leave from the Gunter Circle parking lot at 3:20 pm on the day of the concert. We hope you can join us for a relaxing musical afternoon!

We lived on a farm about five miles from downtown Americus, about six miles from Americus High School. Not only was it too far to walk to school, but it was also too dangerous since the farm was on a busy highway.

In Georgia, you get your learner's permit at fifteen. You could only drive with an adult in the car with you.

When I was a sophomore in high school, I could not drive to and from school by myself. Unless I could get a ride with a friend, I had to wait until someone could pick me up. I spent many afternoons waiting, sometimes for a long time. I rarely became anxious because I knew someone was coming to pick me up. I knew which direction they would be coming. I knew which cars to look for: a Dodge Challenger, a blue pickup, or a mustard yellow Impala. I knew who was picking me up by the car they drove. Even though I became impatient, I knew someone was coming to pick me up.

The Prophet told the people to wait for the LORD. The historical context of Isaiah shifts in chapter 40. Jerusalem had fallen, and its citizens were sent into exile in Babylon. Persia defeated the Babylonians and became the dominant power in the region. The possibility of an end to the exile was more real with the Babylonians defeated. The tone of the book changes from doom and gloom to words of comfort and hope.

But the people have been in exile for many years. They think the LORD has abandoned them; God no longer sees their condition of exile. Their punishment has gone beyond their transgression, not just the length of their exile but the hardship and oppression put upon them by the Babylonians. They are faint, weary, and exhausted.

The prophet reminds the people that the LORD is the Creator. The LORD has dominion over all the Earth, even foreign princes. Kings come and go but the LORD is an everlasting God. The LORD does not faint or grow weary. Even in the prime of life, humans faint and grow weary, but the LORD does not.

The Prophet tells the people to wait for the LORD. The Hebrew word translated as wait means to strain the mind in a certain direction with an expectant attitude. The Prophet is telling the people to exert their minds and focus on the LORD, with the attitude of deliverance. We are in a brutal exile but the LORD will deliver us. The LORD will renew our strength. We shall rise like eagles. We shall run and not be weary. We shall walk and not faint all the way back to Jerusalem!

We may find ourselves in exile, not in a foreign country but in a state of separation. We may feel separated from God. We may want to cry, "My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?" We may feel alienated from family and friends.

We may be in the exile of grief, questioning: Why did God take my loved one? Why did God leave me alone? Why did I lose my job and career? How did my marriage end in divorce? Our grief separates us from God and others.

We may be in the exile of mental illness or addictions. We may be unable to control our thoughts and emotions. We hide ourselves and our thoughts from others.

We may be in the exile of an illness. We sit through another procedure. We go through another round of therapy. We try yet another miracle medication.

We may be in the exile of social or economic factors. We may be in the wrong group or not have the money to keep up with the Jones'. There are so many ways we can find ourselves in exile, feeling cut off from God and others.

We find ourselves faint, weary, and exhausted. We can't fight it anymore and just want to give up the struggle. We won't make it back to Jerusalem.

We heed the words of the Prophet. We wait for the LORD. We focus our minds on God with the attitude that God will deliver. God will deliver us from our exile of grief, addictions, mental illness, illness, society, and economics. We may not know how or when but God will deliver us. Our deliverance may be through a support group, a new medication, or the right therapist or doctor. Our deliverance may simply be becoming part of a community. Our deliverance may be sudden or a gradual realization and changed perspective. We wait for the LORD.

No matter how hard we try, we cannot get out of our exile by ourselves. But when we wait for the LORD, the LORD renews our strength and never fails to strengthen us. We can mount up like eagles. We can run and not be weary. We can walk and not faint out of our exile and back to God.