

Second Sunday in Lent
February 25, 2024

Leading in Worship Today

Welcome and Announcements

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

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

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

*Hymn "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" TFWS 2129

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 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Page 13 (O.T.)
 Psalter Psalm 22 752-753

*Hymn "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" 297

New Testament Reading Romans 4:13-25 Pages 146-147 (N.T.)

Anthem "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" Choir

Gospel Reading Mark 8:31-38 Pages 45-46 (N.T.)
 Sermon "To Save Your Life" 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 "Where He Leads Me" 338

*Dismissal With Benediction

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

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...

English Pearcy Patsy Zeigler Charlie Hooker Kaye Floyd Patsy Shuler Taylor Linholm
Becky Derrick John Ballentine Mary Kamoroff Jimmy Grahl Latson Lewis

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

Family and Friends: Logan Sturkie (*granddaughter of Marty Johnson's neighbor*); 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*); 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 02/18 SS: 15 Worship: 37

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 02/18 \$ 2,685.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

TODAY Taste of Trinity following Worship

Columbia Community Concert Band's Winter Concert, 4 p.m.

Bus Leaves Gunter Circle Parking Lot at 3:20 p.m.

02/26 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

02/28 Wednesday's Words, 11: 30 a.m.

Choir, 6 p.m.

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

02/29 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

03/01 Office Closed

Readings for March 3

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22



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

Second Sunday
in
Lent

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Following Worship Today

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



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

The 43rd season continues as we present our winter concert today at 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 p.m. on the day of the concert. We hope you can join us for a relaxing musical afternoon!



Sunday, March 3 4 p.m.

Join us on Sunday, March 3, for food and fellowship as we watch the documentary film, Route 60: The Biblical Highway.

This film follows David Friedman and Mike Pompeo as they venture down this sacred road, treading the very ground Abraham, Jacob, King David, and Jesus once walked. Discover the history of Route 60, the Biblical Highway.



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

This month I have started a series on United Methodist beliefs. You may participate in person in the sanctuary or on our YouTube channel. Wednesday's Words will be ongoing and open to any topics you might like to discuss. Come or tune in on Wednesdays at 11:30 am.

Coming Up in March

Holy Week Services

Sunday, March 24 at Trinity / Debbie Miller preaching
Monday, March 25 at Brookland / Morgan Byers preaching
Tuesday, March 26 at Shiloh / Mark Payne preaching
Wednesday, March 27 at Platt Springs / John Jordan preaching

Mark your calendars for these times of worship and fellowship with our sister UM churches in the West Metro Area.

Mark 8: 31-38

I have decided to follow Jesus.

I can save my life by following Jesus. I like my life and want to save it. So, I follow Jesus. I am a disciple of Jesus.

Oh, if it was that easy. Just follow Jesus and be saved.

It seems Peter, the other disciples, and the crowds thought that way. Peter identified Jesus as the Messiah in the passage before this one. Follow the Messiah, and we will be saved. All we have to do is follow along behind him.

But wait, Jesus starts telling them that the Son of Man, the Messiah, must suffer, be rejected, and then be killed. After three days, he will rise again. What is this gobbledygook? Jesus must be a little confused, so Peter sets him straight.

Jesus calls Peter Satan and tells him to get away from him, and then Jesus sets Peter, the disciples, and the crowd straight.

Jesus' summoning the crowd is a rarity in Mark. Usually, Jesus calls the disciples away from the crowds. By doing this, the writer draws the audience into the story. We are part of the audience. What Jesus had to say was for Peter, the disciples, the crowds, the audience then, and us today. The instructions Jesus gives are for us, just as much as for Peter and the disciples. Since you want to be my disciple, this is what you must do.

All the verbs in verse 34 are in the imperative mood. These actions are not suggestions. These actions are not what Jesus would like. These actions are what we have to do, and if we don't we are not a disciple of Jesus.

The first command is to deny yourself; utterly denounce, disown, and disavow yourself. Does that mean we have to live ascetically? Do we have to give up all pleasures? Does it mean I can't have chocolate? What I gave up for Lent, I have to give up forever? No, denying yourself does not mean denying yourself things or pleasures.

Denying yourself means giving up your will and surrendering your will in favor of God's will. This is complete unconditional surrender. We cannot save our lives, so we wave the white flag. We surrender ourselves to God's will in all things, great and small. We let God rule all aspects of our lives. We give up what we want in favor of what God wants. Usually, what God wants is better.

Secondly, we take up the cross. Does that mean we carry around a cross all the time? I know many of us wear a cross necklace or carry a cross in our pocket, is that what this means? What about sticking a magnetic cross or having an "I believe" car tag, does that suffice? No, taking up the cross does not mean physically carrying a cross of whatever size.

Taking up the cross means doing God's work in the world. We work to bring about God's rule in the world. We do good deeds: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, etc. However, even if we do all that we may not be denying ourselves and taking up the right cross.

When we deny ourselves, we take up what God wills for us. Notice Jesus says, "Let them deny themselves and take up *their* cross and follow me." Taking up the cross is not just doing random church work or "good deeds." We take up our cross and do what God wants us to do for the Kingdom, not what we want to do. We do what God wants us to do, no more or no less.

Sometimes, we think it is better to do more for the church or God, but that is not the case. Article XI of the United Methodist Church reads:

Voluntary works—besides, over and above God's commandments—which they call works of supererogation, cannot be taught without arrogance and impiety. For by them men do declare that they do not only render unto God as much as they are bound to do, but that they do more for his sake than of bounden duty is required; whereas Christ saith plainly: When you have done all that is commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants.¹

We are profitable servants when we do exactly what God wants from us, no more or less. We each have our own cross. We are to deny ourselves, put aside what we want, and do what God wants.

We tend to think taking up our cross is a lifelong decision that we do once, but it is also an everyday decision. Fred Craddock, a long-time professor of preaching at Emory, put it this way:

We think giving our all to the Lord is like taking a \$1000 bill and
But the reality for most of us is that he sends us to the bank
putting out 25 cents here and 50 cents there...
little acts of love, 25 cents at a time.²

laying it on the table- "Here's my life, Lord, I'm giving it all."
and has us cash the \$1000 for quarters. We go through life
Usually giving our life to Christ isn't glorious, It's done in all those

We deny ourselves daily. We take up our cross each day. We follow Jesus each day. We deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus every day to save our lives. John Wesley puts it this way, "Embrace the will of God, however painful, daily, hourly, continually. Thus only can (one) follow me into holiness to glory."

Each day ask God for the cross you are to bear. When you deny yourself and take up the cross God has for you, you may find the cross is not a burden but a joy.

¹ *The United Methodist Book of Discipline, 2016*, (Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2016) 66.

² Fred Craddock, *Leadership* (Fall 1984) Quoted in PHEME PERKINS, "The Gospel of Mark" *The New Interpreter's Bible, Vol. VIII* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995) 629.