

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2024

Leading in Worship Today

Welcome and Announcements		
Prelude		Christopher A. McCroskey
Call To Worship	<i>"Jesus Paid It All"</i>	Choir
Centering Words		
*Hymn	<i>"Jesus Calls Us"</i>	398
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>		
New Testament Reading	Hebrews 5:5-10	Page 210 (N.T.)
Psalter	Psalms 51:1-17	785-786
*Hymn	<i>"Open Our Eyes"</i>	TFWS 2086
Old Testament Reading	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Page 695 (O.T.)
Anthem	<i>"When You Prayed Beneath the Trees"</i>	Choir Dan Greshel, Soloist
Gospel Reading	John 12:20-33	Pages 102-103 (N.T.)
Sermon	<i>"We Want to See Jesus"</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>"O Jesus, I Have Promised"</i>	396
*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: *Joyce Robinson; Slone Taylor*

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.

*The Congregation May Stand

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...

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: Russell Eubanks (son-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting); Nancy Whitehead (former member); Malcolm Skipper (grandfather of Matthew Skipper); Mildred McQuitty (great-grandmother of Matthew Skipper); 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 03/10 SS: 14 Worship: 30

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 03/10 \$ 2,995.00

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

- 03/18 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
- 03/20 Wednesday's Words, 11: 30 a.m.
Choir, 6 p.m.
T.a.G., 7 p.m.
- 03/21 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
GLIA Articles Due
- 03/22 Office Closed

Readings for March 24

Mark 11:1-11
Psalm 118:14-29



Ministers	The Congregation
Pastor	John D. Jordan
Resident Bishop	Jonathan Holston
District Superintendent	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



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Sunday, March 24

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held on Sunday, March 24. It will continue on the fourth Sunday of every month. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and great fellowship!

Please Note: The Ministry Team will meet every month immediately following Taste of Trinity.



Sunday, March 24	Trinity UMC	Debbie Miller preaching
Monday, March 25	Brookland	Morgan Byers preaching
Tuesday, March 26	Shiloh	Mark Payne preaching
Wednesday, March 27	Platt Springs	John Jordan preaching
Thursday, March 28	Trinity UMC	John Jordan preaching

All services start at 6 p.m. Mark your calendars for these times of worship and fellowship with our sister United Methodist churches in the West Metro Area.



**Saturday, March 30
10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Join us for a morning of fun as we meet in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 30, at 10:30 a.m. for an Easter Egg Hunt! There will also be crafts and refreshments!

We are in need of small wrapped candy to fill the eggs or donations to purchase the candy. The candy and donations can be dropped off at the Church Office through Thursday, March 28.



**Easter Sunday
March 31**

Easter is traditionally a time of joy, but in this year's Easter Cantata we will also look at the despair that the followers of Jesus experienced before that first Easter dawned upon them. We will look back with them at the memories and reflections of their life with Jesus. We'll share the impact of his death before coming to the joy of new life through his spirit, which brought them, as it will bring us, from despair to joy, which is the theme of this year's Easter Cantata. Please join us on Easter morning, Sunday March 31st for, "From Despair to Joy".

John 12: 20-33

People were going up to worship. It was the Passover, the most important of the Jewish festivals. They were gathering to celebrate the liberation of Israel from slavery in Egypt.

Among those going up to the temple were some Greeks. They could have been proselytes, Greeks who had converted to Judaism, or diaspora Jews who lived in Greece. According to most scholarly thought, they were the former. These Greeks went to Phillip and said they wished to see Jesus. Phillip told Andrew, and then they went to Jesus.

Phillip and Andrew are involved in this story as a connection to the beginning of the Gospel. Andrew was one of John's disciples who followed Jesus (1:35-42). When the two disciples asked where Jesus was staying, he told them to "come and see." Andrew went and told his brother, Peter.

The next day, Jesus found Phillip and said, "Follow me." Phillip found Nathaniel, but he expressed disbelief. Phillip said to him, "Come and see." (1:43-46). The invitation in both callings was, "Come and see."

Phillip and Andrew were the first disciples to bring others to Jesus. Of course, these others were Jews. Now, Phillip and Andrew are bringing Greeks to Jesus. We can see the same invitation. The Greeks came to Phillip because they wanted to see Jesus.

They wanted to see Jesus. Let's examine what this wish entailed. Did they wish to lay eyes on Jesus? Did they just want Phillip and Andrew to say, "Over there, there he is? Did they want to see Jesus in the sense of seeing with their eyes? No.

Did they want to get close enough to touch Jesus and shake his hand? Did they want to have a brief word with him? Jesus, that was some entrance into the city. Did they want an autograph or a selfie? No, they did not want to see Jesus in any of these ways.

The word translated, see, carries a much deeper meaning than to observe with the eyes. It is the same word used in Chapter 1 in the invitation to "Come and see." The word means to perceive, understand, and come to know. They wanted to see Jesus so they could come to know and understand Jesus. They wanted to know Jesus.

I have seen many famous people: Neil Diamond, James Taylor, Billy Graham, and Dawn Staley, to name a few. I have shaken hands with Jimmy Carter, Joe Wilson, and Bernie Sanders. I had an autographed picture of Dan Reeves that he gave at our pee wee football banquet. I have said hi to George Rogers at the gym.

Kay and I were going to a Chris Thile concert in Greenville. Before the concert, walking up the street we noticed a man with a mandolin case slightly ahead of us. At the stoplight, we chatted with him until the light changed. It was Chris Thile.

Even though I saw, shook hands, and chatted with these people, I did not know them. I did not see them the way the Greeks wanted to see Jesus. The Greeks did not want to see Jesus; they wanted to know Jesus.

We all want to see Jesus. But do we want to see Jesus from afar? Do we want to settle for a quick handshake, brief conversation, an autograph, or a selfie with Jesus? Or do we want to see Jesus, to understand, and come to know Jesus?

I, and I hope you, only answer yes to the last question. We do not want to see Jesus from afar, from the nosebleed section of a concert. We do not want a quick handshake or brief conversation with Jesus. We do not want an autograph or a selfie. We want to perceive Jesus' presence in our lives. We want to understand Jesus' teaching. Most of all, we want to know Jesus.

Now, one would expect the story to continue with Jesus inviting the Greeks to be his disciples. Jesus would invite them to follow him, but he does not. He says, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." What does some Greeks wanting to see Jesus have to do with him being glorified?

The answer to this question is found in verses 19 and 32. Verse 19, which ends Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, reads, "The Pharisees then said to one another, 'You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.'" In verse 32, Jesus says, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

The Greeks coming to see Jesus fulfilled the Pharisee's statement. The world is now coming to Jesus. Thus, begins the process of Jesus' glorification culminating with the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Jesus being lifted up points to the crucifixion, as he is nailed to the cross and lifted off the ground, and to the ascension, as he is lifted up into heaven. Jesus being crucified is God's act of atonement to bring all humanity into oneness with God.

The Greeks wanted to see, understand, and know Jesus. Though the Greeks fade from the scene, we may infer they wanted to follow Jesus. Following Jesus means going where he goes, even to the cross.

We see Jesus and follow Jesus. We want to be Jesus' servants. As servants, we must follow him to the cross. We must lose our lives in this world by nailing it to the cross. When we nail our lives to the cross, we are given a new life. A life that is not of this worldly kingdom, but of God's Kingdom. We become citizens of the Kingdom that never dies.

Look at what Jesus says about his servants. First, we must follow him. We must live according to his way, not the world's way. Secondly, where he is, the servant will be. Jesus is in us and we are in him. Jesus is always with us. That is comforting, but there is something more powerful in that statement. Since Jesus is with the Father in Glory, we will be with the Father in Glory. As Jesus was glorified, we will be glorified.

To me, Glorification is not some great, ecstatic, life where we are awed by dazzling lights and beautiful melodies. Glorification is forever resting in God's love, peace, and presence.

We want to see Jesus. We want to understand and know Jesus so we may follow Jesus. We want to be Jesus' servants, to be with him always. We want to be Glorified to be in the presence of God and rest in divine love and peace forever.