

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 7, 2025

Gathering  
Welcome  
Announcements and Prayer

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey  
(Prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. (Matthew 24:42)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath  
Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6).

Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.  
(from gbod.worship, used by permission)

*Opening Hymn	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 1 & 2)	211
*Advent Prayer		201
*Psalter	Psalms 72:1-17 (Response 1)	795-796
*Gloria Patri		70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Passing of the Peace: Let us greet one another with love and peace.

Happy Birthday Jesus  
Children’s Christmas Program

Anthem “Advent Carol” Choir

Scripture Lessons Isaiah 11:1-10 Page 610 (O.T.)  
Romans 15:4-13 Pages 154-155 (N.T.)

\*Gospel Lesson Matthew 3:1-12 Page 8 (N.T.)

Advent Homily Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

\*Hymn of Invitation “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” 196

Prayer of Confession 890  
The Lord’s Prayer  
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings  
Offertory Christopher A. McCroskey  
\*Doxology 95  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Celebration of the Great Thanksgiving for Early in Advent 13

\*Closing Hymn “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” ( vs. 1-3) 626  
\*Benediction  
\*Benediction Response “May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You” Choir & Congregation

\*Please Stand As You Are Able

Leading in Worship Today

Pastor: Rev. Darlene L. Kelley 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.

A Gift to Trinity is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Bonnie Ramsey on her 73rd birthday December 9th, by her sister by heart, Annie.

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

Marilyn Lloyd	Ruth Frady	Rhett Hook	Kaye Floyd	Libby Strickland	Christopher McCroskey
John Ballentine	Diane Muszynski	Ray Frady	Latson Lewis	English Percy	Jeanette Hornsby
Hannah Glanz	Hilda Edwards	Fran Laska			

**Shut-Ins:** Gillett Hipp; Linda Maloch; Jean Raynor

**Family and Friends:** **Donna Eidson** (former Trinity pastor); **Ghent Brewer** (brother-in-law of Jeanette Hornsby); **Kim & Sandra Meetze** (friends of Martha Cooke); **Dave Griffin** (husband of Chantel Griffen); **Matt Imel** (husband of Holley Gleaton Imel); **Cayla Watters** (friend of Karen Carter); **Tommy Stokes** (nephew of Joyce Robinson); **Kati Flowers** (mother of friend of Blake Kamoroff); **Berry Cochran** (son-in-law of Charlyn McNeill); **Jim Lewis** (father of Mark Lewis); **Christina Lindemuth** (daughter of Karen Carter); **James Leonard** (previous coworker of Mark Lewis); **Kathleen Varnadore** (Ted & Ruth Frady’s neighbor); **Paul Frenzel** (friend of Chris Derrick); **Sissy Henry** (former member of Trinity), **Keith James, Jay Clark** (friends of Darlene Kelley); **Sean & Tucker Smith** (cousins of Darlene Kelley); **Sonny Hardee** (brother of Lynn Martin); **Colby Martin** (son of Donna Muszynski); **Lynne Powell** (friend of the Ballentines and Branhams); **Bryan Collard** (brother-in-law of Mary Sue Lewis); ; **Michael McNeill** (brother of Mary Sue Lewis); **Mary Davis** (daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland); **Chuck Hardee** (cousin of Lynn Martin); **Bruce Beatty, Sandra Hornsby, Gloria Erd** (friends of Lynn Martin); **Nancy Wilson** (friend of Jeanette Hornsby); **David & Kristen Turner** (brother and sister-in-law of Pam Turner); **Chip Mixon** (friend of Tommy Gleaton); **James Boggs** (father of Claire Boggs); **Robert Bradley** (Business Associate of Simon Ross); **Monnie Tiller** (friend of Chris Derrick); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Haidee Baehr** (friends of Ruth Frady); **Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson** (cousins of Gale Frady); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (friends of Gale Frady); **Janet Beck** (friend of Jo Ann Heiting); **Adam Lavender** (son of Phil Lavender)

**OUR PRESENCE ...**

Attendance 11/30 SS: 9 Worship: 31

**OUR GIFTS ...**

General Fund 11/30 \$ 4,971.00

**OUR SERVICE...**

**OUR WITNESS.”**

**Upcoming Events**

**TODAY** Fundraiser at O’Neal Street UMC, 3 p.m.

**12/08** Exercise Class. 10:30 a.m.

**12/09** Grieving with God, 11 a.m.

**12/10** Choir, 6 p.m.

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

**12/11** Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

**12/12** Office Closed

**12/13** Fellowship Hall Reserved, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Reminder:** Don’t forget to wear your name tags each Sunday so that those new to Trinity or visiting can get to know you. Also, please remember to keep them on during Time Together and Taste of Trinity. A basket will be provided for you to put them in as you leave.



**Ministers**  
**Pastor**  
**Resident Bishop**  
**District Superintendent**

**The Congregation**  
**Darlene L. Kelley**  
**Leonard Fairley**  
**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 of

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Every year envelopes are placed on the tree in the Gathering Area to support one or more charitable causes. Just pick an envelope from the tree, include your contribution and place it in the offering plate on any Sunday or drop it off at the Church Office. We ask that all donations be in by December 31. Your generosity is always appreciated.



**Today at O'Neal Street UMC in Newberry!**  
**All are Welcome & Encouraged to Attend!**

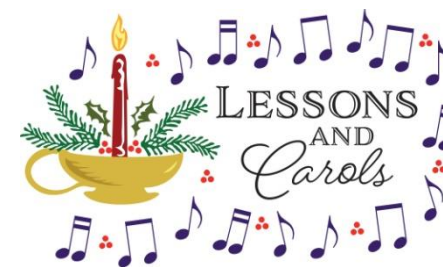
Everyone is invited to join us after worship today to enjoy a bit of lunch together (provided by the church) and then board our bus for the O'Neal Street UMC in Newberry to be part of their benefit concert fundraiser for their God's Abundance for All People food pantry. The concert starts at 3:00 p.m. and we should be home by 6 or 7. Do not worry about driving. We will take our church bus.

Everyone is invited. Christopher and our choir have kindly offered to sing at the benefit concert, but even if you don't sing or aren't part of the choir, you are very encouraged to attend. It's a fun event, so please mark your calendars and help us fill up our bus with good souls.



**Grieving with God**  
**Tuesday, December 9**

All who are on the journey of grief are invited to join us on **Tuesday, December 9**, at **11 a.m.** in the Conference Room. Retired Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplain from Richland Hospital, Jerry Fonte, will facilitate the discussion.



**Sunday, December 14**

There will be a service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 14.



**COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, AT 4 PM**

You're invited to join us as we celebrate Christmas with the beautiful sounds of the season presented by the Columbia Community Concert Band at Airport High School Auditorium, 1315 Boston Avenue in West Columbia. From the Grinch to Carol of the Bells to the Nutcracker Suite, there's something for everyone to enjoy. The sleigh bells are jingling – we'd love to see you there! Merry Christmas!



**Sunday, December 21**

This year's Christmas Cantata is titled *The Long Expected One*. The nation of Israel had prophecies about a coming Messiah. That's where this cantata begins and is echoed in each storied individual that witnesses his birth and infancy. His appearance caused great excitement and that inspired the writing and telling of the birth narrative of a man who empowered them with a personal connection to the spirit of life and love. We hope you'll join us at 11:00 on December the 21st!

Trinity UMC  
December 7, 2025  
Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

## Advent Homily

William Blake said: *It is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend.* Blake's simple statement merits some thought. Think about your own relationships. We're invested in our friends and our families, and so it makes sense that they have the most emotional power over us.

We trust our friends. We count on them for understanding and support. And they know things about us—so it can be an awful blow to feel hurt or betrayed by a friend.

Of course, friendships come and go throughout our lives—but we don't choose our relatives; we're stuck with them. And if you're like most folks, nobody can make you as crazy as your family.

When you stop and think about it—we human beings engage in a lot of fussing and fighting. As individuals and as groups of individuals, united in a myriad of ways great and small, we struggle to get along, to share space and to share power, to balance our own needs and wants with the needs and wants of others.

We've been at war with one another since time began. Some of us sitting here this morning have little wars going on now and skirmishes planned for later.

We're very capable of hurting one another. We can be cruel and petty and resentful. We can hold on to old hurts and let them fester until they poison us. We can let our egos get the best of us, and dig our heels into stubbornness and pride. We gossip and say things, unkind and untrue, about one another all the time.

And forgiveness is hard from every angle—whether we need to seek it for ourselves or give it to others, forgiveness challenges us throughout our lives. We can hold grudges forever, and we can have a hard time forgiving ourselves. We human beings can sure be a mess.

The good news is—this is Advent. And we hear John the Baptist calling from the wilderness: “Repent. Go and prepare the way of the Lord”.

*And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.*

*By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

The dawn from on high will break upon us. Emmanuel, God is with us. Through God's grace and

love and forgiveness we can be guided into the way of peace. With God’s grace we can love one another and forgive one another. Inside and out—we can walk in the ways of peace because Christ has rescued us. God has looked *favorably on his people and redeemed them*. So that we *might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days*.

This is Advent, and we can hear John the Baptist calling from the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

This is December, and we are busy with preparations. We are planning the holidays. We’re preparing for guests. We’re preparing meals and baking cookies and shopping, and worrying about money.

Do we make room for God? Do we make room for God in our day to day lives—everyday? Do we prepare our souls and our hearts and our minds as well as we prepare for the gifts under the Christmas tree?

Do we make room for God in our relationships, in our joy and connection and intimacy and in our jealousy and wounded-ness and rage? How do we prepare the way of the Lord and see clearly when the dawn on high breaks upon us?

“Repent!” John the Baptist cries out from the wilderness. And perhaps, we’d do well to take his advice, no matter how corny and simple it sounds. Advent is the time to examine your life and say, “Lord, here are the spots where I need help and healing and forgiveness. These are the places that I’ve fallen short. Here, Lord, are my sins.”

Plato will tell us that the *unexamined life is not worth living*. And Advent is a time for us to examine our lives closely, to confess the sin and the shortcomings and the fear and to ask God for the healing and the guidance and the grace that puts us on a path to peace, the comforting, confident peace that only God can give, the kind of peace that can change your life and change the world.

Whatever lays heavy on your heart this Advent season, whatever you need to shine a light on and own—give it to God. Whatever hurt and anger and anxiety you’re carrying around, lay it down this Advent season, lay it down at God’s feet. Tell God what’s on your mind.

Prepare first with a sincere desire to feel God’s presence in your life. Trust in God’s grace and surrender to God all that you are. Ask God to guide you into the way of peace.

This is Advent, and we’ve been promised redemption. The One who will heal us from the inside out is coming! Prepare the way.

*By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who*

*sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

Will you pray with me?

God of Grace,

Give us the courage to love and the strength to forgive.

Amen.