

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost
November 17, 2024

Prelude	Christopher A. McCroskey	
<i>(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)</i>		
Greetings, Announcements & Prayer		
*Call To Worship		
We gather together to encourage one another.		
We gather together to spark love and good deeds.		
We gather together to praise our God of covenant faithfulness.		
Let us sing hymns of praise to our God of love!		
*Opening Hymn	<i>“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”</i>	140
*Opening Prayer		
God of Power and Might,		
Help us to hear your truth and follow your voice. Do not let us be deceived by ego and empty promise, but give us faith that takes root and produces fruit for your kingdom. Help us to confess our sins and hold fast to our faith, for we pray in the name of the One who died that all may have life, eternal and abundant, Jesus the Christ. Amen.		
*Affirmation of Faith	<i>“The Apostles’ Creed”</i>	881
*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.		
*Canticle of Covenant Faithfulness		125
Passing of the Peace: <i>Let us greet one another with words of love and peace.</i>		
“Let the Children Come!”	Erin Derrick	
<i>(Those 3 years of age through 8 years of age may go to Children’s Church.)</i>		
Stewardship Moment	Mary Kamoroff	
Special Music	<i>“Softly and Tenderly”</i>	Rhett Hook
Scripture Lessons	Hebrews 10:11-25 Mark 13:1-8	Pages 213-214 (N.T.) Page 51 (N.T.)

Sermon	<i>Faith Beats Deception</i>	Tom Geddens
*Hymn of Invitation	<i>“Trust and Obey”</i> (vs. 1-3)	467
Prayer of Confession		893
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 and ever. 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.		
*Closing Hymn	<i>“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”</i>	703
*Dismissal With Benediction		
*Benediction Response	<i>“May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You”</i>	Choir
*Please Stand As You Are Able		

Leading in Worship Today

Guest Speaker: <i>Tom Geddens</i>	AV Director: <i>Marie Stiles</i>	
Music Director: <i>Christopher A. McCroskey</i>	AV Assistant: <i>Chris Derrick</i>	
Liturgist: <i>Toni White</i>	Time Together: <i>Joyce Robinson; Slone Taylor</i>	

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.***

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

Hilda Edwards Patsy Zeigler Jimmy Grahl Marilyn Lloyd Ruth Frady Kaye Floyd
Kathy Aiello Patsy Shuler Latson Lewis Tom LLoyd English Pearcy Ray Frady

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

Family and Friends: **Sonny Hardee** (brother of Lynn Martin); **Colby Martin** (son of Donna Muszynski); **Sonya & Wayne Dooley** (daughter and son-in-law of Joyce Robinson); **Family of Rocky Brumbaugh** (father-in-law of Joshua Ballentine); **Lynne Powell** (friend of the Ballentines and Branhams); **Bobby Johnson** (friend of Billy Pearson); **Rev. Donna Eidson** (former pastor of Trinity); **Ima Thibodeaux** (friend of Christopher McCroskey); **Keith Jordan** (nephew of John & Kay Jordan); **Deanne Summer** (partner of Martha Cooke); **Kelsey Molotsky** (granddaughter of friend of Bob Strickland); **Malcolm Skipper** (grandfather of Matthew Skipper); **Bryan Collard** (brother-in-law of Mary Sue Lewis); ; **Charlyn McNeill** (sister & brother of Mary Sue Lewis); **Bob Bohnstengel** (spouse of Jo Ann Heiting's cousin); **Missy Abrams** (stepdaughter of Lissa Abrams); **Mary Davis** (daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland); **Chuck Hardee** (cousin of Lynn Martin); **Bruce Beatty, Sandra Hornsby, Gloria Erd** (friends of Lynn Martin); **Pearl Geddens** (mother of Tom Geddens); **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); **Bill Areheart** (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); **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); **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 11/10 SS: 10 Worship: 32

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 11/10 \$ 7,209.19

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS."

Upcoming Events

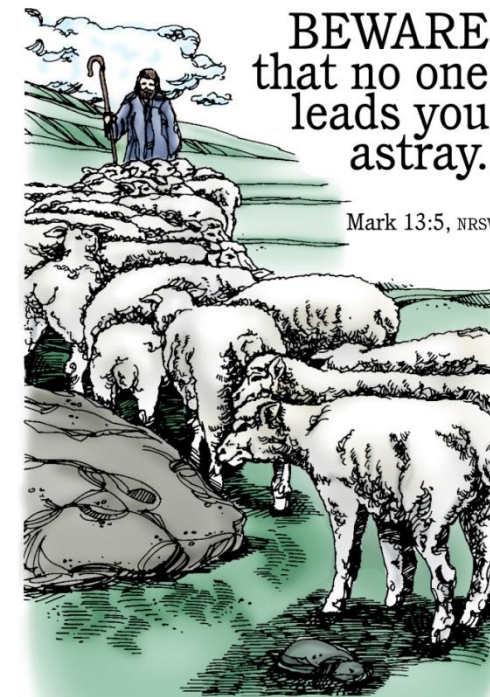
- 11/18 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
Hot Topics & Cold Beer, 7 p.m.
- 11/20 Choir, 6 p.m.
T.a.G., 7 p.m.
- 11/21 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
GLIA Articles Due
- 11/22 Office Closed



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HOT TOPICS COLD BEER

**Monday, November 18
7 p.m.**

In order to encourage college students and young adults a group is being formed called Hot Topics and Cold Beer. This group will get together monthly at [Weco Bottle and Biergarten](#) in West Columbia on Meeting Street. The objective of the group is to get together for fellowship, good conversations about God and faith, and enjoy a beer or other beverage of your choosing. Any theological or spiritual topic is welcome. This will be a casual event, so come as you are!

The first Hot Topics and Cold Beer will be **Monday, November 18th at 7 p.m.** Since this is the week before Thanksgiving, the topic for discussion will be focused on gratitude and thankfulness. Feel free to suggest topics as well.

If you have any questions, please see Slone Taylor or Patsy Boggs. If you are interested in attending and would like email or text message updates, please email Slone Taylor at Slonetaylor21@yahoo.com or text her your cell phone number to (803) 397-7294 and she will add you to her list. Also, invite anyone who you think would be interested in attending. This is open to all and is not limited to those who attend Trinity.

About Weco Bottle and Biergarten:

Weco Biergarten is located at 626 Meeting St. in West Columbia. They offer mostly outdoor seating under a large covered patio and tables with umbrellas beyond the patio. They host a different food truck every day, and they post the food truck schedule to their website, [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#) weekly. Parking is located in front of the building and in a small parking lot on the side. They also have an overflow parking lot located at 730 Meeting Street.



Sunday, November 24

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held on **Sunday, November 24**. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and fellowship!

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



**Tuesday, November 26
6 p.m.**

We will be participating in a Community Thanksgiving Service hosted by Providence Presbyterian Church. Also participating will be Congaree Presbyterian and Brookland United Methodist Churches. The offering will benefit God's Helping Hands. Don't miss this great opportunity to meet our neighbors.



**Saturday, November 30
9 a.m.**

Plan to join us on Saturday, November 30, as we decorate the Sanctuary and Gathering Area for Advent and Christmas. We plan to start decorating at 9 a.m.



Starting on December 1st and continuing for the four Sundays of Advent, we'll join together right after church for brunch and a seasonal biblical journey. The study will center on the basics of spiritual growth and discipline: prayer, meditation, service, gifts and witness. A sign-up sheet for the study will be on the round table in the Gathering Area.

“Faith Beats Deception”

(Read Mark 13: 1-8)

This is the Word of God for the people of God! Thanks be to God! Let us pray:

Father God, we thank You for Your patience with us and Your indefatigable love for us. Lord, help us to not be deceived by those who come in Your Son's name who are not of Your Son. It is in Your Son's Name that we pray. Amen.

“Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!” one of Jesus's disciples says to Him. This disciple and his fellow disciples are small-town boys from rural Galilee who are now in the big city of Jerusalem. And nothing is bigger in this big city than the Temple, the center of Jewish life in the first century A.D.

This disciple is awe-struck by the Temple's size and splendor! And you know what? If any of us could have seen the great Temple, we, too, would have been blown away, for the Temple was one of the most majestic manmade structures of the ancient world. The Book of Ezra in the Old Testament tells of the Temple being rebuilt following its destruction by the Babylonians. Then in 19 B.C., King Herod- the same King Herod whom Matthew told us had slaughtered the innocents in Bethlehem in his failed attempt to kill the Boy Jesus- began lavishly remodeling the Temple. Taking more than 80 years, the Temple was eventually completed in 63 A.D., so it was still a work in progress when Jesus was crucified in 33 A.D. It was nearly 500 yards long and 400 yards wide. The outside of the Temple was decorated with gold plates. The Jewish historian Josephus wrote that when the sun shone on the Temple, the brilliance of the gold plates could be blinding.

This disciple tries to draw Jesus into his excitement, but our Lord and Savior is having none of it. That is because Jesus sees the Temple's doomed future, so its opulence fails to impress Him. Jesus knows that in the year 70 A.D., nearly four decades after His crucifixion, the occupying Roman army will brutally put down a violent rebellion by Jewish militants. As the Roman soldiers bloodily clash with the Jewish rebels, one drunken Roman soldier decides to start a fire inside the Temple. Historians say that although it was Rome's intention to put down the insurrection in the most severe way that they could, it was never their intention to destroy the Temple. But once that one drunken Roman soldier started the fire, it sparked a frenzy of destruction in the already enflamed hearts of the Roman army. They eventually leveled the Temple and, as Jesus prophesied, not one stone was left upon another.

By the time that we get to Mark 13: 3, Jesus is sitting atop the Mount of Olives, apparently enjoying the serene view overlooking the temple mount. Four of His disciples are sitting with Him: Peter, his younger brother Andrew, James and his younger brother John. These four disciples are still trying to picture this huge and breathtaking Temple being destroyed, so they ask Jesus: “When will this happen? What will be the signs before it happens?” For the remainder of the thirteenth chapter of Mark's Gospel, Jesus reveals what biblical scholars call the Olivet Discourse, so named because He describes the turbulent times to come while His disciples are still alive, as well as the end times, which are yet to come or could already be here, depending on your perspective.

In Mark 13: 6, Jesus says, “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and will deceive many.” Jesus's use of the word “many” is sobering. He uses it twice in this verse. There will be many claiming to be Jesus, and, in turn, there will be many who will be deceived by them.

So how does a follower of Christ in today's world keep from being deceived? We must be able to tell the real Jesus from someone who merely says, “I am He.” But how do we do that? How are we going to know the real Jesus when we see Him?

I think that we have to keep going back to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. If you have read the Four Gospels then great, but I believe that we have to keep reading them again and again. Each time, we learn something new. I believe that is the best way, besides remaining diligent in our prayers, to get to know the real Jesus because the Gospels enlighten us on His character and on His heart. If we know the character and the heart of Jesus, that will keep us from being deceived by someone saying, “I am He.”

I have said this before during the Sundays that I have filled in for the pastor that when I first read the Four Gospels for myself many years ago when I was a young man, I was rather sensitive to the number of times that Jesus struck me as being possibly aloof when someone would tell Jesus that he wanted to follow Him. I mean, this one man invited Jesus to stay in his home. A pretty generous offer, I think! But Jesus said, "The foxes have dens, and the birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

"What kind of answer is that?" I thought. And then there was the man who told Jesus that he would gladly follow Him, but he wanted to bury his father first. A reasonable request, I thought. But Jesus told him, "Let the dead bury the dead." I thought, "Ouch!" the first time that I read that. And then a few Sundays ago, the Gospel lesson was on the young rich man who asked Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus began listing some of the Ten Commandments. The young rich man beamed and said that he has kept the commandments ever since he was a boy! And then the Gospel writers noted something very special, I think. They wrote that "Jesus loved him." That reminds us that despite how challenging and sometimes how confusing Jesus's answers could be, He was never being rude. He was never putting anyone down. He loves us! So much so, that He willingly died for our sins. He loves us so much that He challenges us to examine ourselves to see what is separating us from God. Jesus told the young rich man to sell all that he had and to follow Him. Jesus knew what was separating the young rich man from God. Sure, the young rich man was keeping God's commandments. But he loved his wealth more than he loved God.

Note that Jesus challenged those who desired to follow Him. He did not tell them what they wanted to hear. I guarantee you that the young rich man did not want to hear that he needed to let go of his wealth! A false Messiah, by contrast, will tell everyone what they want to hear. That will be how they will deceive so many, as Jesus pointed out. How does an unscrupulous salesman sell his product? Does he tell his would-be clients, "What I am selling is pure junk"? No, he tells them that what he is selling will do for them exactly what they want it to do. The seeds of deception are sown by telling someone only what he wants to hear.

The Gospels also inform us that mercy, forgiveness and love are at the core of Jesus' character. Will a false Messiah pray for His enemies? Jesus asked His Father to forgive His tormentors while He was dying on the cross. He also told us that when we pray, if we have anything against anyone, we should forgive that person, just as we want God to forgive us of our sins.

Knowing the real Jesus will better safeguard us from those who falsely claim His Name. Keep reading Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They will tell you all that there is to know about the real Messiah. The false Messiahs will tell us what we want to hear. Jesus, on the other hand, tells us what we need to know in order to have eternal life. Genuine faith will triumph over deception.

In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit! Amen!