

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

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

Greetings, Announcements & Prayer

Birthday Celebration

*Call to Worship
Lent calls us to journey along the edge.
The road to the Cross may be steep.
We may lose our way---
Open our eyes to see God's path.
The road may twist and turn---
Keep us walking in God's light.
We may grow weary and discouraged---
Fill us with hope and courage.
Lent is here!

*Opening Hymn "Change My Heart, O God" TFWS 2152

*Opening Prayer
God of All Seasons,
You know better than we the temptations that will bring us down. Grant that our love for you may protect us from all foolish and corrupting desire. Your Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness; give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit. May we know your power to save us—the power of the rainbow, of the Cross, of the empty grave. Amen. (adapted from The New Zealand Prayer Book)

*Psalter Psalm 91 810-811

*Affirmation of Faith "The Apostles' Creed" 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.

Passing of the Peace

"Let the Children Come!"
(Those 3 years of age through 8 years of age may go to Children's Church.)

Scripture Readings Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Pages 178-179 (O.T.)
Romans 10:8b-13 Page 151 (N.T.)

Gospel Reading Luke 4:1-13 Pages 60-61 (N.T.)

Lenten Homily "Letting Go" Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

*Hymn "Take Time to Be Holy" (vs. 1-3) 395

Prayer of Confession for Lent Insert

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 "Take My Voice, and Let Me Sing" Choir

*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

The Great Thanksgiving for Early in Lent Insert

*Closing Hymn "Let Us Break Bread Together" 618

*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
Liturgist: Tom Geddens Time Together: Ruth Frady

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.

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 Shuler	Marilyn Lloyd	Tom Lloyd	Ruth Frady	Christopher McCroskey
Rhett Hook	Diane Muszynski	Cristen Hipp	Latson Lewis	English Pearcy	Hannah Glanz
Kaye Floyd	Libby Strickland	Ray Frady			

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

Family and Friends: **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); **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); **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); **Ann Cullum** (friend of Bob Strickland); **Malcolm Skipper** (grandfather of Matthew Skipper); **Bryan Collard** (brother-in-law of Mary Sue Lewis); ; **Charlyn McNeill, Michael McNeill** (sister & brother of Mary Sue Lewis); **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); **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); **Janet Beck** (friend 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 03/02 SS: 8 Worship: 31

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 03/02 \$ 2,551.63

OUR SERVICE...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

TODAY Birthday Celebration

03/10 Exercise, Class, 10:30 a.m.

03/11 Grieving with God, 11 a.m.

03/12 Choir, 6 p.m.

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

03/13 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.

03/14 Office Closed

03/15 Trinity Ladies Group, 9:30 a.m.

Lizard's Thicket Hwy 1



ation
lene L. Kelley
ley
Elrod

Jesus Christ

inspire and



JESUS, FULL OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT...

**WAS LED BY THE SPIRIT
INTO THE WILDERNESS,**

**WHERE FOR FORTY DAYS
HE WAS TEMPTED
BY THE DEVIL.**

LUKE 4:1-2, NIV

1201 Mohawk Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169
Telephone: 803.794.7777
E-mail: trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com
Website: www.trinityumcwc.org



**Grieving with God
Tuesday, March 11**

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



**Saturday, March 15
9:30 a.m.**

The Trinity Ladies Group will meet at Lizard's Thicket on Hwy 1 at 9:30 a.m. on **Saturday, March 15**. They will be meeting on the third Saturday of each month. Contact Marie Stiles at (803) 463-9706 if you are interested in being added to the group email and text for notification.



Monday, March 17

The group will meet at WECO on **Monday, March 17, at 7 p.m.** 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.



Sunday, March 23

Taste of Trinity, our church-wide covered dish luncheon, will be held on **Sunday, March 23**. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to share great food and fellowship!

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



**The Pines
Saturday, March 22
2 p.m.**

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Copyright: "The Great Thanksgiving for Early in Lent," Copyright © 1972 The Methodist Publishing House; Copyright © 1980, 1981, 1985 UMPH; Copyright © 1986 by Abingdon Press; Copyright © 1987, 1989, 1992 UMPH. Used by permission."

Prayer of Confession for Lent



**Most merciful God,
whose son Jesus Christ was
tempted in every way, yet
without sin, we confess before
you that we have sinned;**

**we have hungered after that
which does not satisfy; we
have compromised with evil;
we have doubted your power
to protect us.**

**Forgive our lack of faith; have
mercy on our weakness.**

**Restore in us such love and trust that we may walk in your
ways and delight in doing your will.**

**Arrest the false god's that have diverted us, show us the deceits
that have blurred our vision, unmask the poverty of our goals
and longings, expose the cheap values that parade as
virtues, save us from permitting a rift between Christ and us,
and deliver us from cheap guilt and trivial remorse.**

**God of New Beginnings, please bring us to an honest
repentance, the forgiveness of sins, and the renewal of our faith
and love. Through Christ Jesus our Savior, Amen!**



THE GREAT
THANKSGIVING
FOR EARLY IN
LENT

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the
Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord

our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You brought all things into being and called them good.

From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image

and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and
our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you
bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made
covenant with every living creature on earth.

When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty
nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your
covenant people.

When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted
for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard
your still small voice.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of
heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in
the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

When you gave him to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into
the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to
prepare for his ministry.

When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to
life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and
exalted him at your right hand.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and
death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of
Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our
hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and
graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

Trinity UMC
March 9, 2025
Rev. Darlene L. Kelley

Letting Go

I've called this time today a "Lenten Homily", but I probably should have called this time together "Letting Go: A Time of Reflection and Action" and you'll soon see why.

But to start I want to tell you a story. I was about 8 years old, and it was very cold. And I was standing at the back window early one morning watching and waiting to make sure the Quinn sisters up the street were past the house. I figured "blessed are the peacemakers", and one of the Quinn sisters was two years older, and big.

Okay. So I was afraid of the Quinn sisters. They'd snatched my hat off my head the day before and tossed it back and forth, so I guess I was being bullied a bit by the Quinn sisters, and I was going to wait till the danger had passed and the coast was clear before I headed down the alley to third grade.

But my father was home, and he saw me watching out the back window and it peaked his curiosity, so he inquired and I confessed my fears. My poor father didn't know any better. Fighting was his first and last response, so before I knew it I was eight years old getting boxing lessons in the basement from my father. I still remember his advice to "tuck your thumbs in so when you throw a punch, you won't break them". Fighting as a response was imprinted in that basement—taught, encouraged, demanded—and I've worked on my responses to the world every since. Sometimes we have to examine what we've learned, so we can heal and do better. And the work never ends, but that's okay. Sometimes it's very hard to let go.

But I learned something very helpful from a Buddhist monk named Pema Chodron. I've adapted her advice and made it my own, but I want to give credit where credit is due, and Pema Chodron taught me the important part.

So, when I get angry or fearful or envious, when my imprinted child gets the best of me, and I think about tucking in my thumbs and throwing a punch, I can feel that hardness in my chest like a brick of ice. I get disappointed in myself a bit, and I try to fight those feelings because I want to be a good person, and I don't want to be full of negative feelings. I don't want to have a hard, cold heart. So, I fight those feelings. I may even be a bit disappointed in myself for having those feelings, so I feel worse and the hole I'm in feels deeper.

But if I can recognize my own humanity, if I can say: "I'm a human being, and I'm going to have these feelings, and it's okay. And I'm going to make mistakes and be a sinner standing in the need of grace, and it's okay." And instead of fighting those feelings, I can embrace those feelings. Hold onto those feelings, and ask what I can learn from those feelings. What is this anger teaching me? What is this hurt teaching me?

And if I can sit with those feelings, embrace those feelings...the warmth of my body will begin to melt those feelings and there will be room for grace.

As my Buddhist friends would say, approach yourself and your struggles with *loving kindness*, and you will be able to extend that loving kindness to others.

But there's a bit more to the process and we learn it this morning from Luke. Satan tempts Jesus in the wilderness, and the temptation always hinges on ego. "If you are who you say you are—prove it!"

"If you want to be a big shot, have all the authority and glory—just do what I say." "If you think you're all that—just see what happens if you fall off this pinnacle." Every temptation is a call to ego because ego is what stands between us and God, and ego is what stands between us and the love we need to show to ourselves and one another.

That's why pride is always at the top of the list when it comes to the seven deadly sins. It's hard to surrender. It's hard to let go.

But Lent is a time to let go, a time to surrender to God. It's a time of renewal when we ask God to create in us clean hearts and restore right spirits within us. To do that, we stand on prayer and Scripture. We take time to be alone with God, and we do our best to be aware of how we engage in the world, and how we treat others.

So, as a symbol of letting go and asking God to free up the space in our souls for grace and growth, let's take a moment to pray and surrender that which we want to let go of...let's let go and let God on this first Sunday of Lent to begin the season unburdened and weighed down. Pray with me:

God of grace, help us to feel your grace healing us and making us new. Help us to lay our burdens down and call on your name, for we know when we call on your name—we will be saved. Amen.

Now to give you an even greater opportunity to let things go...we're going to pass out some scrap paper and pens and pencils and take a few minutes to reflect and surrender our sins and our burdens to God. We can even write them down on the scrap paper and come forward to burn them, to turn them to ashes and dust. We can burn our sins and sorrows and surrender them to God. Amen.