

**Offertory:** “You Shall Go Out with Joy” M. Hayes

**\*Doxology:** UMH# 94

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

Gracious and Loving God, we give you thanks for your many gifts. As an expression of our gratitude and our love for you, we bring these offerings today. Inspire us to be all that we can be for your kingdom and for your glory. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” UMH# 368

**Benediction:**

**Postlude:** “Prelude in F Major” J.S. Bach

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**We thank those who participated in today’s service:**

**Accompanist:** Steve Hays

**Acolytes:** Arianna Bhajjan, Raizel Bhajjan, Charlie Rust

**Altar Flowers:** In loving memory of Jesse & Betty H, from Jess & Barbara H

**Carillonneur:** Thomas St. Marie

**Chancel Art:** Nicole Baker

**Fellowship Hour:** The Trustees

**Handbell Soloist:** Lynn Masson

**Liturgist:** Andrew Bakowski

**Ushers:** Head Usher, Sheila Womble

**Video Team:** Nicole Baker, Brian Crawford, Nic Odell, Jack Rust, Anthony & Nicholas Skridulas

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***Please Pray for:***

Mary A, Borys B, James B (Bridget’s brother), Marilyn C, Margaret (Peg) C, Mary C (Matt's mother), the passing of Diane D (Robin H’s mother), the passing of Lisa D-L (Rev. Sharon D-L’s wife), Dominick E, Jo Anne E, Courtney H (Sheila W's daughter), Blair J (Brenda L's grandson), Brenda L, Christopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, (Katherine's sister-in-law), Holly Joy P, Daryl P, Claire (L) P, Catherine Ann R, Christopher S, Lynn T, Mary (T) G (Nate T’s sister & Camille’s sister-in-law), the passing of Timothy T (Nate & Camille’s brother & sister-in-law), Alison (Allie) W, our service members and their loved ones, those affected by gun violence and natural disasters.

# Trinity United Methodist Church

361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA 01108

[www.trinityspringfield.org](http://www.trinityspringfield.org)

*Minister, Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun*

*Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Michael Carney*

*Director of Family Ministries & Connections, Rob Powell*

*Spiritual Director, Cathy MacGovern*

*District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe*

*Bishop, Peggy A. Johnson*



*Believing that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth, that Jesus' message was one of inclusion of those rejected by mainstream society, and that each member makes inherent and valuable contributions to the Body of Christ, we of Trinity Church welcome into this congregation people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic condition, family structure, and physical or mental ability.*



**Celebrate** God’s love

**Nurture** relationships with God and one another

**Serve** our community and world, as we share the light of Christ

## Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

October 8, 2023

10:30 a.m.

### WELCOME

*We worship using the liturgy printed in your bulletin & two songbooks: The United Methodist Hymnal (UMH), & The Faith We Sing (TFWS). Please silence electronic devices before the service. Nursery care is available downstairs for children birth - 4 years. \*Please stand in body or spirit. Items in bold are read in unison.*

### WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE FOR A TIME OF QUIET MEDITATION

“Hope criticizes what is, hopelessness rationalizes it. Hope resists, hopelessness adapts.”  
~William Slone Coffin

**Prelude:** “At Peace” Brian Childers

### Welcome and Announcements

**Introit:** “Seek Ye First” K. Lafferty

**\*Call to Worship** *Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries*

One: Come! Now is the time to worship!

**Many: We come to worship God who guides us.**

One: After delivering the Israelites out of bondage, God continued to guide them, giving them commandments to shape and form their life with God and one another.

**Many: God guides us as we learn to pattern our lives after the rhythms of God's grace.**

One: Jesus tells a story of a vineyard owner and his tenants who choose violence instead of giving the owner the fruits of the harvest, challenging us to choose—will we reject the Cornerstone or find in Jesus our sure foundation?

**Many: God guides us as we learn to pattern our lives after the rhythms of God's grace.**

One: Too often we fall back into the pattern of rejecting what is good for us, forgetting that the life of faith is always about following God who provides for us and loves us.

**Many: When we follow God's guidance, we learn to live God's new pattern of life described in the commandments and demonstrated by Christ.**

One: Come! Now is the time to worship!

**Many: We come to worship God who guides us for the long haul.**

**\*Hymn:** “This Is a Day of New Beginnings” UMH# 383

### Unison Prayer of Confession:

We keep slamming into walls, O merciful God, when we are left to our own devices. Throughout our faith history, your Son offered words of healing and hope to people who dwelled in darkness. In the brilliant light of his love, people grew and flourished. But now, Lord, we find that this world dominates our lives. We are troubled, angry, and fearful. We want to see your presence in the world, but we spend far too much time looking for the “big picture” rather than seeing the myriad of ways in which your love and healing power is shown. Forgive us when we grow impatient with you and with the course of things in our lives. Heal our wounds and put us back on pathways of peace and service. Enable us to speak your words of hope in this darkened world. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### \*Words of Assurance:

Hear the words of hope! Though the days seem to darken quickly, the brilliant light of your love and presence will always be a guide and comfort to us. This is the Good News of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Special Music:** “How Firm a Foundation” C. Courtney

### \*Passing the Peace of Christ

### LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT'S WORD TO US

### Children's Moment

### Prayer, Joys and Concerns

### 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.**

### Prayer Response

**\*Hymn:** “I'm Going to Live So God Can Use Me” TFWS# 2153  
*(Chapel Kids for 5-13 yr. olds are invited to Grace Chapel. Parents please escort your children & pick them up.)*

**Scripture:** Matthew 21: 33-46 (NRSV) N.T. pp. 22-23

### Response to the Word:

**One:** The Word of God for the People of God.

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

**The Word in Reflection:** “What Does it Mean?” Rob Powell

### RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT'S PROMPTINGS

### Invitation to Offering:

Generous and giving God, you have offered us a deep and soul-satisfying relationship with you, one that extends far beyond our earthly journey; and too many of us have opted for a “faith-lite” experience. One day a week or a couple of times a month has been a better fit. We have rejected what you so generously offer us, even as we dwell in and are sustained by your vineyard. As we offer our gifts this day, may we better receive the relationship you offer us and may we walk more closely. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.