

***Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

Gracious and Loving God, we give you thanks for our invitation to the great banquet. We seek to follow you and to imitate the life of Jesus. May these gifts we share be one sign of our desire to do so. Where you lead us, Lord, help us to follow. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

***Hymn:** "A Charge to Keep I Have" UMH# 413

Benediction

Postlude: "Festival Trumpets" N. Rawsthorne

We thank those who participated in today's service:

Accompanist: Steve Hays

Acolytes: Greta Rust, Jack Rust, Felix Everett

Altar Flowers: In loving memory of John B., from his daughter, Doreen

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Chancel Art: Nicole Baker

Fellowship Hour: The Trustees

Liturgist: Holly Blair

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Jacki Barden, Ginger Elliott, Deb Garth, Dave Jenney

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

Joy:

Adelyn Ruth N was born October 10, 2023 to Ashley and Bill N and brother Connor (and grandparents Debra and Chris R). They are all well.

Please Pray for:

Mary A, Borys B, Jeannette B, Pat Beck (Sue P's cousin), James B (Bridget's brother), Marilyn C, Margaret (Peg) C, Mary C (Matt's mother), Dominick E, Jo Anne E, Courtney H (Sheila W's daughter), Blair J (Brenda L's grandson), Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, (Katherine's sister-in-law), Holly Joy P, Daryl P, Claire (L) P, Catherine Ann R, Lynn T, Mary (T) G (Nate T's sister & Camille's 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

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

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

October 15, 2023

10:30 a.m.

WELCOME

*We worship using the liturgy printed in your bulletin and two songbooks: The United Methodist Hymnal (UMH), and 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 in spirit. Items in bold are read in unison.*

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

“Christ is not looking for extraordinary people but for ordinary men and women who do ordinary things extraordinarily well.” – William Sloane Coffin

Prelude: “Above All” P. Baloché, L. LeBlanc

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: “Oh, Be Joyful”

***Call to Worship:**

One: When the Lord calls us to the banquet, we get puffed up with importance.

Many: Humility needs to be our attitude; humility and gratitude.

One: Help us, O Lord, be grateful for the many ways in which you love us.

Many: Help us return that love by the way in which we care for others.

One: Be with us, O Lord, this day.

Many: Open our hearts to hear your words of hope and encouragement. Amen.

***Hymn:** “Morning Has Broken” UMH# 145

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit, so that we can amend our lives and grow more each day into the image of Christ. We confess that we fear what is different. We confess that it’s easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive your guests who don’t look the way we look, love like we love, or vote the way we vote. We confess that we have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love. We believe that you have the power to turn us around to a more inclusive way of living, so we ask you to do that. We ask you to give us the courage to change. As we gather for your great banquet, we ask that you give us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be your people in all we say and do. Amen.

***Words of Assurance:**

Beloved, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve. Alleluia! **Amen.**

Special Music: “Psalm 42: As the Deer Long” O WALY WALY

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT’S WORD TO US

Children’s Moment

Pastoral 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:** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” UMH# 140
(Chapel Kids for 5-13 yr. olds are invited to Grace Chapel. Parents please escort your children & pick them up.)

Scripture: Matthew 22: 1-14 (MSG) N.T. p. 23

Response to the Word:

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

Many: Thanks be to God!

The Word in Reflection: “The Parable of the Wedding Banquet” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT’S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering:

Giver of life and love, we thank you that in the heavenly banquet of your word you invigorate and renew us. May we boldly use your gifts to continue your work in the world. Bless these gifts that we are offering you today. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory: “I Am Bound for the Kingdom” L. Larson

***Doxology:** UMH# 94