

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT'S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering:

God of endless patience, we know that the sound of our complaining is not the music that pleases your ears. We complain about the food that is under or overcooked, and you hear the stomachs that have no food. We whine about the bed being too soft, and you see instead those whose bed is the sidewalk or the floor of a cell. May the offering we bring today be an act of praise that drowns out the noise of our complaining. May it find its way to bring comfort to your children who have little or nothing; and when that happens, may it be joy for your eyes and ears. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

Offertory: "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree" K. L. Scott

***Doxology:** UMH# 94

***Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

Loving and righteous God, you are far more generous to us, and to all who work in your kingdom, than we desire or deserve. Make us generous to others as you have been to us. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn:** "Marching to Zion" UMH# 733

Benediction:

Postlude: "#10 from Expressions for Organ" J. Langlais

We thank those who participated in today's service:

Accompanist: Steve Hays

Acolytes: Greta Rust, Aisla Varnon and Levi Varnon

Altar Flowers: In memory of Rita B, from her daughter Doreen

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Chancel Art: Nicole Baker

Fellowship Hour: The Missions Committee & Volunteers

Liturgist: Allison Berke

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Clayton Calhoun, Fred & Hope Lewis, Margo Sweetland

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

Please Pray for:

Mary A, Borys B, 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, 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), Alison (Allie) W, Andrew W (Phyllis T's nephew), 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

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 24, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Meditation:

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” – Nelson Mandela

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

*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.*

Prelude: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” arr. G. Howlett

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: “Come and Find the Quiet Center”

***Call to Worship:** *Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2023*

One: Come! Now is the time to worship!

Many: We come to worship God who provides!

One: When the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, God provided manna and quail.

Many: God provides in unexpected ways.

One: Jesus tells a story of vineyard workers, some who work all day and some who work mere hours, yet the generous landowner paid all of them equally.

Many: God provides in unexpected ways.

One: God does provide in unexpected ways, yet manna, quail, and grapes need gathering and harvesting.

Many: We respond to God’s provision by gathering and harvesting all that God provides.

One: Come! Now is the time to worship!

Many: We come to worship and partner with God who provides for the long haul!

***Hymn:** “Lift Every Voice and Sing” UMH# 519

Call to Confession: God is calling us to confess, come let us confess ourselves to God.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

God we confess that sometimes you have to call us more than once. Sometimes we are the ones that do not hear you until close til dusk. We confess that we envision ourselves as the early morning workers—but we do not know when it is you first called our name. God’s love is not a competition. Help us to remember that faith is always a gift, and that you are always, always calling us by name. Amen.

*Words of Assurance:

Hear the Good News: The Steadfast Love of the Lord never changes, God’s mercies never come to the end, they are new every morning, so we know that God will always love and forgive us. Let us proclaim the Good News: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Special Music: “All Things Bright and Beautiful” J. Rutter

*Passing the Peace of Christ

LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT’S WORD TO US

Children’s Moment

The Sacrament of Christian Baptism: Owen Daniel Chamberlain
Dear God, we thank You for the gift of Owen to raise, his life to share, his mind to help mold, his body to nurture, and his spirit to enrich. Let us never betray his trust, dampen his hopes, or discourage his dreams. Help us dear God to help this precious child become all You mean him to be. Let your grace and love fall on him like a gentle breeze and give her inner strength, peace, and patience for the journey ahead. Amen.

Baptism Music: "God Claims You" TFWS# 2249
Refrain: Owen Daniel God claims you, helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.

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:** “I’m Gonna 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 20: 1-16 (NRSV) N.T. pp. 20-21

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 Householder” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

Reception of New Member: Dr. Belinda Forbes