

***Doxology:** UMH# 94

***Prayer of Thanksgiving:** -- Written by Carol Penner

O loving God, we place these gifts upon your altar, and we give with grateful hearts. We humbly ask that you bless these gifts and bless the givers. Lead and guide us Good and Faithful Shepherd. **Amen.**

***Hymn:** "Stand By Me" UMH# 512

Benediction:

Postlude: "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" GAUDEMUS PARITER arr. W. Held

We thank those who participated in today's service:

Accompanist: Steve Hays

Acolytes: Mason Hedeem, Aisla & Levi Varnon

Altar Flowers: In loving memory of James A. Mackie, to recognize his birthday, from his wife, Arlene.

Altar Guild: Lisa Foster

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Chancel Art: Nicole Baker

Fellowship Hour this Month: Worship Committee Members & Volunteers

Liturgist: Andrew Bakowski

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Lisa Bakowski, Holly Blair, Ray Miller, Margo Sweetland

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

Please Pray for:

Borys B, James B (Bridget's brother), Vonda B (Chad T's sister), Marilyn C, Margaret (Peg) C, Mary C (Matt's mother), Leslie D (friend of Mary Beth G), Dominick E, Courtney H (Sheila W's daughter), Blair J (Brenda L's grandson), John K, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, (Katherine's sister-in-law), Matthew M (Jan M's grandson), Dorothy M, 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, Andrew W (Phyllis T's nephew), our service men, women 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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Meditation:

“The great thing in this world is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are moving.”
--Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894)

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

Welcome. We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. Please fill out our Friendship Pad, located at the end of your pew, so we can get to know you. Prayer cards are also available in the pew pockets. If you would like to have your prayer shared, please place it on the offering plate. All prayer requests will be lifted up during the Wednesday morning prayer meeting at 9:30 a.m. 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 ages birth- 3 years.

**Please stand in body or in spirit. Items in bold are read in unison.*

Prelude: “Open the Eyes of My Heart” M. Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: “Alleluia, Alleluia” D. Fishel

*Call to Worship:

One: The gate stands open, ready for us to travel onward.

Many: But we are stubborn and fear to enter the gateway.

One: Listen for the voice of the true Shepherd.

Many: His voice we will hear and obey.

One: Hallelujah!

Many: Hallelujah!

***Hymn:** “Gather Us In” TFWS# 2236

*Prayer of Confession:

Many: Patient and loving God, we stand at the gate and peer through. We keep creating our own ways, believing that we know what is in our own best interest, and we ignore the voice of the one Shepherd who will guide us to peace and hope. We wander aimlessly and then wonder why we get so lost. Help us stop and listen to the Shepherd’s voice. Let us place our trust in the Shepherd who has never failed us, who loves and guides our lives. Forgive us our stubbornness and stupidity. For we ask this in Christ’s precious name we pray. Amen.

*Words of Assurance:

Even though we have wandered and have become lost, the Shepherd calls to us. We can place our trust in his loving care. For we are the sheep of his pasture, blessed and given hope. **Amen.**

Special Music: “Down by the Riverside” M. McDonald

*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:** “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” UMH# 381

(Children 4-6 years old are invited to Bible Story Time downstairs. Chapel Kids for 7-12 year olds are invited to Grace Chapel. Parents are asked to escort their children and pick them up. Thank you.)

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23 (KJV)
John 10: 1-10 (NRSV) N.T. p. 97

Response to the Word:

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

Many: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “The Good Shepherd” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT’S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering: -- Discipleship Ministries

Caring and compassionate God, we feel like we have been through so much. Battered by division, perceived by some as too judgmental and by others as too accommodating, and we know our witness to the world has suffered. Bless the gifts we give and help them to be used to sow seeds of kindness, healing, hope, and justice. When we as a church falter, remind us that Christ, our Good Shepherd, never falters. In Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Offertory: “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” arr. J. N. Beck