

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT'S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering:

Generous God, as we remember Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, we acknowledge the temptation that pursues so many of us: to measure our worth, our power and our security by what we have. As we offer these gifts to you this morning, we pray that you might deliver us from the temptation of building our lives around what belongs to us. **Amen.**

Offertory: "Awake, My Soul" E. Hagenberg

***Holy Communion:** UMH# p.13

Music During Communion: "Ave Verum Corpus" W.A. Mozart

***Hymn:** "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" TFWS# 2051

Benediction

Postlude: "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" Spiritual arr. P.A. Sanders

(Litanies and Other Prayers – Phyllis Cole)

We thank those who participated in today's service:

We welcome Bishop Peggy A. Johnson and her wife, Rev. Mary Johnson to worship today.

Accompanist: Steve Hays

Acolytes: Fiona, Felix, and Meriel Everett

Altar Flowers: In honor of Bishop Johnson and her wife Rev. Mary Johnson.

Altar Guild: Lisa Foster

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Chancel Art: Nicole Baker

Fellowship Hour this Month: Membership & Evangelism Committee Volunteers

Liturgist: Jane Schneeloch

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Asst. Head Usher, Don Cushing; Ushers, Clayton Calhoun

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

Please Pray for:

Borys B, James B (Bridget's brother), the B and H family, Vonda B (Chad Thompson's sister), Marilyn C, Margaret (Peg) C, Mary C (Matt's mother), Leslie D (friend of Mary Beth G), Dominick E, the H family, Kelly H, Courtney H (Sheila W's daughter), Blair J (Brenda L's grandson), John K, Brenda L, Christopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, (Katherine's sister-in-law), Dorothy M, Holly Joy P, Daryl P, Claire (L) P, Catherine Ann R, the S family, Lynn T, Mary (T) G (Nate T's sister & Camille's sister-in-law), Alison 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

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Meditation:

“What if we view this desert time of Lent as not just a time to reflect or to lament or to confess or to fast, but a time where we learn to be free.” -- Danielle Carlson

GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT TO WORSHIP

** Those who are able are invited to stand. * Items in bold are read in unison.*

We are invited to observe silence during the prelude. Please turn off cell phones.

If you have a prayer request, please write it on a “Prayer Card” found in the card rack, and place it in the offering plate.

All prayer requests will be lifted up during the Wednesday morning prayer meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Prelude: “The Journey” Spiritualls arr. A.B. Sherman
Trinity Handbell Choir

Welcome and Announcements

(New visitors only please fill out the blue paper in the red folder. Others, please sign the white attendance sheets)

Introit: “All Who Hunger”

***Call to Worship:** *(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Director of Worship Arts, August 2022)*

One: Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.

Many: We are learning to follow Jesus.

One: For those who feel Christ near,

Many: May we not turn away from the discomfort of the journey ahead.

One: For those who feel as far from Christ as the desert is from the ocean,

Many: May we find Christ in the wilderness with us.

One: For all of us who stumble and fall in our silence, indifference, and lack of generosity,

Many: May we reach for the hand of Christ, who raises us up to continue on the journey.

One: Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

Many: We come to worship God as we learn to live inside out! Amen.

***Hymn:** “Amazing Grace” UMH# 378 (vv. 1-4)

***Prayer of Brokenness/Confession:**

God of the Wilderness, we confess that we do not always resist temptation. It is easy to fall into the ways of this world we have made. The world’s problems are too big, and we desire to make things comfortable and easy for ourselves and those close to us. We ignore those in need around us, we allow injustice, and we deceive ourselves into thinking we can’t do anything about the concerns of poverty and oppression around us. Call us into accountability, O God, to do the hard work of taking notice of the reality among us. To listen to the stories of those who have been oppressed even when it is hard for us to hear. To change our ways of life so that others may live. Forgive us we pray, and lead us into right paths, O God, out of the wilderness of security and into the way promised for us, for Your name’s sake. Amen.

***Words of Assurance and Pardon:**

God is always near you, even if you cannot feel it. The Holy Spirit is within you, even if you do not notice it. Christ is always beside you, even if you cannot comprehend it. You are made in the image of God, beloved. You are precious. You are forgiven of your sins. Go and love one another. Tell others they are made in the image of God, and show them how much God loves them, and you will know God’s love. **Amen**

Special Music: “This Little Light of Mine” arr. J. Raney

***Passing the Peace of Christ:**

LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT’S WORD TO US

Children’s Moment

The Middle School Class Presents the Souper Bowl of Caring Collection to Parkside Pantry

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:** “Jesus Tempted in the Desert” TFWS# 2105

(Chapel Kids resumes today for 7-12 year olds in Grace Chapel. Parents are asked to escort their children and pick them up. Thank you.)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4: 1-11(NRSV) N.T. p. 3

Response to the Word:

For the words of challenge,
for the words of blessing,
for the spirit of wisdom moving in our midst,
we give you honor and thanks and praise.

Sermon: “Thoughts about Temptation” Bishop Peggy A. Johnson