

**Offertory:** “Blessed” V. S. Crescenz

**\*Doxology:** UMH# 94

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving:** (*Discipleship Ministries*)

God of all blessings, your beloved son teaches all we need to know to claim the life you’ve hoped for us. We bring to you our gifts, which are the result of your blessings, help us to remember who Jesus called truly blessed! We pray in the name of our teacher and savior. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” UMH# 361

### **Benediction**

**Postlude:** “Prelude and Fugue in A Minor” J.S. Bach

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

**Acolytes:** Adeline and Anja, Berke and Felix Everett

**Altar Flowers:** In loving memory of John and Zachary Foster, from their wife and mother respectively, Lisa Foster.

**Altar Guild:** Ginger Elliott and Lisa Foster

**Carillonneur:** Thomas St. Marie

**Chancel Art:** Nicole Baker

**Fellowship Hour:** Volunteers

**Liturgist:** Nicole Smith

**Ushers:** Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Asst. Head Usher, Don Cushing; Ushers, Karen Andros, Lisa Foster, Wendy Regan

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

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### ***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 m), Leslie D (friend of Mary Beth G), Dominick E, Kelly H, Blair J (Brenda L's grandson), John K, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, (Katherine's sister-in-law), Velma Me, Dorothy M, Holly Joy P, Daryl P, Claire (L) P, Catherine Ann R, Nancy S, Lynn T, Mary (T) G (Nate T’s sister & Camille’s sister-in-law), Alison W, Andrew W (Phyllis T's nephew), Courtney H (Sheila W's daughter), 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](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

## Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

January 29, 2023

10:30 a.m.

### Meditation:

*“The mystery of God hugs you in its all-encompassing arms.” — Hildegard of Bingen*

### 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:** “Cantabile in F major” A. Guilmant

### 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 Katherine Hawker)*

**One:** Happy are we

**Many:** when our treasures cannot be quantified.

**One:** Happy are we

**Many:** when our knowledge is tempered by mystery.

**One:** Happy are we

**Many:** when our pain is held in the balm of love.

**One:** Happy are we

**Many:** when our delight comes from beyond ourselves.

**\*Hymn:** “For All the Saints” TFWS# 2283

**\*Prayer of Confession:**

**Far too often, O God, we desire to look wise in the eyes of the world. We have not spoken truth with our hearts. We have said and done hurtful things to our friends. We have forgotten our true identity, wandering into ways that are not yours. We have lost the path of true worship, focusing on form and words rather than deeds. We have forgotten what true discipleship is. And because of this, you have a quarrel with us. Forgive us and help us live into becoming the people you have created and called us to be: people of justice and love and truth and humility, and yes, even foolishness. May we be fools for Christ, embracing our true identity, even in the face of the world’s scorn and derision.**

**\*Words of Assurance and Pardon:**

God has called us and blesses us when we live God’s ways and not the world’s. God’s love embraces us even when we fall short of what God desires for our lives and actions. Know that the God of blessing loves and forgives us with a fierce tenderness. And in so knowing, may our lives and souls be transformed. **Amen!**

**Special Music:** “Praise to the Lord” arr. J. Raney

**\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

The God of blessing and love be with all of us.

**We embrace God’s blessing and love.**

Turn now and pass that blessing on to one another so that our community may be bound together in the spirit of Christ’s love.

### 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:** “Help Us Accept Each Other” UMH# 560

*(Children 4-6 years old are invited to Bible Story Time downstairs. Parents are asked to escort their children and pick them up.) (Chapel Kids is still on hiatus.)*

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 5: 1-12 (NRSV) N.T. p. 4

**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:** “Blessed Are . . . Rejoice and be Glad” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

### RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT’S PROMPTINGS

**Invitation to Offering:**

Good and generous God, we bring our gifts to you this day and pray you might dedicate them to your work. We need to be reminded that we have all that we need, whatever our circumstances. Renew us, loving God, and give us a new day and another chance. In Christ’s holy name, we pray. **Amen.**