

Offertory: "Song of the Wanderer" D. Forrest

***Doxology:** UMH# 94

***Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

God, we offer these gifts out of a deep sense of gratitude for your goodness. May these gifts, tithes and offerings be used to help spread the good news of your love and faithfulness here and around the world. **Amen.**

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

Benediction

Postlude: "Prelude in F Major" J.S. Bach

We thank those who participated in today's service:

Altar Flowers: In honor of Arlene Mackie, from Jim & Diane Mackie.

Altar Guild: Chad Thompson

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Chancel Art: Nicole Baker

Fellowship Hour: Membership & Evangelism Committee & volunteers

Liturgist: Thomas Sheldon

Prelude Pianist: Don Evans

Soloist: Devon Bakum

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Lisa Bakowski, Clayton Calhoun, Fred & Hope Lewis

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), Dominick E, Courtney H (Sheila Womble's daughter), Blair J (Brenda L's grandson), Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, (Katherine's sister-in-law), Dorothy M, Holly Joy P, Daryl P, Claire (LaPierre) 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

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 16, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Meditation: “Don’t dig up in doubt what you planted in faith. Water it with the love of God and your harvest will be plentiful.” -- Shearon Hurst

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE FOR A TIME OF 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: “Passacaglia” George F. Handel

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship:

One: God scatters the seeds of reconciliation and love, and waits....

Many: So much of it lands on flat pathways or rocky roads and won’t take root....

One: God scatters the seeds of healing and hope, and waits....

Many: Shallowness and fear claim the seeds and they cannot live....

One: God scatters the seeds of redemption and peace, and waits....

Many: These are the places of deep growth where the seed will cast down strong roots.

One: Welcome this day of new beginnings.

Many: May our hearts be the rich soil in which God’s love takes root. Amen.

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

*Prayer of Confession:

Merciful and mighty God, you plant your seed in all kinds of soil. You speak, hoping that the whole world will listen and heed what you say. We struggle to follow your word. We fail to live up to your example. We like to pick and choose the recipients of your grace and our kindness. We show love to people who seem most deserving and often leave the rest behind. Strengthen us to turn away from our self-centered tendencies, and forgive us for these and all of our sins. Amen.

*Words of Assurance:

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! **Amen.**

Special Music: “Shine, Jesus, Shine” G. Kendrick arr J. Schrader

*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:** “Hymn of Promise” UMH# 707

Scripture Reading: Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23 The Message Version

Response to the Word:

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

Many: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “The Parable of the Generous Sower” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT’S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering:

Creator God from whom all blessings grow: as we prepare to give our tithes and offerings, we acknowledge that you have blessed us to be the fertile soil from which the good news of your kingdom will spring forth. Move us, we pray, beyond seeing our role as passive or powerless. Remind us that you are counting on us for fruitfulness, demonstrating for the world your love, grace, and power as we bear fruit that eases suffering, feeds the hungry, brings justice to the oppressed and love and compassion to those who feel disconnected or forgotten. In Christ, we pray. **Amen.**