

***Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

(Book of Worship 552)

All things come from you, O God, and with gratitude we return to what is yours. You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you. And so in gratitude we offer ourselves and all that we have. Amen.

***Hymn:**

“Spirit of God”

TFWS# 2117

Benediction:

One: With a song of praise on our lips,

Many: we go forth with God.

One: With the love of God in our hearts,

Many: we go forth with God.

One: With a commitment to usher in God’s kingdom,

Many: we go forth with God.

One: With all that we are and all we can be,

Many: we go forth with God.

Postlude:

“Canon”

I. D. Bartley

We thank those who participated in today’s service:

We welcome to the pulpit: Cathy MacGovern, a member of Trinity’s congregation since 1984 and a retired United Methodist Diaconal Minister. She completed Gateways for God, an advanced training for Spiritual Directors in 2019.

Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Crystal S, from her daughter, Vera B.

Altar Guild: Chad Thompson

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Chancel Art: Nicole Baker

Fellowship Hour: Membership & Evangelism Committee & volunteers

Liturgist: Gerald Richardson

Soloists: Teri LaFleur & Chris Jacque

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Lisa Bakowski, David Jenney, Ray Miller

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), the D family, Dominick E, Courtney H (Sheila W’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 (L) P, Catherine Ann R, Christopher S, Lynn T, Mary (T) Grocott (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

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

July 23, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Meditation:

“...Trusting in God’s intention and willingness to interact with us empowers us to act and gives us hope – hope that is different from the hope we might have felt when we prayed with the expectation that God would make the wrong things right.” (Jane Vennard)

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: “O Jesulein süß” J.S. Bach set D. N. Johnson

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship:** Psalm 86 (Psalms for Praying by Nan Merrill)

One: Teach us your ways, Mighty Counselor, that we may walk in truth;

Many: Write our names upon your Heart.

One: Great is your steadfast Love toward those who call on You;

Many: You deliver their souls from the depths of despair.

One: Pour forth your Light into our souls, that all that is hidden in darkness may come forth into awareness.

All: For you, O Beloved, are our Redeemer and our Comforter.

***Hymn:** “How Can We Name a Love” UMH# 111

***Prayer of Confession:** The Abingdon Worship Annual: Copyright Abingdon Press

We pause this morning, O God, with heavy hearts. We live in the midst of great and abiding love, but also in the midst of deceit and lies. May we be found faithful in all we do. May we speak the truth in love and live lives of love each day. Too often we seek you in the spectacular and otherworldly. May we see the many manifestations of your kingdom in the everyday, ordinary things of life: in mustard seeds, yeast, treasures in fields, and fish gathered in nets. May we be able to answer with a full-throated yes when asked if we have understood your teachings and your call. Amen.

*Words of Assurance:

When we are not sure how to pray, or if we are even able to address God in prayer, the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. Know that no matter what, nothing, absolutely nothing can ever separate us from God’s presence and God’s love. **Amen.**

Special Music: “This Is Amazing Grace” P. Wickham

*Passing the Peace of Christ

LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT’S WORD TO US

Children’s Moment

Lectio Divinia (Praying with Scripture) Romans 8: 26-27 (NRSV) N.T. p. 148

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:** “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” UMH# 121

Sermon: “Trying to Pray” Cathy MacGovern

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT’S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering: (UCC, *Worship Ways Resources*, modified)

Jesus draws us from the margins; he draws us out of a crowd to healing; he draws us from death to new life. Each day, God finds the way that we need to be loved and challenged, and then calls us to minister to others in warm hospitality, healing mercies, and the promise of resurrection and new life. We respond to this marvelous call through our giving this day. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise. **Amen.**

Offertory: “The God Who Sees” L. Cornwell

***Doxology:** UMH# 94