

**\*Doxology:**

UMH# 94

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving:** --*Discipleship Ministries*

Gracious Lord, as followers who are blinded by your wondrous light, we seek to be amplified beacons of your astonishing light to others. Help us to reflect your love by listening to your call and to your will for our lives. In gratitude, we dedicate these gifts in the name of the one who lived, died, and rose for our sake, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**\*Hymn:**

“The Summons”

TFWS# 2130

**Benediction:**

Go into the world, carrying the light of Christ into the darkness!

**We go, with hearts full and eyes open!**

Receive God’s love and care, and share that love and care with others!

**We go, with eyes reflecting God’s light and hands open to share it!**

May you walk in the light of Christ all the days of your life!

**We will follow Christ wherever he leads us! Amen!**

**Postlude:**

“Trio”

J. Rheinberger

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

**Accompanist:** Steve Hays

**Acolytes:** Charlotte and Jack Rust, Nicholas Skridulas

**Altar Guild:** Deb Garth

**Carillonneur:** Thomas St. Marie

**Chancel Art:** Nicole Baker

**Fellowship Hour this Month:** Administrative Council Committee Members & Volunteers

**Liturgist:** Andrew Varnon

**Ushers:** Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Ushers, Jacki Barden, Ginger Elliott, Deb Garth, David Jenney

**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 Thompson's sister), Marilyn C, Margaret (Peg) C, Mary C (Matt's mother), Leslie D (friend of Mary Beth G), Dominick E, Kelly H, 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), 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 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](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

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## Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

10:30 a.m.

### Meditation:

“The eye through which I see God is the same eye through which God sees me; my eye and God’s eye are one eye, one seeing, one knowing, one love. -- Meister Eckhart

### 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:** “Be Not Afraid” B. Dufford arr. M. Hayes

### Welcome and Announcements

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

**Introit:** “Amazing Grace” C. Courtney

**\*Call to Worship:** --Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Director of Worship Arts

One: When the world is dark and full of hate and fear, when we cannot see God

**Many: we will turn on the light.**

One: When we cannot find our way back to love and peace

**Many: we will turn on the light.**

One: When our vision dims due to the darkness within

**Many: we will turn on the light.**

One: Christ opens our eyes with the gift of sight.

**Many: The light of the world is Jesus Christ.**

One: Come and worship the one who brings sight to the blind.

**Many: Hallelujah! Praise God, the light of the world!**

**\*Hymn:** “God of Grace and God of Glory” UMH# 577

**\*Prayer of Confession:**

**Healing God, we have languished in our blindness. We have chosen to hide in darkness in order to avoid reaching out and risking acceptance. We are afraid of the light, and yet we crave it. In your light, there is healing and hope, restoration, and transformation. Forgive our lack of faith and our fearfulness, O Lord. Give us courage to reach out to the light and accept its healing rays. May our lives be transformed by your mercy, for we pray this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.**

**\*Words of Assurance:** --Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good.’

Even though you have lived in darkness, God’s light is being poured out for you. Accept the light and love that is freely offered, and be transformed by its healing mercies. **Amen.**

**Special Music:** “Let the Sun Shine Down” P. Johns

**\*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:** “Open My Eyes, That I May See” UMH# 454

*(Chapel Kids and Bible Story Time are combining this week. All children ages 4-12 are invited to Grace Chapel.*

*Parents are asked to escort their children and pick them up. Thank you.)*

**Scripture Reading:** John 9: 1-17 (NRSV) N.T. pp. 96-97

**Response to the Word:**

One: For the words of challenge, for the words of blessing, for the spirit of wisdom moving in our midst,

**Many: We give God honor, thanks and praise. Amen!**

**Sermon:** “Born Blind” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

### RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT’S PROMPTINGS

**Invitation to Offering:** --Discipleship Ministries --Discipleship Ministries

We are called to live in hope and to share this light with the world. Let us offer thanks to God for all God has given us by sharing generously of ourselves and of our resources. Through our gifts, may all experience the hope to be found in our life-giving God.

**Offertory:** “Open Thou Mine Eyes” B. Harlan