

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT'S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering:

Almighty and restoring God, we have been living through some difficult days, as churches and as individuals. We experience days when we rise, wondering if we will make it through one more day, whether the church will survive for another generation; and we feel like those dry bones in the valley. As we offer our tithes and offerings, help us to hear the word of hope the prophet shares, not just with our ears but with our hearts. May it call us back to life and service, out of the graves of despair in which we have buried ourselves. In Christ's holy name. Amen.

Offertory: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" J. S. Bach

***Doxology:** UMH# 94

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

All things come from you, O God, and with gratitude we return to You what is yours. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from You. And so, in gratitude for all Your gifts, we offer You ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for us.

***Hymn:** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" UMH# 526

Benediction:

Postlude: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" arr. M. McDonald

We thank those who participated in today's service:

Accompanist: Steve Hays

Acolytes: Aisla & Levi Varnon, Mason Hedeem

Altar Guild: Chad & Phyllis Thompson

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Chancel Art: Nicole Baker

Fellowship Hour this Month: Administrative Council Committee Members & Volunteers

Liturgist: Jane Schneeloch

Soloist: Chad Thompson

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Jo Anne Evans, Ann Guyotte, Kathy Hathaway, Margo Sweetland

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), Leslie D (friend of Mary Beth G), Dominick E, 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, Marie & Richard P (friends of Beverly B), Claire (L) Pisarcik, 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

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Meditation:

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” -- Corrie Ten Boom

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: “There Is a Balm in Gilead” arr. R. Thomas

Welcome and Announcements

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

Introit: “Yo los Resucitaré/And I Will Raise You Up”

*Call to Worship:

One: Lazarus, though dead, was called to life by Jesus.

Many: May we be called to the light of righteousness.

One: As others witnessed this resurrection, they believed in Jesus.

Many: May we, who have heard, believe in the power of Jesus to conquer our fears and doubts.

One: Praise be to God who has given us Jesus.

Many: Praise be to Jesus who has given us life. Amen.

***Hymn:** “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” (vv.1-4) UMH# 154

*Prayer of Confession:

God, we confess that we are frightened by the unknown of death. We have experienced the loss of loved ones and have heard, all too often, of the horrible losses sustained by the young people who live in lands of warfare and strife. In this scripture today we encounter Lazarus and his family. They, too, long for Lazarus to be alive again. Jesus’ power to resurrect Lazarus confuses us. We long for that type of healing for our loved ones. And so, when their bodies cannot be healed and they die, we slip away from our faith, proclaiming that it is a nice story. Give us courage to face our fear. Give us awareness that you have offered to all those who have gone before us, a place in your kingdom. Help us move away from the prison of death to the light of eternal life and hope. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.

*Words of Assurance:

Though darkness and death appear all around, there is the comforting healing light of God’s love shining on you and in you. Feel the warmth of the presence of God and let go of your fear, for God is with you. **Amen.**

Special Music: “I Never Touched a Rainbow” R. Artman

*Passing the Peace of Christ:

LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT’S WORD TO US

Children’s Moment

The Sacrament of Christian Baptism: Charlotte Margaret Moran

Dear God, we thank You for the gift of Charlotte to raise, her life to share, her mind to help mold, her body to nurture, and her spirit to enrich. Let us never betray her trust, dampen her hopes, or discourage her dreams. Help us dear God to help this precious child become all You mean her to be. Let your grace and love fall on her like a gentle breeze and give her inner strength, peace, and patience for the journey ahead. Amen.

Baptism Music: “God Claims You” TFWS# 2249

Refrain: Charlotte God claims you, helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.

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:** “This is a Day of New Beginnings” UMH# 383

(Children 4-6 years old are invited to Bible Story Time downstairs. Chapel Kids for 7-12 year olds are invited to Grace Chapel. Parents are asked to escort their children and pick them up. Thank you.)

Scripture Reading: John 11: 1- 21 (NRSV) N.T. pp. 98-99

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: “Lazarus of Bethany” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun