

Offertory: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” arr. D. Forrest

***Doxology:** UMH# 94

***Prayer of Thanksgiving:** -- Written Rev. David Bell

Majestic Lord, you unselfishly provide us with the sanctuary of your love. You wisely calm our imagined fears while nurturing our dream-filled hopes. Grant us the ability to serve you faithfully. Joyfully, we honor you with these tithes and offerings. Blessed be your name!
Amen.

***Hymn:** “How Firm a Foundation” UMH# 529

Benediction:

Postlude: “Prelude in F Major” J.S. Bach

We thank those who participated in today’s service:

Accompanist: Steve Hays

Acolytes: Anthony & Nicholas Skridulas

Altar Flowers: In memory of Jacki B’s husband, Richard A on the 20th anniversary of his death.

Altar Guild: Chad Thompson

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Chancel Art: Nicole Baker

Fellowship Hour this Month: Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Members/Volunteers

Liturgist: Holly Blair

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Lisa Bakowski, Jacki Barden, Ginger Elliott, Deb Garth, Dave Jenney

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), Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, (Katherine's sister-in-law), Matthew M (Jan M's grandson), Ann M, Holly Joy P, Daryl P, Claire (L) P, 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 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

Ascension of the Lord / Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023

10:30 a.m.

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE A TIME FOR GATHERING & 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: “Jesus Shall Reign” DUKE STREET arr. J. Hatton

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: “Jesus Calls Us”

***Call to Worship:**

One: We are centered in the promises of God,

Many: Caught in the web of grace,

One: Spun in a dance of joy,

Many: Welcomed into the House of Blessings,

One: Woven into the fabric of trust,

Many: Lifted as a child of the Most High,

One: Surrounded by a cloud of witnesses,

Many: And moved by a chorus of praise.

***Hymn:** “Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise” UMH# 312

A Moment of Recognition for Our Graduates: (see insert)

***Prayer of Confession:**

--Written by Sherrie Dobbs Johnson, The Africana Worship Book Year A (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006), 143.

Many: God, we confess that we rarely recognize the Holy Spirit at work, even when She smacks us in the face. Worse yet, even when we do recognize this work of the Spirit, we don’t acknowledge that it is you at work in our lives and in the world. This week, you sent angels to watch over us. We barely uttered our thanks. We hurried on our way. Forgive us for our inattentiveness and reluctance to credit you loudly and joyously. Teach us to tell our children and our children’s children of your goodness. Teach us to tell our parents of your goodness. Teach us to tell even the supermarket clerk of your goodness! We long to hear the good news of the resurrecting love of Christ Jesus. Still our hearts long enough for us to hear that you are with us. Amen.

***Words of Assurance:**

God hears our prayers and desires the very best for us. God forgives our shortcomings and renews our lives. Praise be to God; we are forgiven people indeed! **Amen.**

Special Music: “Rock-a My Soul” Spiritual arr. H. Hopson

***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:** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” UMH# 103

(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 17: 1-11 (NRSV) N.T. pp. 105

Response to the Word:

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

Many: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “Ascension” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT’S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering --Discipleship Ministries

Gracious and Loving God, we rejoice in your faithfulness! As you promised, your glorious Spirit inspires a new way of life through the church of Jesus Christ. We trust that as we continue to devote ourselves to prayer, you will strengthen our congregation in mission outreach. Direct all our gifts and offerings for the purposes of your kingdom, O God. We pray through Christ, who ascended on high to your eternal throne in the heavens. Amen. *(Acts 1:6-14)*