

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT'S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering:

God of love and grace, as we prepare our offerings this day, we ask that they might be dedicated to strengthening Your church for the making of disciples for Jesus Christ. Open our ears to hear what pleases You and open our eyes to see the opportunities all around us. **Amen.**

Offertory: "Be Not Afraid" C. Courtney

***Holy Communion:** UMH# p.13

Music During Communion: "One Bread, One Body" UMH# 620

***Hymn:** "I'll Fly Away" TFWS# 2282

Benediction:

Postlude: "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" EASTER HYMN set. J. Behnke

We thank those who participated in today's service:

Accompanist: Steve Hays

Acolytes: Mason Hedeem, Charlotte & Greta Rust

Altar Flowers: In memory of Elsie Harwood, from her family.

Altar Guild: Phyllis Thompson & Shonali Bhajjan

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Chancel Art: Nicole Baker

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

Liturgist: Cathy MacGovern

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Lisa Bakowski, Clayton Calhoun, Hope & Fred Lewis, 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), Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, (Katherine's sister-in-law), Matthew M (Jan M's grandson), 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 (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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Meditation:

“To live in this world, you must be able to do three things: to love what is mortal; to hold it against your bones knowing your own life depends on it; and when the time comes to let it go . . . to let it go.”

--Mary Oliver

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: “Prayer” A. Guilmant

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: “The King of Love”

*Call to Worship:

One: Love’s radiant light surrounds us,

Many: Love’s radiant light is within us.

One: We are bathed in God’s healing light.

Many: We are filled with light and joy and peace.

One: We are dancing in the universe,

Many: And the universe dances through us.

One: Love’s radiant light links us to all creation,

Many: And joins the chorus of praise.

***Hymn:** “Christ for the World We Sing” UMH# 568

*Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, who is forever beckoning us to draw near, forever calling us to follow, we confess to wrestling with obedience. We often choose paths easy for us and miss Your invitation to extend your mercy in a place of need. We limit your contact with us to Sunday mornings or to the last weary moments of the day. We move so fast, we miss your whispers in a dream, Your tug from a small child, Your beauty in a new flower. Persistent God, in the act of confession, we acknowledge how we have missed the mark, tilt our ear toward You so we might hear with clearness the word You have for us this day and always. In Jesus’ name we pray.

*Words of Assurance:

God hears our prayers, forgives our shortcoming, and blesses us with the gift of new beginnings.

In the precious name of Christ we are forgiven! **Amen.**

Special Music: “The Call” R. Vaughan Williams

*Passing the Peace of Christ

LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT’S WORD TO US

Children’s Moment

The Sacrament of Christian Baptism: Xena Irene Dawn Ehnstrom

Dear God, we thank You for the gift of Xena 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: Xena, Xena 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:** “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” TFWS# 2146

(No Chapel Kids or Bible Story Time on Communion Sunday.)

Scripture Reading: John 14: 1-14 (NRSV) N.T. pp. 102-103

Response to the Word:

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

Many: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “Troubled Hearts” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun