

Offertory: "Mercy" C. Courtney

***Doxology:** UMH# 94

***Prayer of Thanksgiving:**
Almighty and most merciful God, from you comes every good and perfect gift. We give you praise and thanks for all your mercies. Give us a heart to love and serve you. **Amen.**

***Hymn:** "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" TFWS# 2223

Benediction

Postlude: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" J. G. Walther

We thank those who participated in today's service:

Accompanist: Steve Hays

Acolytes: Felix, Fiona & Muriel Everett

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Chancel Art: Nicole Baker

Fellowship Hour: The Missions Committee & Volunteers

Liturgist: Ginger Elliott

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Lisa Bakowski, Rita Auchy, Holly Blair, Ray Miller

Video Team: Nicole Baker, Brian Crawford, Nic Odell, Jack Rust, Anthony & Nicholas Skridulas

Please Pray for:

Mary A, Borys B, James B (Bridget's brother), Marilyn C, Margaret (Peg) C, Mary C (Matt's mother), Dominick E, Jo Anne E, Courtney H (Sheila W's daughter), Blair J (Brenda L's grandson), Brenda L, Christopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, (Katherine's sister-in-law), Holly Joy P, Daryl P, Claire (L) P, Catherine 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 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

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 17, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Meditation:

“There is always light. If only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.”

~ Amanda Gorman

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE FOR A TIME OF QUIET MEDITATION

*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 birth - 4 years. *Please stand in body or in spirit. Items in bold are read in unison.*

Prelude: “Sun of My Soul” HURSLEY arr. L. Smith

Welcome and Announcements

Introit: “Amazing Grace” C. Courtney

*Call to Worship:

One: Children of God, when we face strife, upset, and harm in our midst, we so often turn to God and ask:

Many: How many times should I forgive?

One: When Jesus answers that we should forgive again and again and again, we are tempted to repeat the question:

Many: How many times should I forgive?

One: Until God turns the question around: “How many times have I forgiven you?”

Many: Seventy times seven.

One: “How many times have I loved you?”

Many: Seventy times seven.

One: “How many times has my grace been sufficient for you?”

Many: Seventy times seven.

All: Let us learn, then, how to forgive not out of our own power, but out of God’s, who forgives us that we might be free to learn to live with one another well.

Amen.

***Hymn:** “Amazing Grace” (vv. 1-3 & 6) UMH# 378

*Unison Prayer of Confession:

O Lord we seek your mercy . . . yet we ourselves look for payback when we are wronged. We think it “only fair” and “what is right” when we retaliate and use harsh words and withdraw from relationship. The forgiveness you offer on our account is larger than we can comprehend, still we withhold forgiveness and carry the grudge over petty items. We are eager to do your judging. And the worst: we conspire our inner thoughts to secure your forgiveness while avoiding honest repentance. Forgive us Lord for the sins we know in our hearts. Save us Lord from the sins we hide. Amen.

*Words of Assurance:

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and has not dealt with us according to our sins. This gift of forgiveness makes us able, with the power of Holy Spirit, to choose to forgive, renew and live again in right relationship with each other and with our God. In the name of Creator, the Sustainer, and the Redeemer, we are forgiven. **Praise be to God. Amen.**

Special Music: “Praise to the Lord” J. Raney

*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:** “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” TFWS# 2158
(Chapel Kids for 5-13 yr. olds are invited to Grace Chapel. Parents please escort your children & pick them up.)

Scripture: Matthew 18: 21-35 (MSG)

Response to the Word:

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

Many: Thanks be to God!

The Word in Reflection: “Forgiveness” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT’S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering:

Generous God, you have given so much to us in love and joy – every good thing in our life reflects your caring. Even in the giving of our offerings, we have tried to give our best but know we could do more. In a world where forgiveness has become a rare commodity, it is often an asset we hold back to maintain power over one another. Help us to hear the teaching of Jesus in the generosity of forgiveness. May we learn to give that to others with wild extravagance! We pray in Christ’s name, who gave all. **Amen.**