

Thank you to those listed in the bulletin who participated in today's service.

We also thank:

Altar Guild: Ginger Elliott and Lisa Foster

Attendance Taker: Nicole Baker

Coordinators for Online Worship: Clara Lee and Jim Sharrard

Lenten Display: Ken Guerin

Liturgist: Camille Twining

Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble, **Assistant Head Usher,** Donald Cushing, also the usher volunteers who sign-up each week.

Videographer: Nic Odell

Trinity United Methodist Church

361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA 01108

www.trinityspringfield.org

Director of Music Ministry, Becky Rosendahl Isaacson

Associate Pastor, Rev. Erin Newcomb-Moore

Senior Pastor, Rev. René Perez

Reminders:

Palm Crosses in the Parking Lot:

The tradition of distributing palm crosses on Palm Sunday continues! The Membership & Evangelism Committee will be handing out palm crosses in the Parking Lot on March 28 (Palm Sunday) from 11:30 a.m. Whether you are exiting the in-person worship service or driving through the parking lot for the occasion, we'll have a cross for you ([See flyer here](#)).

Chapel Kids:

For all Chapel Kids ages 7 - 12, we will be having Chapel Kids OUTDOORS once the inside service has begun at 10:30 am at Trinity for the month of March. We will be masked, safely spaced, and together again on our wonderful lawn to create a worship service together. We can't wait to see you, and to once again worship together with you as Chapel Kids. If you come early, you may go into the sanctuary with your families, and the ushers will make sure you are seated in a place where you can easily exit as the announcements start. We will continue to assess and revise the details. For more information, please contact Amelia or check out our News and Events page on the website.

Food Insecurity:

The Missions Committee is hoping to collect at least 50 bags filled with nonperishable items to help some of Trinity's neighbors who continue to experience food insecurity. Here is a list of items needed: large jar of peanut butter, large jar of jelly or jam, 2 boxes of spaghetti, jar of pasta sauce, large can of tuna fish or chicken, canned soup, canned vegetables, package of toilet paper or diapers. If you cannot get out to shop and would like to contribute, a full bag with these items is approximately \$25. You may donate by sending a check to the church and indicating that it is for Missions for "Food Insecurity."

Filled bags can be dropped off at the back of the church at the Hale Community Room door on **Palm Sunday, March 28 9:30-10:15 a.m. and then again from 11:30-12:30. On Easter Sunday, April 4 from 10:30-11:00 and again from 12:00-1:00.** Thank you!

Lent
Fourth Sunday
in
Lent



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday in Lent ~ March 14, 2021

✠ See words to the right ✠ See Insert

Opening Hymn: “O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus” arr. M. Ijames
Rev. Erin Newcomb-Moore, violin

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship: ✠

Introit: “Holy Ground” L. Larson
Borys and Devon Bakum

Prayer of Confession: ✠

Extinguishing the Lenten Candle

Words of Assurance

The Lord’s Prayer: ✠

Prayer Response: Consolation/Morning Song arr. J. Clemens

Scripture: John 3:14-21 (NRSV)

Special Music: “Cry No More” arr. D. Forrest

Sermon: “God Loves First”

Closing Response: “On Eagle’s Wings” arr. L. Larson

Benediction

Postlude: “Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling” Beecher

WORDS TO FOLLOW ALONG

- **Bold Items Are the Congregation’s Part**

Call to Worship: (Sarah Are)

L: Before we were born,

P: Before we took our first breath,

L: Before the week started,

P: Before the year started,

L: Before we said, “I love you,”

P: Before we said, “I’m sorry,”

L: Before we figured out who we really are,

P: Before we figured out who we want to be,

L: Before it all—

P: God loved us.

L: Unconditionally and freely,

P: Fully and honestly—

L: God loved us.

P: Again and again, this is where our story begins.

All: Let us worship God!

Prayer of Confession: (Sarah Are)

God of love, we forget the beginning of the story—that we were made from love, to be love, to give love. Instead of rooting our narrative in the goodness refrain of creation, we skip ahead and find our worth at the fall, with Cain and Abel, lost in the wilderness. We forget that first there was you, and you are love. We forget that out of that love you created us. We forget that from the very first day, you loved first. We forget, because a love like that doesn’t make sense to us. Forgive our low self-esteem. Forgive our resistance to love ourselves. Forgive our hesitation to trust that even we could be made good. And forgive our tendency to pass that doubt on—from generation to generation. Write a new beginning for us that roots our confidence in your unrelenting love. With hope we pray, again and again. Amen.

Words of Assurance: (Sarah Are, adapted)

Family of faith, no matter what we do, where we go, or what we tell ourselves—God is love, and God is loving us. Thanks be to God. Amen!

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.