SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 2:1-5 (NRSV)

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home.

2 So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. 3 Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. 4 And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

† Adam Smedberg serves as a Congregational and Community Events Specialist for Church World Service in the New England Area.

‡ Adam Smedberg selected his hymn because it is one he has come to really enjoy, especially this year. He says, “I find that when we are asked to help our neighbors, whether it’s by on-hands support, financial support, or something as easy as wearing a mask, many of us are willing to step up.”

Thank you to those listed in the bulletin who participated in today’s service. We also thank:

Altar Guild: Vera and David Baker, Lee Vaughn
Attendance Taker: Nicole Baker-Cooley
Bulletin Cover: Anna-Lee Thompson
Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie
Coordinators for Online Worship: Clara Lee and Jim Sharrard
Overflow Room: Brian Crawford
Ushers: Head Usher, Margo Sweetland, Asst. Head Usher, Sheila Womble
Videographer: Nic Odell

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.

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
Sunday, October 18, 2020

* Stand if you are able  ❖ See words to the right  ❗ See words on the back

(A Time of Gathering: 10:20 a.m.)

**Organ Prelude:** “Giocoso”  A. Carter

**Introduction & Prayer Updates**

(Livestream Begins: 10:30 a.m.)

**Prelude:** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”  P. Hurlburt

**Trinity Handbell Choir**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Introit:** “Sing When the Spirit Says Sing”  K. Strand

Caroline Andros, Brittany Ann Fox, Lexi Fox, and Caitlin Odell

*Call to Worship: ❖

**Special Music:** “Standin’ in the Need of Prayer”  G. Walker

**Special Recognition**

**Prayer of Confession, Silent Reflection ❖**

**Words of Assurance ❖**

**Lord’s Prayer ❖**

**Hymn: † “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”  vss. 1, 2, & 4**

**Scripture Reading: ❗ Mark 2:1-5**

**Sermon:** “Bringing the Light to Others”  Adam Smedberg ‡

**Closing Response:** “Teach Us to Love”  M. Patterson

**Benediction**

**Postlude: † “Toccata in e minor”  J. Pachelbel**

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**WORDS TO FOLLOW ALONG**

- Bold Items Are the Congregation’s Part

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (Based on Mark 12:28-34)

21st Century Worship Resources for the 23rd Sunday After Pentecost, Year B, The United Methodist Church

L: We are people of God, created to love.
All: We will love the Lord our God with heart, soul, mind and strength.
L: We are people of God determined to love.
All: We will love our neighbors and treat them as we would be treated.
L: We love neither from a sense of obligation nor to gain popularity or favor.
All: We choose to love both the lovely and the unlovable because love imitates God’s nature. “For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Galatians 5:14, NRSV)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND SILENT REFLECTION:**

21st Century Worship Resources

We come before you today, O God, asking for the courage to live more committed lives. Make us like Joshua, who declared that he and his household would serve you no matter what others might do. Make us like Ruth, who insisted that your ways and your people were worth leaving her old way of life. Make us like the early disciples, who were willing to risk all that they had for the cause of the Risen Christ. Give us courage to live as people who belong to you, so that the world might know your salvation and your love for humankind. That they may know, we are yours by the love we have for you and one another. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (Non-Responsive) (Based on Lamentations 3 and Joshua 1, MSG)**

God’s loyal love doesn’t run out. God’s merciful love hasn’t dried up. God’s mercy is new every morning. God is faithful! Be strong and courageous! Give it everything you have, heart and soul. Don’t get discouraged. God, your God is with you every step you take. Wait for hope to appear. Love always wins.

**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.