

**Offertory Anthem:** "Grace" 19th century melody arr. by Mark Hayes  
The text may be found at UMH 378, vs. 1,2,3,6

**Doxology:** UMH #94

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving:** – *Ministry Matters ~ Nancy Townley 2025*

All Mighty God, we yearn to dwell in your pasture. As we present these offerings, help us examine our hearts with honesty and grace. May your love guide our steps and our giving, so others may know your care. In the name of the Risen One, we pray. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" UMH# 381

**Benediction**

**Postlude:** "Toccata in e minor" Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

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**Music Notes:** The prelude this morning comes from a collection of J. S. Bach chorales known as "The Eighteen Great Chorales". These are large scale works using familiar Lutheran tunes. The term "Chorale" is the Lutheran name for a hymn tune which all composers, working in the Lutheran church in the 18th century, used as the basis of instrumental and choral works.

**We thank those who participated in today's service:**

**Accompanist:** Vera Baker

**Acolytes:** Audrey Crawford, Nii Lante Bruce, Levi Varnon

**Altar Flowers:** In loving memory of James M, to recognize his birthday, from his wife, Arlene.

**Altar Ministry:** Shonali Bhajjan and Julie Calhoun

**Carillonneur:** Thomas St. Marie

**Fellowship Hour:** Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and volunteers

**Liturgist:** Anja Berke

**Ushers:** Head Usher; Lisa Bakowski, Asst. Head Usher; Sheila Womble, Jo Anne Evans, Ann Guyotte, Kathy Hathaway, Margo Sweetland

**Video Team:** Brian and Samuel Crawford, Eric Mazzarella, Nic Odell, Anthony and Nicholas Skridulas

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**Please Pray for:** Bridget B, James B, Janet B, Meri B, Natalie B, Mary C, Pat D, David F, Sophia G, Donna G, Courtney H, Dave J, Pete L, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, Arlene M, Carlos M, Pat N, Les P, Rev. Dr. Bob P, Catherine Ann R, Gerald R, Shawn R, Jen R, Jim S, Carl S, Lynn T, Allie W, 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](http://www.trinityspringfield.org) ▪ 413-737-5311

*Bishop, Thomas J. Bickerton*

*District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe*

*Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Bruce Glenn*

*Minister, Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun*

*Director of Family Ministries & Connections, Rob Powell, M.Div*

*Spiritual Director, Cathy MacGovern*



*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

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

10:30 a.m.

### WELCOME

We worship using this liturgy & two songbooks: The United Methodist Hymnal (UMH) & The Faith We Sing (TFWS). Please silence your electronic devices. Nursery care is downstairs for children birth - 4 years.

\*Please stand in body or in spirit. **Items in bold are read in unison.** *Items italicized are sung by the choir.*

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

“In general rejoice in God and make a fool of yourself for him the way lovers have always made fools of themselves for the one they love.” – Frederick Buechner

### Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude:** Von Gott will ich nicht lassen (“From God I shall not turn”) J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

**Introit:** “Christ is Risen”

*Christ is Risen! Alleluia, Love's redeeming work is done. All Creation sings His praises,  
Christ the resurrected Son. Sorrow gone, sweet joy abounding, God's great pow'r is on display,  
Christ is Risen! Alleluia, Love and Light have won the day.*

**\*Call to Worship:** – *Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2025.*

Leader: Easter people, we gather to worship and to listen, to learn the sound, the feel, the cadence of the Shepherd's voice.

**People: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.**

Leader: We gather to worship and to discern, to learn how to recognize our Shepherd's voice amidst the chaos and noise of our lives.

**People: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.**

Leader: We gather to worship and to find shelter, to learn to trust our Shepherd's voice to guide us to safety and provide for us in all things.

**People: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.**

Leader: Come, let us worship as we listen for the voice of Jesus who guides us, protects us, provides for us, and draws us together in community.

**People: We come to worship as the family of Christ, a flock seeking and following our Shepherd's voice. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** “For the Healing of the Nations” UMH# 428

**\*Unison Prayer of the Morning:** *-Adapted from Mary Petrina Boyd & posted on Ministry Matters*

Merciful and loving God, you call us your beloved ones and you seek to protect us, but we love to take risks, emotionally, spiritually, physically. Call to us again. Help us to hear your voice. Give us hearts of love and compassion for all our dear ones who suffer illness and any adversity. Be with those who travel, having no home to which to return, no land they can call theirs, no sense of ever being community again. They truly hunger and thirst in every way and you have called us to meet those needs – not to turn them away because they might be different. You always accepted us, so let us accept others, realizing that your sheep of your pasture are awash with diversity of spirit and origin. Let us celebrate those wonderful gifts and learn from them for we ask this in the name of the Good shepherd. **Amen.**

**\*Response:** “Now the Green Blade Riseth” (vv. 1 & 3) UMH# 311

**Verse 1:** Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

**Verse 3:** Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain, Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain; quick from the dead, my risen Lord is seen: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

**Anthem:** “Open My Eyes” text, Lancelot Andrews (1555-1626), Music by K. Lee Scott

*Open my eyes and I shall see; incline my heart and I shall desire;  
order my steps and I shall walk in the ways of your commandments.*

*O God, be my only Lord, and beside You let there be none else, no other, none else with you.*

*Teach me to worship you and serve you in all my undertakings with truth of spirit,  
with honor of body, with blessings of mouth, both in public and private.*

### Passing the Peace of Christ

### 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:** “Hear our Prayer, O Lord”

*Hear our prayer, O Lord; hear our prayer, O Lord; Incline Thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace.*

**\*Hymn:** “The Summons” TFWS# 2130

*(5-13 yr. olds are invited to Grace Chapel for Chapel Kids. Parents please escort your children & pick them up.)*

**Old Testament Scripture Reading:** Psalm 23 (KJV)

**New Testament Scripture Reading:** John 10: 1-10 (NRSV) pp. 97

### Response to the Word:

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

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon:** “Sheepfold Safety” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

### RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT'S PROMPTINGS

**Invitation to Offering:** – *Written by Rev. Renee C. Jackson and posted on the Faith Foundations*

Faithful Shepherd, who calls us by name, you invite us into a life that is rich in meaning, deep in joy, and bold in compassion. You speak, and we long to follow—although the world is noisy and the path unclear. In this moment of offering, we quiet our hearts to listen again. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you. May they be used to bring abundance to others, to feed the hungry, to strengthen the lost, and to proclaim your voice of love. In coming and going, in worship and service, make us more like Christ, in whose name we give and pray. **Amen.**