

**Offertory:** “You are the Vine” J. Martin

**Doxology** UMH #94

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

O God, you bless us in so many ways—in places we often fail to recognize as blessings. Help us have eyes to see and hearts to understand the depth of your love and blessings. Today, we give out of that blessedness, dedicating ourselves to lives of justice and love, giving all that we are and all that we have to bring about your beloved community, here and now. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** “The Summons” TFWS# 2130

**Benediction**

**Postlude:** “*Last Tango in Harris/Kenny Gillies of Portnalong/£50 Cashback*” Haley Hewitt

---

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

Special thanks to harpist Haley Hewitt and flautist Kyle LaFleur providing special music for this service.

**Accompanist:** Steve Hays

**Acolytes:** Felix Everett, Anthony and Nicholas Skridulas

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

**Altar Ministry:** Lisa Everett and family

**Carillonneur:** Thomas St. Marie

**Fellowship Hour:** Stewardship & Finance Committee and volunteers

**Liturgist:** Hope Lewis

**Ushers:** Head Usher, Lisa Bakowski, Asst. Head Usher; Sheila Womble; Rita Auchy, Holly Blair, Matt Connelly, Ray Miller

**Video Team:** Nicole Baker, Brian Crawford, Jack Rust, Anthony and Nicholas Skridulas

---

***Please Pray for:***

Mary A, Lisa B, Borys B, Jeannette B, Pat B, James B, Meri B, Margaret (Peg) C, Mary C, Benard D, Greg D, Dominick E, Jo Anne E, Lisa F, Mary (T) G, Courtney H, Aurie I, Blair J, Brenda L, Christopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, Gavin M, Jan M, Holly Joy P, Daryl P, Claire (L) P, Catherine Ann R, Henry (Bing) S, the S family, Jane S, Jim S, Lynn T, Tina W, Alison (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, Peggy A. Johnson*

*District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe*

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

*Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Michael Carney*

*Director of Family Ministries & Connections, Rob Powell*

*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

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

10:30 a.m.

### WELCOME

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

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

"We live in two worlds . . . the world into which we were born, and the otherworld that was born within us. Both may be a blessing or a curse. We choose." – The Wolf and The Druidess

**Gathering Music:** "The Puzzle Window/Air and Sunshine" Haley Hewitt

### Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude:** "The Half-Door" Haley Hewitt

### Moment of Reflection

**Introit:** "A Celtic Prayer"

### \*Call to Worship: - Ministry Matters Resources

L: Loosen the bonds of wickedness and greed,

**P: Break the yoke of racism,**

L: Set the oppressed free,

**P: Share food with the hungry,**

L: Open our doors to those in need.

**P: Put an end to child abuse,**

L: Then shall your light break forth like the dawn.

**P: And healing flow over a wounded world,**

L: And songs of praise echo in hearts and mountains

**All: And joy spread around every table.**

**\*Hymn:** "Forward Through the Ages" UMH# 555

### \*Unison Prayer of Confession:

**Awesome God, we confess that we have allowed fear to rule our lives. We have allowed fear to keep us from loving our neighbors who are different from us. We have allowed fear to close our doors, our hearts, our minds, but you are perfect love, and you cast out all fear. Help us to let go of what holds us back and to be open to your spirit, to love freely, and to love deeply. We know that our hearts may be broken, but help us anyway to love those most in need, the most vulnerable, and guide us into ways of love and care that help heal our brokenness. In the name of Christ, the one, who laid down his life for us because he loved us so much, we pray all things. Amen.**

### \*Words of Assurance: – Bread For The Journey

We come together with grateful hearts, remembering all that Christ has done for us, and knowing we can never repay that kind of love, except in how we love one another. So share God's love. Share God's peace. Share God's joy, and realize that love, peace, and joy in your heart. You are forgiven, loved, and restored. **Amen.**

**Special Music:** "Spirit, Open My Heart" A. V. Fedak

### \*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

**\*Hymn:** "The Gift of Love" UMH# 408  
*(5-13 yr. olds are invited to Grace Chapel for Chapel Kids. Parents please escort your children & pick them up.)*

**Scripture:** 1 John 4:16<sup>b</sup>-21, John 15: 1-8 (NRSV) O.T. pp. 227 & 103

### Response to the Word:

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

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

**The Word in Reflection:** "The Thin Places" Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

### RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT'S PROMPTINGS

### Invitation to Offering: Liturgist – Discipleship Resources

Gracious God, as we offer our gifts today, we reflect on the wisdom in the words from John's gospel. In this imagery, we recognize our role as branches, connected to you, the source of our strength and vitality. Help us stay rooted in your love, producing fruit that brings glory to your name. May these gifts signify our commitment to abide in your teachings and work joyfully in response to your love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**