

RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT’S PROMPTINGS

Invitation to Offering: – *Discipleship Ministries*

God of this day and all days! We can only imagine the darkness of the world into which you sent your son – a world that believed that salvation rested on our ability to follow the rules. Jesus came to bring light into that darkness, and into our darkness. As we bring our tithes and offering to you this day, transform them into light for the hungry, for the hopeless, for the forgotten and the oppressed. We will share his light in us! In Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Offertory Anthem: “Angels We Have Heard on High” arr. by David Cherwien
The text may be found at UMH# 238

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)

Music During Communion: “Of the Father's Love Begotten” UMH# 184

***Hymn:** “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” UMH# 251

Benediction

Postlude: “Joy to the World” arr. by Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)

The prelude this morning is an unusual piece by Bach. It portrays the sadness of the passing of the old year by the use of chromatics and sharp dissonants. The embellished melody can be heard on a solo organ stop.

We thank those who participated in today’s service:

We welcome Pastor Ken Blanchard to the pulpit this morning. Meri and Ken Blanchard became members at Trinity in 2007. It’s here that Ken first pursued a call to ministry, under the mentorship of Pastor John Mueller. In 2012 he was appointed pastor of the Agawam UMC and also Christ Church UMC in Southwick until retiring in 2022. Ken continues to serve as needed in area churches.

Acolytes: Adeline and Anja Berke, Audrey Crawford

Altar Ministry: Deb Garth and Kathy Hathaway

Carillonneur: Thomas St. Marie

Communion Servers: Ginger Elliott, Deb Marden, Thomas & Brenda Sheldon

Fellowship Hour: Volunteers

Liturgist: Holly Joy Pearson

Soloists: Teri LaFleur, soprano

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

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

Please Pray for: Bridget B, James B, Meri B, Natalie B, Mary C, Pat D, David F, Mark F, Courtney H, Pete L, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, Diane M, Carlos M, Herb M, Les P, Catherine Ann R, Jen R, Sue S and family, 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 ▪ 413-737-5311

Bishop, Thomas J. Bickerton

District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe

Minister, Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Bruce Glenney

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

Epiphany Sunday

January 4, 2026

10:30 a.m.

WELCOME

We worship using this liturgy and two songbooks: *The United Methodist Hymnal (UMH)* and *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

“I don't think God wants to be worshiped. I think the only pure worship of God is by loving one another, and I think all other forms of worship became a substitute for the love that we should show one another.”
– Charles M. Schulz: *Conversations*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Das alte Jahr vergangen ist” (The old year is passed) J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Introit: “In the Bleak Mid-Winter” arr. by Michael Carney
The text may be found at UMH# 221

***Call to Worship:** – *Discipleship Worship*

One: Sing aloud with gladness:
Many: God is gathering the people!
One: From the farthest parts of the earth we come:
Many: All who struggle; all who labor with new life!
One: Those who are weeping, God will console;
Many: Those who get lost find a clear path home.
One: Let us worship the God who gathers us!

***Hymn:** “Gather Us In” TFWS# 2236

***Unison Prayer of Confession:** – *Ministry Matters*
All-glorious God, we have faith in Jesus Christ, and love towards your people, yet we are not without blemish in your sight, not full of love, wisdom, and other spiritual blessings you still have available for us. Our love is not as inclusive as yours, and there is much we need to learn. Give us clearer vision of all that we are meant to be, so that by becoming fulfilled, we may increase the glory that is properly revealed in Jesus Christ, your beloved. Amen.

***Words of Assurance:** – Rev. Mia M. McClain, Senior Pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, Washington, DC
Friends, hear the Good News! The liberator has come to free us from all proud pretenses. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

***Response:** “As the Deer” TFWS #2025
As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

Anthem: “Do You Have a Room?” Shawna Belt Edwards

*They journeyed far, a weary pair; they sought for shelter from the cold night air.
Some place where she could lay her head, where she could give her Babe a quiet bed.
Was there no room? No corner there? In all the town a spot someone could spare?
Was there no soul come to their aid? A stable bare was where the family stayed.*

Refrain: *Do you have room for the Savior, and do you seek him anew?
Have you a place for the One who lived and died for you?
Are you as humble as a shepherd boy, or as wise as men of old?
Would you have come that night? Would you have sought the light? Do you have room?*

*A star arose, a wondrous light; a sign from God this was the Holy Night.
And yet so few would go to see the Babe who came to rescue you and me. This Child Divine is now a King.
The gift of life to all the world He brings, and all mankind he saves from doom.
But on that night for Him there was no room.*

Will you come tonight? Will you seek the light? Do you have room?

*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.

Choral Response: “Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”
Hear our prayer O Lord; Incline Thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace.

***Hymn:** “Love Came Down at Christmas” UMH# 242
(Chapel Kids is on break until February.)

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18 (NRSV) N.T. p. 86

Response to the Word:
One: The Word of God for the People of God.
Many: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “Follow the Light” Pastor Ken Blanchard