

**Offertory Anthem:** “Come and Follow Me” text by J. Paul Williams and Joseph M. Martin,  
music by Joseph M. Martin

*Take up thy cross and follow. Come faithful seeker of the Light, my voice is calling in the night. Walk with me; I'll be your guide. Follow me. Come weary pilgrim, take my hand. I'll lift you up and help you stand. All who seek the promised land, follow me, come follow me. All who hunger, all who suffer, all who sorrow, all who would be free, follow me. The path is steep, the road is long, but with my love I'll keep you strong; then my grace will lead you home. Come follow me. Come follow me, O faithful one, until the final race is won, until the great Amen is sung! Follow me, come follow me. I am the Way, the Truth, the Life. Follow me.*

**Doxology** UMH #94

**\*Prayer of Dedication:** – *Bell Worship Resources*

Majestic God, your love is a shelter of peace and hope. You calm our fears and nourish our dreams. Accept these offerings as signs of our joy and trust. May they be used to serve your world with faithfulness and praise. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” UMH# 664

**Benediction**

**Postlude:** “Fanfare” Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

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**Music Notes:** The prelude this morning was composed by the French organist and composer, Jean Langlais. Langlais was blinded by glaucoma at the age of 2. His parents sent him to the Institut National des Jeunes Aveugles (National Institute for Blind Children) in Paris and there he studied organ with another blind musician, organist Andre Marchal. In the 1950's, 60's and 70's, Langlais made international tours of Europe and America. His music is considered an important part of the French 20th century organ repertoire.

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

**Accompanist:** Steve Hays

**Acolytes:** Sam Crawford, Aisla and Levi Varnon

**Altar Flowers:** In loving memory of our mother Doris A, from Jim & Ellen

**Altar Ministry:** Susan Cartier-Barrett

**Carillonneur:** Thomas St. Marie

**Fellowship Hour:** Administrative Council and volunteers

**Liturgist:** Lisa Everett

**Trinity Adult Handbell Choir**

**Ushers:** Head Usher; Lisa Bakowski, Asst. Head Usher; Sheila Womble, Karen Andros, Wendy Regan, Jack Rust, Ian Smythe

**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, the T family during this difficult time of several extended family losses, 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*

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

*Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Bruce Glenny*

*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

## Ascension Sunday

May 17, 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

“Theologically speaking, the ascension of Jesus Christ has, over the years, suffered a form of benign neglect compared to other aspects of Christian faith. This has made it vulnerable to mythic fantasies that do nothing for faith or theology. Because the ascension has received so little critical theological attention, it tends to become a victim of a free floating imagination so as to appear as a mythological extravagance to the point where faith, reason, and language are somewhat embarrassed.” – Anthony J. Kelly

### Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude:** “Prelude modal” Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

**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, Oct. 2025*

Leader: Easter people, in this season of Eastertide, we remember the blessings God gives us—the blessings of Resurrection, salvation, and new life in Christ.

**People: We come to praise God for the blessings of Easter!**

Leader: We recall the blessings of creation—of clean air and water, of food and shelter, of beauty and awe.

**People: We come to praise God for the blessings of creation!**

Leader: We share in the blessings of community—of family and friends, of church and home, of help that is given and received.

**People: We come to praise God for the blessings of community!**

Leader: Easter people, we gather today to remember Christ’s Ascension, when Jesus was taken up into heaven while blessing his disciples, marking not the end but the next chapter of God’s salvific work among us.

**People: We come to bless God with our praise as God continues to bless us with all that we need to live as God’s Resurrection people. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” UMH# 154

### Moment of Recognition

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

**God of incredible surprises, as we gaze into the clouds, remind us that we are standing on holy ground. Place our feet on the pathways of peace and hope. Draw our attention from the vision of the Lord rising to the heavens to be with you and help us to focus on the ministries that you would have us do. Keep us ready and willing always to serve you all our days. 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:** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” arr. by Ron Mallory

### Passing the Peace of Christ

### Children’s Moment

**Recognition of Our Graduates** See insert

### 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:** “I’ll Fly Away” TFWS# 2282  
*(5-13 yr. olds are invited to Grace Chapel for Chapel Kids. Parents please escort your children & pick them up.)*

**New Testament Scripture Reading:** Luke 24: 44-53 (NRSV) p. 85

### Response to the Word:

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

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon:** “Ascension Day” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

### RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT’S PROMPTINGS

**Offertory Prayer:** - *Written by Rev. Renee C. Jackson Discipleship Ministries*

Blessing God of Presence, even as Christ ascended, you did not leave us alone. While he was blessing them, you were preparing us to carry the story forward, to be your witnesses, to live in hope and power. In this sacred act of giving, we return a portion of what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be a blessing to others, as Christ has been to us. Clothe us with courage. Remind us that your Spirit goes with us. And send us, renewed and ready, to be your church in the world. **Amen.**