

## RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT’S PROMPTINGS

### **Invitation to Offering:** – *Discipleship Ministries*

Humble and merciful God, you do not require perfection, only a heart that is open. Receive these gifts, not as a sign of our righteousness, but as a humble offering from those who know they need your grace. Teach us again that generosity begins not in pride, but in gratitude—not in proving our worth, but in trusting yours. May what we give today grow into mercy, justice, and joy in the lives of others and in our own. In Jesus’ name, we pray. **Amen.**

**Offertory Anthem:** “Give Me Jesus” traditional Spiritual, arr. by Howard Helvey  
I heard my mother say, give me Jesus. You may have all this world, give me Jesus. Dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus. You may all this world, give me Jesus. Oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus. You may all this world, give me Jesus.

**Doxology** UMH #94

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**  
Holy God, we offer our gifts and recognize how much we need your grace and mercy. Help us not to be proud of our own goodness, but to place our trust fully in the salvation that you freely offer to all. May our offerings reflect our humility and gratitude for all blessings in life. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** “It’s Me, It’s Me, O Lord” UMH# 352

### **Benediction**

**Postlude:** “Fugue in c minor BWV 537” J.S. Bach

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Johann Sebastian Bach was arguably the most gifted musician and composer in the history of Western Music. His genius, however, was only realized many years after his death with the first performance of the St. Mathew Passion occurring in 1829 (conducted by Felix Mendelssohn), one hundred years after its first performance. Today, Bach's music is performed throughout the world and is recognized for its beauty and craftsmanship.

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

**Accompanist:** Steve Hays

**Acolytes:** Nii-Lante Bruce, Anthony and Nicholas Skridulas

**Altar Flowers:** In loving memory of Thomas & Pauline S, from their children, Paula, Judy & Tom.

**Altar Ministry:** Vera Baker and Julie Calhoun

**Carillonneur:** Thomas St. Marie

**Fellowship Hour:** Trustees Committee and volunteers

**Liturgist:** Adam Smedberg

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

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

**Please Pray for:** James A, Bridget B, James B, Meri B, Natalie B, the family of Peg C, Mary C, Dominick E, David F, Sophia G, Courtney H, Pete L, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, Diane M, Carlos M, Herb M, Holly Joy P, Sue P, Catherine Ann R, Alfredo R, Jennifer R, Pat D, Henry (Bing) S, Carl S, Lynn T, Tina W, 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 Glenn

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

**Spiritual Director,** Cathy MacGovern



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

*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

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

October 26, 2025

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.

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

“These money-lovers are the pest of every Christian society. They have been the main cause of destroying every revival of religion. They will destroy us, if we do not put them away.”  
– John Wesley, Addenda to the Minutes of Some Conversations. 1781. Q32

Welcome and Announcements

Stewardship Moment Caroline Mazzarella

Prelude: “Fantasy in c minor, BWV 537” J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Introit: “God is My Rock”  
God is my rock, He is my hope and I will trust in Him.  
God is my fortress; I will not be shaken,  
God is my rock, my strength; I will trust in Him.  
God is my rock, my strength, and my song.

\*Call to Worship: –Unfolding Light  
One: O God, you who speak to us in prayer, we turn to you.

All: We still our hearts, that we may hear.  
One: We open the window of our spirits that your light may flood in.  
All: We open the door of our hearts, that we may receive you and attend to you with all our powers of adoration and love.  
One: Speak to us, for your servants are listening.  
All: Alleluia! Make us yours forever. Alleluia!

\*Hymn: “Gather Us In” TFWS# 2236

\*Unison Prayer of Confession:  
Creator God, we confess this day to engaging in habits that diminish the bounty of your creation. Not satisfied with the goodness of your holy temple, your seas and mountains, your rain and soil, we have fashioned a system of sustenance that seems good to us, but cannot be sustained. Be merciful to us, for we have sinned. Answer us with awesome deeds of deliverance, O Hope of the Earth. Give us vision and a prophetic spirit. Renew our vocation, as stewards of your creation. Amen.

Words of Assurance: – Ministry Matters  
Do not lose heart. Those who humbly admit their sins find favor with God. For God answers prayer, and forgives transgression. Believe this good news: We are forgiven and freed to newness of life. 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: “A Prayer for Humility” words and music by Mark Patterson  
Mighty God and gentle Lamb, Lord of all creation, how we long to know you, how we strive to serve you, help us to love you even more. Give us humble hearts to praise you and list'ning ears to hear your voice, willing hands to serve you, thankful spirits to rejoice. Lord of all, we adore you, and we bring this prayer before you: Create in us humble hearts. When our thoughts turn proud, remind us of the grace you freely give. When we lose our way, Lord, find us, draw us close to you again. Give us humble hearts to praise you and list'ning ears to hear your voice, willing hands to serve you, thankful spirits to rejoice. Lord of all, we adore you, and we bring this prayer before you: Create in us humble hearts. Amen.

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: “In Jesus' Name We Pray”  
O Lord, we ask that we may find your loving grace in heart and mind.  
In Jesus' name we pray, O Lord, in Jesus' name we pray.

\*Hymn: “Come and Find the Quiet Center” TFWS# 2128  
(5-13 yr. olds are invited to Grace Chapel for Chapel Kids. Parents please escort your children & pick them up.)

Scripture Reading: Luke 18: 9-14 (NRSV) N.T. p. 76

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

Sermon: “The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector” Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun