



TRINITY CHURCH

SHELBURNE FALLS

17 Severance Street, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370 ♦ www.trinityshelburnefalls.org ♦ 413-625-2341



Worship Bulletin

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Welcome to Trinity Church!

Dear Friends,

Whether you are joining us for the very first time, returning after some time away, or are a lifelong member of our church family, I am so glad you are here with us today.

At Trinity, we believe that every person is a beloved child of God. No matter who you are, where you are on life or spiritual journey, or whom you love, you are full welcome here—just as you are.

To help you feel at home today, here is some information about our life and worship together:

Welcome & Connections

- **Guests & Visitors:** We would love to connect with you! Please consider filling out a welcome card found in the pews and/or signing our guest book located at the back of the church.
- **Coffee Hour:** Everyone is warmly invited to join us for coffee and conversation in the Fellowship Hall downstairs immediately following the service.

During Worship

- **Children:** Childcare is provided for infants and young children during the service by our licensed childcare professional, Lisa Porter. Children are invited, but not required, to proceed to the Nursery after the Time for All Ages.
- **The Asterisk (*) and Bolded Text:** Throughout the bulletin, an asterisk indicates times in the service where you may rise in body or spirit—whatever is best for your body. You are invited to join in on the **bolded** text throughout the service.
- **Offertory:** The Offertory is an invitation to generosity in thanksgiving for all that God has blessed us with. It is how we practice being community together and how we sustain our ministries. Especially if this is your first time visiting, please do not feel obligated to give as a reminder that the grace and love of God are free gifts.
- **Communion:** We celebrate Communion on the *first Sunday of every month*. At Trinity, we practice an open table. All are welcome to receive, without exception. We serve gluten-free bread and grape juice, and it is our tradition to consume the bread immediately, wait until everyone has been served, and then drink the juice together.

Accessibility & Comfort

- **Fragrance-Free Sanctuary:** To care for those in our community with severe allergies and medical sensitivities, we thank you for helping us keep our sanctuary fragrance-free.
- **Listening Aids:** Assisted listening devices are available at the back of the church. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.
- **Restrooms:** Restrooms are located downstairs.

At the back of this bulletin, you'll find information about what happens here during the week, special announcements, and other ways to connect.

May you feel the warmth of God's love and the peace of this community during our time together today.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Ben

Order of Worship

Land Acknowledgement

Trinity Church recognizes that we worship on the traditional, unceded territory of the Pocumtuck Peoples, marked by a painful history of warfare, genocide, and a deliberate process of erasure and dispossession. We honor the living presence of the Nipmuc, Abenaki, and Mohican communities and in the Spirit of Christ, we commit to the ongoing work of truth-telling and restoration. Our full land acknowledgment, adopted 4/26/2026, can be found on our website: trinityshelburnefalls.org

Prelude “Engelsche Fortuyn” (“Fortune is my Foe”) J. P. Sweelinck

As we gather, all are invited to add prayer requests to the prayer list, found at the back of the church, which will be prayed aloud during Joys and Concerns.

Welcome and Announcements Nancy Parland

Centering Hymn “Loving Spirit” TFWS 2123, vv. 1 - 4

During the Centering Hymn, the Light is brought into the sanctuary for our time of worship.

Call to Worship

Praise be to God, who has brought us here this day.

Praise and thanks to God for all the blessings we have received.

What joy we have in God's presence!

What peace is brought to us in God's house!

This is truly the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Opening Prayer

Let us pray... **Gracious God, we gather together as one family, united by your Spirit. You have blessed each of us with unique gifts and invite us to offer them freely, trusting that you will use them to serve your kingdom. Bind us together in your Word, in fellowship, and in prayer. Give us glad and generous hearts, that we may share our lives and care for one another's needs. Fill this place with your presence, and use our shared worship to transform us and our community. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** “Come Down, O Love Divine” UMH 475, all verses

Following the opening hymn, children are invited to the Nursery.

The First Reading Proverbs 18:16

***The Gospel**

Acts 2:42-47

The Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“The Gift Opens the Way”

Jennifer Sanborn

Director of Development

The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts (TABCOM)

Musical Interlude

“Elevation in F”, op. 39 no. 1

Alexandre Guilmant

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray... **Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have withheld the gifts you gave us to share, and we have too often neglected the fellowship, prayer, and breaking of bread that bind us together. Forgive us for the times we have chosen selfishness over generosity, and isolation over community. Cleanse us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may walk joyfully in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news: God’s grace is abundant and poured out for all. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, renewed, and restored to fellowship with God and with one another. Receive this grace, and let us live together as a forgiven people, sharing our gifts and our lives with glad and sincere hearts. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

Remaining in our pews, let us turn to our neighbors and offer a sign of God’s peace.

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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.**

Invitation to Offering

Here at Trinity Church, we live in hope that love can bring renewal and healing to our world. Let us practice this world together, sharing what we have, taking care of each other, and bringing all our questions and concerns as honest offerings to God.

Offertory

*Offerings may be placed in the plate or
given securely online through our website: trinityshelburnefalls.org*



Offertory Music

"In G", from *I'Organiste*

César Franck

*Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit one. Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray... **Generous God, all that we have comes from you and this morning we offer back to you a portion of what you have so abundantly provided. Use these gifts and offerings for your work in our church, our community, and the world. Multiply our humble offerings to feed the hungry, strengthen our hearts, and spread the light and love of Christ. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" UMH 126, vv. 1 - 3

*Benediction

Go forth into the world with glad and sincere hearts. May the Lord make room for the unique gifts God has placed within you, giving you courage to share them freely in love and service. And may the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forever. **Amen!**

Benediction Response "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" UMH 673, v. 1

*During the Benediction Response
the Light is carried back out into the world.*

Postlude

"Sonata in D", K. 287

Domenico Scarlatti

Announcements



Prior to the organ's dismantlement and trip up to VT for restoration – still scheduled to begin in November – I will be giving a “farewell, for now” recital on our wonderful (if ailing) 1883 Hook and Hastings organ. Thanks to a successful capital campaign, the funds are (almost) all in to give our beloved organ a second lease on life. Come listen to selections from six centuries of organ literature on October 25 at 4:00pm. No admission charge, though free will offerings gladly accepted, with refreshments in Fellowship Hall to follow. Be sure to tell your family and friends, and I hope to see many of you on the 25th.

Keith Rollinson

Building Joy

Our Building Joy Campaign is not a building maintenance project; it is a radical hospitality initiative. Every project—from restoring our historic 1883 Hook & Hastings organ to upgrading our livestream AV system and installing an emergency generator—is designed to equip our congregation with the physical tools needed to offer a life-changing welcome to our neighbors and serve as a hub of resilience. **Help us Build Joy** by donating online through our website (trinityshelburnefalls.org) or by making a pledge (pledge cards can be found at the back of the church).

**We're Building Joy because our neighbors deserve a light
that stays on when the world grows dim!**

Today's Worship Ministers

Presider: Jennifer Sanborn

Organist: Keith Rollinson

Usher: Sherry Clark

Acolyte: Nicole Porter

Liturgist: Clare Chapman

Reader 1: Ginny Ray

Reader 2: Julie Bailey

Videographer: Brook Batteau

Trinity Church's Ministers, Officers, & Staff

Ministers: All of us together

Leadership Team: Beth Martin, Sarah Neelon,
Wayne Perrea, & Clare Chapman

Co-Moderators: Ginny Ray & Nancy Parland

Co-Clerks: Brook Batteau & Beth Martin

Co-Treasurers: Clare Chapman & Eileen McCusker Rauch

Co-Financial Secretaries: Julie Bailey & Sue Mead

Pastor: Rev. Benjiman Durfee

Music Director: Keith Rollinson

Secretary: Brook Batteau

Nursery Attendant: Lisa Porter

Facilities Staff: Pat Valeski

Standard Weekly Calendar

Sundays	Worship Service at 10am Coffee Hour at 11am
Wednesdays	Playgroup at 9:30am Community Clothes Closet at Cowell Gym (2 nd & 4 th Wednesdays from 11am to 3:30pm)
Thursdays	Contemplative Prayer Group at 10:30am AA at 7pm
Fridays	Creative Movement at 10:30am Community Meal at 5:30pm
Saturdays	Community Clothes Closet at Cowell Gym (2 nd & 4 th Saturdays from 10am to 12pm)

Trinity's Office is open: Monday – Thursday 9am-12pm

Phone: 413-625-2341 | **e-Mail:** trinitychrch@gmail.com

Pastor Ben is available by appointment: pastordurfee@gmail.com

Trinity Church is an ecumenical Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation. We are affiliated with the American Baptist Church, the Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church. Our mission is to Gather as God's people, Grow in faith, love, and service, and Go into the world as disciples.