# TRINITY CHURCH
SHELBURNE FALLS

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




# Worship Bulletin

Gratitude Sunday

November 22, 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 on-going work of truth-telling and restoration. Our full land acknowledgment, adopted 4/26/2026, can be found on our website: trinityshelburnefalls.org*

**Prelude** "Nun danket alle Gott" ("Now Thank We All our God"), Justin Knecht

*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

**Centering Hymn** "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" UMH 694, vv. 1 - 3

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

## Call to Worship

The Good Shepherd gathers us from every corner of our busy lives—the weary and the rested, the uncertain and the hopeful.
**We come seeking pastures of peace and streams of justice.**
God notices when the strong push aside the weak, and calls us to build a table where no one goes hungry.
**Christ meets us in the faces of our neighbors, inviting us to feed, welcome, and care.**
On this Gratitude Sunday, we bring our thanks, our resources, and our lives to the work of co-creating beloved community.
**Let us worship the God who tends us, challenges us, and binds us together in love!**

## Opening Prayer

Let us pray... **God of abundant pastures and steadfast mercy, we gather on the threshold of Thanksgiving with hearts full of gratitude and hands ready to serve. You are the Shepherd who searches for the lost, binds up the injured, and calls us to recognize your image in every neighbor—especially those pushed to the margins. As we celebrate the culmination of our stewardship journey today, awaken our eyes to see where your beloved community is already taking root among us, and stir our spirits to join your work of repair, generosity, and justice. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** "Now Thank We All Our God" UMH 102, all verses

**Stewardship Moment** Edwin Sause

*Following the Stewardship Moment, children are invited to the Nursery.*

**The First Reading** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

***The Gospel** Matthew 25:31-46

The Gospel of the Lord.
**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon** "Co-Creating Beloved Community" Pastor Benjiman Durfee

**Musical Interlude** "Now Thank We All our God", op. 26 no. 57, Marcel Dupré

**Prayer of Confession**

Let us pray... **Loving God, we confess that we often act like the "fat sheep" of Ezekiel's vision—clinging to our comfort, hoarding our abundance, and trampling the needs of others without even noticing. Like the "goats" in Jesus's parable, we plead ignorance when faced with hunger, loneliness, and injustice right in front of us. Forgive our spiritual blindness, our reluctance to share, and the times we have settled for charity when you called us to solidarity. Prune away our selfishness, heal our indifference, and reshape us into people of active compassion. Amen.**

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

Hear the good news: God's judgment is never meant to destroy us, but to restore us and set the whole flock right. Christ refuses to give up on any of us, continually calling us out of blindness and into love. Know that you are forgiven, healed, and entrusted once more with the work of grace. **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**

With the confidence of beloved children of God, let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, using whichever words or language are closest to your heart:

**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 kindom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Stewardship Moment** Clare Chapman

**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** "Love Divine, All Love Excelling" Sir John Stainer
Sung by Nancy Parland and Pastor Ben Durfee

***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 and Sustaining God, as we approach Thanksgiving, we offer back to you the fruit of our labor, our gratitude, and our commitment to one another.**

**We dedicate these financial gifts and annual pledges—promises made in faith as we conclude our Co-Creating Beloved Community campaign. Use these resources to sustain our ministry, strengthen our neighborhood, and make this church a sanctuary of hope and justice throughout the coming year.**

**We also dedicate this food gathered for the Community Free Fridge and Pantry. Bless every meal it will provide and every neighbor who opens those doors. May this harvest be more than temporary relief; may it be a tangible sign of dignity, abundance, and solidarity—a reminder that in your beloved community, there is always enough when we share.**

**Accept our gifts and our lives, O God, and use them to nourish the world you love. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** "For the Beauty of the Earth" UMH 92, vv. 1, 2 & 4

***Benediction**

Go forth from this place with eyes wide open to see Christ in every neighbor you meet. May your gratitude overflow into generosity, your abundance become a blessing for the hungry, and your daily lives bear witness to the beloved community we are building together. And may the grace of the Good Shepherd, the love of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit go with you now and always. **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** "Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ"
("We thank thee, Lord Jesus Christ"), BuxWV 224, Dietrich Buxtehude

# Announcements

## Trinity Church at Moonlight Magic

Trinity will once again be present at Moonlight Magic to share information about our services and programs, give out candy canes, and spread holiday cheer! Volunteers are needed to help staff the table (which will be under a new donated tent (thank you, Dusti & Karyn!), with new donated tent sides (thank you, Sarah!), and proudly displaying our new donated Trinity banner (thank you, Nancy!).

If you can donate an hour or two of your time between 3pm and 9pm on Friday, November 27th, please contact Pastor Ben at pastordurfee@gmail.com!




## Advent Quiet Day at Trinity Church

Before the holiday season sweeps you away, give yourself the gift of a single, unhurried day. Come join us for our Advent Quiet Day and find a peaceful space away from to-do lists, crowded stores, and seasonal noise. Whether you come to pray, journal, read, or simply breathe in shared silence, you'll find gentle guidance, warm hospitality, and spacious silence to recenter your heart for Christmas. No experience with quiet retreats is needed—just come as you are, exhale, and make room for the season's true meaning.

December 12, 9 am - 12 pm

To register email Ben, pastorben@gmail.com

# Today's Worship Ministers

**Preacher/Presider**: Pastor Benjiman Durfee
**Organist**: Keith Rollinson
**Usher**: Sue Mead
**Acolyte**: Nicole Porter
**Reader 1**: Nancy Parland
**Reader 2**: Julie Bailey
**Videographer**: Clare Chapman

# 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<br>Coffee Hour at 11am |
| Wednesdays | Playgroup at 9:30am<br>Community Clothes Closet at Cowell Gym<br>*(2nd & 4th Wednesdays from 11am to 3:30pm)* |
| Thursdays | Contemplative Prayer Group at 10:30am<br>AA at 7pm |
| Fridays | Creative Movement at 10:30am<br>Community Meal at 5:30pm |
| Saturdays | Community Clothes Closet at Cowell Gym<br>*(2nd & 4th 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.*