

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



Photo by George Becker: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/selective-focus-of-purple-candle-356661/>

**As an open and affirming congregation
the Mission and Purpose of Trinity Church is to:**

**Gather as God's people.
Grow in faith, love and service.
Go into the world as disciples and apostles.**



First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

We welcome all of you to our worship service this Sunday!
If you are visiting, please sign our guest book or fill out a welcome card
in the pew so we can better welcome you!

* = Please rise in body or Spirit.

We kindly ask for your cooperation in keeping our space fragrance-free.

Order of Worship

PRELUDE – *Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ (We thank thee, Lord Jesus Christ)*,
BuxWV 224, Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING HYMN

“COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS” (UMH 196)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God’s reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God “shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4).

Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God’s reign has come and is coming among us.

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God’s call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray... **O Lord, our lives are so filled with chaos and tribulation. Help us be ready to receive your message and gift of love, that we might grow into faithful disciples, serving you by serving others with hope and compassion. In Christ’s Name, we pray. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

“WAKE, AWAKE. FOR NIGHT IS FLYING” (UMH 720, vv. 1 & 2)

TIME FOR ALL AGES

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 2:1-5

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 24:36-44

SERMON – “Hundred Dollar Christmas”

Pastor Benjiman Durfee

MUSICAL INTERLUDE – *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier (Dear Jesus, we are here)*,
Johann Walther

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray... **God of Amazing Surprises, we are rushing headlong into this season of buying, giving, greed, and struggle. We want to think of the holiday as delightful, but we have a tendency to make it a time of the highest stress. We over-schedule our time, overdraw our resources, ignore those moments in which we could just relax and have quiet time with our families and with you. We blame it on everything else but our own decision making. We speak of obligations, of the need to be constantly busy, of the pressure to purchase things to make people happy. The reality is that your love should be our foundation, the base from which we celebrate. Our watchfulness is not necessarily about what is to happen, but rather should be on the ways in which we order our lives, ways that block out your love and your healing power. Forgive us for our stubborn insistence on maintaining schedule rather than focusing on your love. Heal us. Strengthen us and make us watchful over our faith in you. For we ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Watch! Wait! God is bringing to you new hope and peace. It is a gift, given especially for you--one that you cannot earn—it's a gift. Praise be to the Giver of All Great Gifts, our Lord. **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

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray together the Lord's Prayer, using whichever words or language are closest to our hearts (some versions may be found at UMH 894).

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC – *Now Thank We All Our God*, Marcel Dupré

*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... **Ever-Watchful God, you call us to live not in fear, but in faithful anticipation. As we offer these gifts, we do so as people preparing our hearts, our hands, and our world for your coming reign. We confess that we often cling too tightly to our comforts and schedules, forgetting that your kingdom calls us to loosen our grip and lift our eyes. Awaken us, Lord, to the “someday” you are already shaping through our love, our justice, and our generosity. Let these offerings be signs of readiness, trust, and joy as we wait—and work—for your future to break into our present. In the name of the one who comes, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

“LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL” (UMH 580, vv. 1 & 3)

*BENEDICTION

To all the corners of the world, God is bringing God’s blessing. Be ready!
Watch! For the time is near; Salvation is at hand. Be at peace in the arms and love of God. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN” (UMH 673, v. 1)

POSTLUDE – *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (Come, Savior of the Gentiles)*, BWV 599, J. S. Bach

Today's Worship Ministers

Presider & Preacher: Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Guest Musician: Keith Rollinson

Acolyte: Nicole Porter

Reader 1: Lois Bascom

Reader 2: Eileen McCusker Rauch

Usher: Ginny Ray

Videographer: Ginny Ray