TRINITY CHURCH
SHELBURNE FALLS

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



Worship Bulletin

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 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 "Berceuse", op. 31 no. 19 Louis Vierne

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 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" UMH 626, vv. 1 - 3

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

Call to Worship

Come, let us gather in the presence of the Holy One, who calls us away from empty rituals and into the active work of justice.
We long to be a people of righteousness, where collective care flows like an ever-flowing stream.
God invites us to keep our lamps trimmed and burning, resourcing our community with the oil of love, compassion, and shared strength.
Let our hearts and hands be open. Let us worship God together, co-creating a Beloved Community that stands firm for the long haul.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray... **Gracious and-Ever-Flowing God, you call us out of isolated faith and into the vibrant river of collective life. Pour out your Spirit upon us today, that our resources, our gifts, and our very lives may fuel justice, bring healing, and support those who are struggling in our wider neighborhood. Kindle our lights, steady our spirits, and guide our steps as we co-create your Beloved Community. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** "O God, Our help in Ages Past" UMH 117, 1, 5 & 6

Stewardship Moment Edwin Sause

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

The First Reading Amos 5:18-24

The Second Reading Romans 12:9-21

***The Gospel** Matthew 25:1-13

The Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon "An Ever-Flowing Stream" Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Musical Interlude "Récit de Cornet, 2e couplet" François Couperin

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray... **Righteous God, we confess that we often hoard our resources and keep our oil to ourselves. We have preferred comfortable routines over the demanding, beautiful work of systemic justice. We have overlooked those who struggle in our neighborhoods, forgetting that we are bound together in one body. Forgive us, O God. Wash us with your ever-flowing stream of grace, and rekindle our commitment to collective care.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news: God does not desire our perfection, but a heart turned toward justice and mercy. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and empowered to shine brightly. **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 prayer 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 kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Stewardship Moment Sue Mead

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 "Pavane" William Byrd

***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, you have poured out your blessings upon us like an ever-flowing stream. We offer these gifts back to you today not for show, but to sustain the vital ministries, spiritual care, and justice work of our community. Bless these resources, that they may bring healing support to those who are struggling, keeping our collective light burning bright for the long haul. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** "Rejoice, the Lord Is King" UMH 715, vv. 1, 2 & 4

***Benediction**

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
Go forth into this aching, hurting world with God's love, offering healing, hope, and peace to all. Go in peace and may God's peace surround you 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 "Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten" ("Who only lets dear God rule"), BWV 642, J. S. Bach

Announcements

"What Makes You Come Alive" Book Group Forming at Trinity Church

Pastor Ben of Trinity Church will be leading a study of Lerita Coleman Brown's book **"What Makes You Come Alive: A Spiritual Walk with Howard Thurman" on Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30pm, from November 17 to January 26.** Known as the godfather of the civil rights movement, Howard Thurman served as a spiritual adviser to Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders and activists in the 1960s. In this biographical and practical book, "Brown walks with us through Howard Thurman's imitable life and commitments as he summons us into centering down, encountering the natural world, paying attention to sacred synchronicity, unleashing inner authority, and recognizing the genius of the religion of Jesus. We learn from Thurman's resilience in the psychology terrorizing climate of the Jim Crow South, his encounters with Quakers and with Mahatma Gandhi, and his sense of being guided by the Spirit. Each chapter illuminates an aspect of Thurman's work and includes reflection questions and spiritual practices." If you are interested in participating in this transformative study, please reach out to Pastor Ben at pastordurfee@gmail.com.

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!



Today's Worship Ministers

Preacher/Presider: Pastor Benjiman Durfee
Organist: Keith Rollinson
Usher: April Engle
Acolyte: Nicole Porter
Reader 1: Lois Bascom
Reader 2: Julie Bailey
Videographer: Walker Miles

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 *(2nd & 4th 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 *(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.