

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



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.

TRINITY CHURCH

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM

We welcome all of you to our worship service this Sunday!

Enter in stillness...Know that the Lord is God.

Listen in reverence...it is God who has made us.

Sing with delight...it is God who hears.

Speak with conviction...there is no other God.

Depart in peace...it is God's gift for you.

Serve with joy...it is your gift to God!

PRELUDE – *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland (Savior of the nation, come)*, BWV 659, J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING HYMN #126

“SING PRAISE TO GOD WHO REIGNS ABOVE” (VV 1 & 2)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise and celebrate, good news of deep joy is here!

The warm glow of the Divine lightens our hearts.

Here we are together. We are not alone. We gather on this third Sunday in Advent with gratitude and overflowing generosity, blessed multiple times by our give-away God. We are witnesses to joy.

(Two purple, and one rose candle are lit)

The Joy of Christ is good news, unexpected and surprising in its overflowing.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.. **God-who-lights-up-life, give us joyful, generous, and courageous hearts. As we lean on your love, may your joy well up in us so that our joy may overflow and flourish, witnessing to a life of constant gratitude, full of grace, cathartic hilarity, and goodness.**

*OPENING HYMN #203

“HAIL TO THE LORD’S ANOINTED” (VV 1 & 3)

TIME FOR ALL AGES

FIRST READING

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

*GOSPEL READING

LUKE 3:7-18

SERMON – “Joy”

Pastor Benjiman Durfee

MUSICAL INTERLUDE – *In the Bleak Midwinter*, text by Christina Rossetti,
music by Gustav Holst. Performed by the Trinity Choir.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

Our loving God, 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. 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

Trusting in the sure promises of Christ, and grateful for the Spirit’s sustaining power, let us bring our offerings to God.

OFFERTORY MUSIC – *Ein Kind geboren zu Bethlehem (A Child is Born in Bethlehem)*,
Gael Liardon

*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... **God of Advent joy, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your transformative call. In this season of anticipation, may our gifts help mend what is broken and share the promise of redemption. Empower us to live fully present, giving generously and acting justly. Let these offerings be seeds of hope and joy that will draw us closer to your kingdom. Bless our giving, that it may reflect your love and bring light to our world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN #715

"REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING" (vv 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL

Advent invites each of us into a new way of living in a world to which the kingdom of God has come and is yet coming. Go, now, blessed with the gift of togetherness, for it is only in being truly present with God and one another that we live as followers of the coming Messiah. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE – HYMN #673

"GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN" (v 1)

POSTLUDE – *Plein Jeu Gloria*, François Couperin

Trinity Church Fragrance-Free Policy

Adopted by Leadership Team on 12/10/24

At Trinity Church, we strive to create an inclusive and comfortable environment for all. We kindly ask for your cooperation in keeping our cherished space fragrance-free. We ask that you please refrain from using strongly scented products when visiting this space. We understand that scents can evoke pleasant memories and add a personal touch to one's presence. However, it's important to remember that many individuals may have sensitivities or allergies to certain fragrances. By embracing a fragrance-free policy together, we can ensure that everyone feels welcome and can fully participate in the multitude of activities and programs we host in this space.

Today's Worship Ministers

Presider & Preacher: Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Organist: Keith Rollinson

Acolyte: Nicole Porter

Reader: Wes Rice

Ushers: Nancy Parland and Sarah Neelon

Videographer: Clare Chapman

Coffee Hour Host: Beth Martin