

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.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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 – *In Dulci Jubilo (In Thee is Gladness)*, op. 10 no. 4, Flor Peeters

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING HYMN

“O HOLY SPIRIT, ROOF OF LIFE” (LFWS 2121, vv. 1-3)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary’s womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God’s love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world’s judgment.

We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray... **Lord of all life and all seasons, help us open our hearts to hear the words of promise and love that you send to us. Like Joseph, may we trust in your abiding love and power. Prepare us to receive your gift of grace and peace. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

“ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY” (UMH 250, vv. 1, 2 & 4)

TIME FOR ALL AGES

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 7:10-16

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 1:18-25

SERMON – “Perfectly Imperfect”

Pastor Benjiman Durfee

MUSICAL INTERLUDE – *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, Ralph Vaughn Williams.

Sung by the Trinity Choir.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray... **We lay our burdens before you, O Lord, with our lives open and ready to receive your light and love. Lead us toward your Son, Jesus, Emmanuel, as we continue to wander with you in faith. Thank you for the many signs of your love, sent in your infinite wisdom. May we have the faith of Mary and Joseph, and may we be your attendants, anxious for the coming of your light once again. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

May Christ's peace fill you with joy during this season of hope. May signs of God's love bring peace and serenity, as you await the birth of light. **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 – *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*

(Awake, for we are being called), op. 79 no. 62, 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... **Faithful God of unfolding plans, when our certainty falters and our expectations collapse, you are still at work, inviting us into grace that redefines and redeems. Like Joseph, we bring our gifts and lay down our plans, trusting that your Spirit can shape our offering into something greater than we imagined. Let these gifts and our lives be signs of obedience, humility, and hope. May they help carry Christ into a world still longing for peace, hungry for love, and needing redemption. We pray in the name of the one who is Emmanuel—God with us. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

"HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING" (UMH 240, vv. 1 - 3)

*BENEDICTION

Advent people, go now in the blessing of God to watch and wait, ready to receive the angels among us and to faithfully follow where God leads. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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

POSTLUDE – *Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten (He who lets only God rule),*
BWV 642, J. S. Bach

Today's Worship Ministers

Presider & Preacher: Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Guest Musician: Keith Rollinson

Reader 2: Lois Bascom

Acolyte: Nicole Porter

Usher: Andrew Porter

Reader 1: Wes Rice

Videographer: Brook Batteau