

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 22, 2024

Fourth 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.

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

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

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

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

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

PRELUDE – *Pastorale*, Domenico Zipoli

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING HYMN #215

“TO A MAID ENGAGED TO JOSEPH” (vv 1, 5 & 6)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Love abundant overflows, pouring into our midst: arise, take heart,
and love deeply.

The warm glow of the Divine lightens our hearts.

We are together and never alone. Gathered on this fourth Sunday in Advent
we witness to God's deep love and tender compassion for the whole world.
Our witness is love.

(The four candles are lit.)

**God's love comes to ground, and like an arc, large to hold, embrace
heal, and restore.**

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.. **God-who-never-ceases-to-love, kindle our hearts that we may
burn anew with your love. Bless us with the flame of lively living and
believing. Take our words and release them to speak of you; take our minds
and broaden them to reflect your overflowing love; take our hearts and set
them alight with your desire for goodness. In the name of the One full of
love. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN #2093

“THE SNOW LAY ON THE GROUND”

TIME FOR ALL AGES

FIRST READING

MICAH 5:2-5A

*GOSPEL READING

LUKE 1:39-55

SERMON – “Love”

Pastor Benjiman Durfee

MUSICAL INTERLUDE – *O Sanctissima (O Most Holy)*, traditional Sicilian tune,
arr. Shaw/Parker. 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 – *Puer Natus in Bethlehem (A Child is born in Bethlehem)*,
BuxWV 217, Dietrich Buxtehude

*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 grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to your call. As Mary responded with faith, we too say, "Here we are, let it be to us." Use these offerings to further your kingdom on earth. Empower us to be bearers of Christ's presence, bringing hope and love to our community. May our giving reflect the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, and bring light and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN #214

"SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME" (vv 1, 2 & 3)

*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 – *Joseph est bien marié (Joseph is happily married)*, Claude Balbastre

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: Clare Chapman

Ushers: Ginny Ray

Videographer: Beth Martin

Coffee Hour Host: Beth Martin, Eileen McCusker Rauch,

Lois Bascom, Al Shippee