

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



Pittman, Lauren Wright. Born Again, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57087> [retrieved February 26, 2026]. Original source: Lauren Wright Pittman, <http://www.lewpstudio.com/>.

**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.**



Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING HYMN

“THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE” (UMH 116)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock

Children of God, in Lent we remember that our salvation is an unearned gift,
that new life is a matter of faith, not of works.

We gather to lay down the burden of trying to earn our salvation.

Like Nicodemus, who met Jesus in the dark of night, we struggle to accept
that new life is not just possible but given as a free gift of grace.

**We gather to bring our struggles into the light
and embrace God’s grace with open arms.**

Like Paul writing to the Romans,

we remember God’s promise of new life has always rested on grace.

We gather to receive the promise of salvation by grace through faith.

Like the many who have followed, questioned, and grown in the faith,
we submit ourselves to be formed by grace as we work out our salvation
day by day.

**We gather as people guided by the promise of new life, a promise fulfilled
by Christ, whose path we follow.**

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray... **Infinite Love, heart of all life, you loved this word into being
with such love as to birth yourself among us, Love begotten as the Beloved.
Your presence does not separate but unites; love does not push away, but
embraces; you do not condemn, but save. Trusting this, we know we are
loved, never rejected. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

“DEEP IN THE SHADOWS OF THE PAST” (TFWS 2246)

FIRST READING

ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 3:1-17

SERMON

Pastor Benjiman Durfee

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

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

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley with I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
Traditional Spirituals, Arranged by Joel Raney
Amy Roberts-Crawford, piano; Jennifer Lagoy, flute

*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 New Beginnings, you call us—as you called Abraham—to trust in what we cannot yet see, to follow where you lead, even when the road is unclear. In the shadows of our questions and the uncertainty of our understanding, you meet us with grace, not condemnation. As Nicodemus discovered, your love is not earned but freely given. Receive now these gifts we offer—not as payment or proof, but as signs of our belief, our hope, and our gratitude. Use them to share your transforming love with a world still searching in the dark. In the name of your Son, given in love, we pray. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION– using Musical Setting A from UMH 17

*CLOSING HYMN

"GIVE TO THE WINDS THY FEARS" (UMH 129)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray... **Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*BENEDICTION

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock

Go now in the mercy of God, whose promises never fail, to live as people who have generously received and thus generously share God's gracious gift of new life with all we encounter. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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

POSTLUDE

Today's Worship Ministers

Presider & Preacher: Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Guest Musician: Amy Roberts-Crawford

Reader 2: Tom Williams

Acolyte: Nicole Porter

Usher: April Engle

Reader 1: Julie Bailey

Videographer: Ginny Ray

Communion Steward: Lois Bascom