

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



Naveedanjumkhan. Fig tree, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56836> [retrieved March 19, 2025]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fig_Tree_with_Figs_coming_out_of_the_trunk.jpg.

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

10 a.m.

**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.



Order of Worship

*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.

PRELUDE – *Sonate I, 2nd mvt.*, Paul Hindemith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING HYMN

“COME DOWN, O LOVE DIVINE” (UMH 475, vv 1&3)

*OPENING ACCLAMATION FOR LENT (EOW 50 & BCP 356)

Blessed be the God of our salvation:

Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon us.

*OPENING PRAYER (RCLP)

Let us pray... **God of infinite goodness, throughout the ages you have persevered in claiming and reclaiming your people. Renew for us your call to repentance, surround us with witnesses to aid us in our journey, and grant us the time to fashion our lives anew, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

“AMAZING GRACE” (UMH 378, vv 1-3)

TIME FOR ALL AGES

FIRST READING

PSALM 63:1-8

*GOSPEL READING

LUKE 13:1-9

SERMON – “Repent”

Pastor Benjiman Durfee

MUSICAL INTERLUDE – *Prayer in B flat*, op. 47 nr. 4, Alexandre Guilmant

CONFESSION (Riley 133)

Let us pray...**Powerful God, we confess that we have wielded power against one another, as opposed to using our power in protection of others. In a world of so much chaos and unpredictability, we have become feverish for any semblance of control, even if that control is used to neglect, exclude, and oppress others. We have pulled triggers, we have sent drones, we have sat by while the powerful have wreaked havoc on the world's most vulnerable. And our own daily power, we have used to maintain the status quo. We have stolen the bodily agency of others. We have dismissed the voices of our children and the elderly. For all that we've done or witnessed done, we are truly sorry. Forgive us and have mercy on us that we might know an empowered life, grounded in our own voices without suffocating those of others. Amen.**

FORGIVENESS (Riley 133)

Let your soul receive this rest: The God who wove order and direction into the very earth around us so too reveals all that they have relinquished control over. Allow the divine to restore your humanity to you, that you would turn from evil deeds and give that power which you have used so terribly to those who can be trusted to wield it well.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Remaining in our pews,

let us turn and offer a sign of God's peace to our neighbors.

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 (BCP 376)

Walk in love, as Christ loved us.

Let us with joy and gratitude present our offerings to God.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY MUSIC – *Voix Humaine*, Jacques Boyvin

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 (Discipleship Ministries)

Let us pray... Faithful God, our guide and sustainer, as we offer these gifts, may they bear fruit for your kingdom. In this solemn season of Lent, we remember your call to repentance and renewal. Help us tend the soil of our hearts so that we may grow in faith and bear witness to your grace. Use these offerings to bring hope to those in need and light to those in darkness. May we live as your fruitful servants, trusting in your abundant mercy. In the name of Christ who calls us to new life, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN **"GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY"** (UMH 577, vv. 1, 3, 4)

*BENEDICTION (Discipleship Ministries)

May God bless you with the hope to cling to God, knowing that in the highs and lows, the joys and the sorrows, the known and unknown of this life, God's love never fails. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE – **"GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN"** (UMH 673, v 1)

POSTLUDE – *In Dulci Jubilo (In Sweet Rejoicing)*, BuxWV 197, D. Buxtehude

Today's Worship Ministers

Presider & Preacher: Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Organist: Keith Rollinson

Reader 2: Sue Mead

Acolyte: Nicole Porter

Usher: Andrew Porter

Reader 1: Clare Chapman

Videographer: Clare Chapman

Discipleship Ministries and *Ministry Matters* are liturgical resources of The United Methodist Church.

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Riley, Cole Arthur. *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*. Convergent Books, 2024.

Escobar, Kathy. *Turning Over Tables: A Lenten Call to Disrupting Power*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2025.