

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



Earth Day Sunday

April 26, 2026

**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.



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 – *Gott sei gelobet und gebenedeiet (Praise and blessings be to God)*
Heinrich Scheidemann

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING HYMN **“WE ARE ALL ONE IN MISSION”** (TFWS 2243, ALL VERSES)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling, at Faithful Resistance in Washington DC, 2/25/26)

If the Earth is the Lord's,
Land is not a trophy.
Land is testimony.
Land is covenant.
Land is sacred trust.
Somewhere along the way, Christianity forgot whose land this is.
Or maybe even worse,
maybe Christianity remembered and simply chose power.

OPENING PRAYER (adapted from *Mini Revolutions*)

Let us pray... **God of new life, the whole world is your garden! You plant seeds of hope and pluck spouts of hatred and domination, creating room for love and kinship to grow. Teach us to garden like you, working together, even when it's hard. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN **“FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH”** (UMH 92, 1-4)

TIME FOR ALL AGES – “One Day This Tree Will Fall” by Leslie Bernard Booth,
illustrated by Stephanie Fizer Coleman;
Read in memory of the fallen tree on the Baptist Lot.

READING – Excerpt of “Learning the Grammar of Animacy”
from *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer (p. 53-54)

SCRIPTURE

GENESIS 2:4b-22

SERMON – “Toward Kinship”

Pastor Benjiman Durfee

MUSICAL INTERLUDE – *Voix Humaine, 7e Ton*, Jacques Boyvin

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

BUILDING JOY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Divine Source of all blessings, we open our hearts to receive the flow of abundance you have prepared for Trinity Church. May our thoughts be filled with gratitude, our actions guided by wisdom, and our spirit anchored in faith. Bless the works of our hands, multiply the seeds that we sow, and let opportunities find us with ease and grace. Remove all fear and doubt and replace them with trust in your perfect timing. We give thanks, knowing this is already done. Amen.

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. Care of each other, and bringing all our questions and concerns as honest offerings to God.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY MUSIC – *I Am Your Mother (Earth Prayer)*

Murray & Harling, Sung by Pastor Benjiman Durfee

*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 (Rev. Joel Daniel Hubbard, III)

Let us pray... **Holy One, in the beginning you created all that is; from the very matter of the cosmos you formed and shaped us; you loved and breathed into us the Spirit of Life and then proclaimed that it was all - very good. The gifts we share this morning are simple signs of our thankfulness and an opportunity for us to extend your blessing to all of your creation. Consecrate not only these tithes and offerings, but most especially the thoughts, words, and deeds we will offer in the days to come that provide witness of our commitment and conviction.**
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.


*CLOSING HYMN **"THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPARD IS"** (UMH 138, vv. 1, 2, 3 & 6)

*BENEDICTION (*Healing Time* by John Denver, Final Chorus)

**Let the mountains talk, let the river run
There's wisdom here, there's so much to learn
In each brand new day, in our own rebirth
In this healing time for our mother earth.
In each brand new day, in our own rebirth
In this healing time, here on mother earth.**

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

POSTLUDE – *O wie selig ihr doch, ihr Frommen (O how blessed you are, pious ones)*
op. 122 no. 6, Johannes Brahms



Please join us for a kickoff brunch at the Shelburne Falls Pub and Brew on Sunday, May 31 beginning at 11:30 am (after service).

This will be a chance to celebrate our campaign's progress and to continue building joy together.

There is no fee to attend and all members and friends of Trinity are strongly encouraged to join us!

Today's Worship Ministers

Presider & Preacher: Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Musician: Keith Rollinson

Acolyte: Nicole Porter

Reader 1: Ginny Ray

Reader 2: Eileen McCusker Rauch

Usher: Sue Mead

Videographer: Clare Chapman