



TRINITY CHURCH SHELBURNE FALLS

17 Severance Street, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370 ✦ www.trinityshelburnefalls.org ✦ 413-625-2341



Moyers, Mike. *The Lord is My Light*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
<https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/57135> [retrieved July 14, 2026]. Original source: Mike Moyers, <https://www.mikemoyersfineart.com/>.

Worship Bulletin
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Welcome to Trinity Church!

Dear Friends,

Whether you are joining us for the very first time, returning after some time away, or are a lifelong member of our church family, I am so glad you are here with us today.

At Trinity, we believe that every person is a beloved child of God. No matter who you are, where you are on life or spiritual journey, or whom you love, you are fully welcome here—just as you are.

To help you feel at home today, here is some information about our life and worship together:

Welcome & Connections

- **Guests & Visitors:** We would love to connect with you! Please consider filling out a welcome card found in the pews and/or signing our guest book located at the back of the church.
- **Coffee Hour:** Everyone is warmly invited to join us for coffee and conversation in the Fellowship Hall downstairs immediately following the service.

During Worship

- **Children:** Childcare is provided for infants and young children during the service by our licensed childcare professional, Lisa Porter. Children are invited, but not required, to proceed to the Nursery after the Time for All Ages.
- **The Asterisk (*) and Bolded Text:** Throughout the bulletin, an asterisk indicates times in the service where you may rise in body or spirit—whatever is best for your body. You are invited to join in on the **bolded** text throughout the service.
- **Offertory:** The Offertory is an invitation to generosity in thanksgiving for all that God has blessed us with. It is how we practice being community together and how we sustain our ministries. Especially if this is your first time visiting, please do not feel obligated to give as a reminder that the grace and love of God are free gifts.
- **Communion:** We celebrate Communion on the *first Sunday of every month*. At Trinity, we practice an open table. All are welcome to receive, without exception. We serve gluten-free bread and grape juice, and it is our tradition to consume the bread immediately, wait until everyone has been served, and then drink the juice together.

Accessibility & Comfort

- **Fragrance-Free Sanctuary:** To care for those in our community with severe allergies and medical sensitivities, we thank you for helping us keep our sanctuary fragrance-free.
- **Listening Aids:** Assisted listening devices are available at the back of the church. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.
- **Restrooms:** Restrooms are located downstairs.

At the back of this bulletin, you'll find information about what happens here during the week, special announcements, and other ways to connect.

May you feel the warmth of God's love and the peace of this community during our time together today.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Ben

Order of Worship

Land Acknowledgement

Trinity Church recognizes that we worship on the traditional, unceded territory of the Pocumtuck Peoples, marked by a painful history of warfare, genocide, and a deliberate process of erasure and dispossession. We honor the living presence of the Nipmuc, Abenaki, and Mohican communities and in the Spirit of Christ, we commit to the on-going work of truth-telling and restoration. Our full land acknowledgment, adopted 4/26/2026, can be found on our website: trinityshelburnefalls.org

Prelude

As we gather, all are invited to add prayer requests to the prayer list, found at the back of the church, which will be prayed aloud during Joys and Concerns.

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Hymn “Lean On, O Cloud of Presence” TFWS 2234, all verses

During the Centering Hymn, the Light is brought into the sanctuary for our time of worship.

*Call to Worship

based on Psalm 36:5-9

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the clouds!
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains;
your justice is like the great deep.
We feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give us drink from the river of your delights
For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light!
Come, let us worship the God of love and light!
Let us worship God together!

*Opening Prayer

Let us pray...Living God, you are the source of all love and the creator of all light. We thank you for gathering us into your presence today. As we worship, open our hearts to the deep, transformative truth that you have loved us perfectly. Ignite a fire within us today. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon our singing, our praying, and the hearing of your Word, so that we might leave this place ready to shine the light of your love into every corner of our world. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Light of the World. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

UMH 117, vv. 1, 4-6

Time for All Ages

Following the Time for All Ages, children are invited to the Nursery.

The First Reading

1 John 4:7-12

*The Gospel

Matthew 5:14-16

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Shining the Light of God’s Love”

Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Musical Interlude

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray...Loving Source of Light, we admit that it is often easier to hide our light than to let it shine. We confess that we collapse in the face of the world's deep brokenness, allowing fear, cynicism, or apathy to dim our love. We have stayed silent when we should have spoken; we have turned away when we should have shown up. Forgive us for the times we have forgotten that Your spirit lives within us, and within our neighbors. Rekindle our hearts, O God. Free us from the heavy burdens of guilt and perfectionism. Embolden us to love loudly, to seek justice passionately, and to be the hands and feet of Your grace in a waiting world.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, hear and receive the Good News: God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. God’s grace is not something we have to earn. It is a gift already given, completely and unconditionally. You are forgiven, you are whole, and you are loved just as you are. Breathe in that peace, step into the light, and let your life reflect the Divine. **Thanks be to God! 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

Our Father, 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.
And 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

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

*Offerings may be placed in the plate or
given securely online through our website: trinityshelburnefalls.org*

Offertory Music

*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...Generous God, since you have loved us so deeply, we also ought to love one another. We bring these offerings and the gift of our daily lives as an expression of that love. Bless these gifts, and use them to feed the hungry, comfort the lonely, and bring hope to those in despair. May these resources, and the work of our hands, be a bright beacon on a hill, pointing a searching world directly to you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Closing Hymn “Love Devine, All Loves Excelling” UMH 384, vv. 1, 2 & 4

***Benediction**

Go out into the world in peace, remembering that if we love one another, God lives in us and God’s love is perfected in us. May God be with you, protect you, and shine through you, this day and forever more. **Amen!**

Benediction Response “God Be With You Till We Meet Again” UMH 673, v. 1

*During the Benediction Response
the Light is carried back out into the world.*

Postlude

Announcements

An Invitation from Pastor Ben

Pastor Ben is currently working on a Contextual Analysis Project for Field Education. Through this project, he hopes to capture and tell the story of who we were, who we are, and who we are becoming. To do that, he would love to invite you into the conversation. • *What are your joys, hopes, and expectations for this church? What are your concerns, worries, or challenges? What stories about Trinity resonate most deeply with you?* Whether you are brand new to Trinity, have been here your entire life, or engage with us from afar, he wants to hear from you. If you would like to explore these questions with Pastor Ben, please reach out! 508-542-7303 or pastordurfee@gmail.com



Trinity Church's Annual Community Potluck

Sunday, July 19th | 11:30 AM

**Outside Under the Tent (Fellowship Hall, if it rains)
17 Severance Street, Shelburne Falls**

Bring your favorite dish to share — or just bring yourself!

Burgers & Hotdogs provided.

All are also welcome to join us for Worship at 10:00 AM!

All Neighbors are Welcome!

Building Joy

Our Building Joy Campaign is not a building maintenance project; it is a radical hospitality initiative. Every project—from restoring our historic 1883 Hook & Hastings organ to upgrading our livestream AV system and installing an emergency generator—is designed to equip our congregation with the physical tools needed to offer a life-changing welcome to our neighbors and serve as a hub of resilience. **Help us Build Joy** by donating online through our website (trinityshelburnefalls.org) or by making a pledge (pledge cards can be found at the back of the church).

**We're Building Joy because our neighbors deserve a light
that stays on when the world grows dim!**

Today's Worship Ministers

Preacher/Presider: Rev. Benjiman Durfee

Organist: Amy Roberts-Crawford

Usher: Sue Mead

Acolyte: Nicole Porter

Reader 1: Clare Chapman

Reader 2: Julie Bailey

Videographer: Beth Martin

Trinity Church's Ministers, Officers, & Staff

Ministers: All of us together

Leadership Team: Beth Martin, Sarah Neelon,
Wayne Perrea, & Clare Chapman

Co-Moderators: Ginny Ray & Nancy Parland

Co-Clerks: Brook Batteau & Beth Martin

Co-Treasurers: Clare Chapman & Eileen McCusker Rauch

Co-Financial Secretaries: Julie Bailey & Sue Mead

Pastor: Rev. Benjiman Durfee

Music Director: Keith Rollinson

Secretary: Brook Batteau

Nursery Attendant: Lisa Porter

Facilities Staff: Pat Valeski

Standard Weekly Calendar

Sundays

Worship Service at 10am

Coffee Hour at 11am

Mondays

Playgroup at 9:30am

Wednesdays

Playgroup at 9:30am

Community Clothes Closet at Cowell Gym

(2nd & 4th Wednesdays from 11am to 3:30pm)

Thursdays

Contemplative Prayer Group at 11am

AA at 7pm

Fridays

Creative Movement at 10:30am

Community Meal at 5:30pm

Saturdays

Community Clothes Closet at Cowell Gym

(2nd & 4th Saturdays from 10am to 12pm)

Trinity's Office is open: Monday – Thursday 9am-12pm

Phone: 413-625-2341 | e-Mail: trinitychrch@gmail.com

Pastor Ben is available by appointment: pastordurfee@gmail.com

Trinity Church is an ecumenical Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation. We are affiliated with the American Baptist Church, the Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church. Our mission is to Gather as God's people, Grow in faith, love, and service, and Go into the world as disciples.