



TRINITY CHURCH

SHELBURNE FALLS

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



Watanabe, Sadao, 1913-1996. Woman of Canaan, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/57538> [retrieved August 12, 2026]. Original source: <https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/woman-canaan-26809>

Worship Bulletin

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 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 full 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 “Jesu, meine Freude” (“Jesus, my Joy”) BWV 610, J. S. Bach

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 “In Christ There Is No East or West” UMH 548, vv. 1, 2 & 4

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

Call to Worship

What joy we feel when we are called together to celebrate God’s love.

God’s love flows through our lives!

This is what it means to be the body of Christ!

this is what it means to be faithful witnesses to God.

Let us rejoice on this day!

Let us give thanks for God’s blessings!

*Opening Prayer

Let us pray... **God of the foreigner and outcast, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of Christ so to love the world that your name may be known throughout the earth. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** “As a Fire Is Meant for Burning” TFWS 2237, all verses

Time for All Ages

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

The First Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

*The Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon “A House of Prayer for All People” Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Musical Interlude “In E flat” from *l’Organiste*, César Franck

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray...**O God, we yearn to be a community, united in your Spirit, and yet we are fraught with divisions. We are weighed down by tensions and the things that break us apart. Forgive us, great God, for this great sin. Help us to learn to live in community together, loving one another, in spite of our differences, and respecting one another in everything that we do and say. Help us to be as you call us, one in heart and mind through the grace of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

God’s love is greater than our understanding and our comprehension. That love is continually given to each and every one of us each day. Rejoice! God’s forgiving love is poured out for you now and always. **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

“Magnificat in G”

op. 41 no. 2, Alexandre Guilmant

*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... **Gracious God, you pour your blessing upon your people like dew upon the earth and oil upon the head, flowing beyond all boundaries we would draw. We thank you for the gift of unity—good and pleasant, beautiful and life-giving—meant not only for us, but for the healing of the world. Receive these offerings as signs of our desire to live together in your love, to practice radical welcome, and to share your abundance with all your children. Let what we give today flow outward in compassion and service, that our life together may reflect your kindom of peace, justice, and joy. Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

“O Christ, the Healer”

UMH 265, vv. 1, 4 & 5

*Benediction

May God bless you with the wisdom and grace to recognize and cooperate with the Spirit who binds us together in love, that we may grow and find peace in unity together, now and forever. **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

“Sonata in D”

K. 328, Domenico Scarlatti

Announcements

Franklin Association Church Picnic

The Franklin Association of the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ, invites you to an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun! Sunday, August 16 at 1:00 p.m. The Picnic Grounds in Buckland.

This is simply a time to gather and enjoy one another's company—there will be no meeting and no Association business conducted. Everyone from our congregations is encouraged to attend, not only clergy and delegates. Church members, families, friends, neighbors, and newcomers are all welcome as we celebrate God's community together.

Please bring a dish to share and something to sit on. There will be lawn games, places to hike, and plenty of opportunities to relax, reconnect, and meet friends from across the Franklin Association.

Come for the picnic. Stay for the fellowship. Everyone is invited!

Help Us Discover the Gifts Among Us

In the coming weeks, we're inviting everyone who considers Trinity Church their church home—members, friends, and newcomers alike—to complete a brief Gifts Survey. This isn't a volunteer sign-up sheet or a way of assigning more jobs. Instead, it's an opportunity to help us discover the abundance of gifts, skills, experiences, and passions that God has already placed within our congregation.

As Trinity grows, we want to become a church that begins with what God has already given us, rather than with what we think we're missing.

The survey takes just a few minutes to complete. Please follow the link to read more about why we're doing this and to fill out the survey:

<https://forms.gle/AZwXfMX9XwQZwEFJ7>



Paper copies of the survey are also available in the office.

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

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. **Helps 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!**

Online Donation Page 



Today's Worship Ministers

Preacher/Presider: Rev. Benjiman Durfee

Organist: Keith Rollinson

Usher: Beth Martin

Acolyte: Nicole Porter

Reader 1: Lois Bascom

Reader 2: Julie Bailey

Videographer: Kyle Porter

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 (2 nd & 4 th 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 (2 nd & 4 th 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.