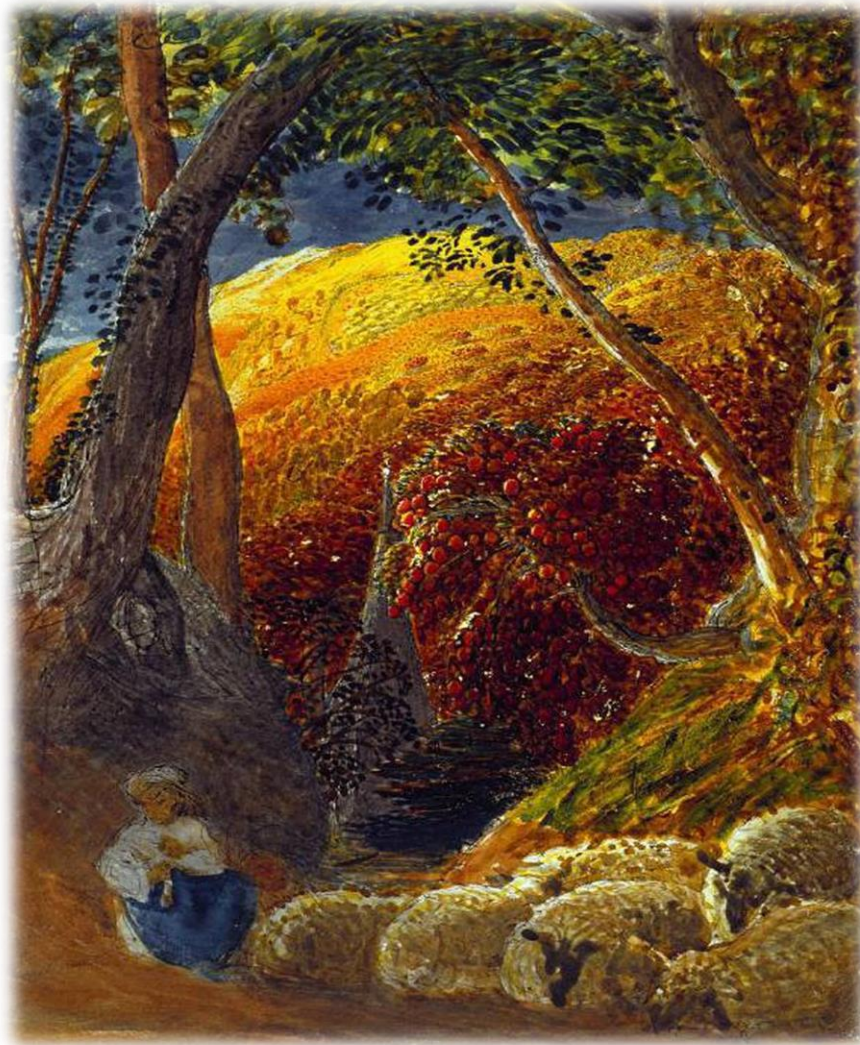




# TRINITY CHURCH

## SHELBURNE FALLS

17 Severance Street, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370 ♦ [www.trinityshelburnefalls.org](http://www.trinityshelburnefalls.org) ♦ 413-625-2341



Palmer, Samuel, 1805-1881. Magic Apple Tree, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/58401> [retrieved August 19, 2026]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The\\_Magic\\_Apple\\_Tree.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Magic_Apple_Tree.jpg)

## Worship Bulletin

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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 ongoing work of truth-telling and restoration. Our full land acknowledgment, adopted 4/26/2026, can be found on our website: [trinityshelburnefalls.org](http://trinityshelburnefalls.org)*

## Prelude “I am Black, but Comely, O Ye Daughters of Jerusalem”

op. 18 no.3, Marcel Dupré

*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 “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” UMH 126, vv. 1, 3 & 4

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

## Call to Worship

You have called us to this place, O Lord.

**Each one of us is unique, with differing gifts and talents.**

Yet each talent represented here is valuable in God’s realm.

**Lord, help us find ways in which to use  
our talents for healing and hope.**

Come, let us praise the Lord who has called us here.

**Let us open our hearts and spirits to God’s word for us.**

## \*Opening Prayer

Let us pray... **God, be with each one of us today. We have come seeking your guidance and direction for our lives. Help us recognize the gifts you have given to us, and enable us to put these gifts to good use in your world. We ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.**

## \*Opening Hymn “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” UMH 731, vv. 1, 2 & 4

## Time for All Ages

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

## The First Reading

Romans 12:1-8

## **\*The Gospel**

Matthew 16:13-20

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **Sermon**

“Tis a Gift”

Pastor Benjiman Durfee

### **Musical Interlude** “Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern”

(“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”), J. C. Bach

### **Prayer of Confession**

Let us pray...**We look for you in all the wrong places, God of the lost, and wonder why we cannot find you. We wander the corridors of power, while you are on the sidewalks, beside the homeless. We sit at the head tables of the world, while you are handing out soup to the hungry at the kitchen’s backdoor. We applaud those who win the race, while you are cheering on those in last place. In forgiving us, God of new life, you would transform our cold hearts into those melted in service to others. In granting us mercy, you challenge us to think of all those we have ignored. In gifting us with grace, you enable us to proclaim Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as the hope, the joy, the peace the world seeks.**

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

It’s not money, but our generosity with it;  
it is not power, but our willingness to humble ourselves;  
it is not our efforts, but Christ’s gift,  
which transforms us into God’s children.

**It is more than just how we think.**

**In mercy and grace, our hearts, our lives, our spirits  
are transfigured and made new.**

**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](http://trinityshelburnefalls.org)*



**Offertory Music** “Chromhorne sur la Taille”  
 (“Chromhorne in the lower Voice”), François Couperin

## **\*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, you reveal true power not through fear or force, but through love that gives life and builds community. You call us to know who we are because we know whose we are—your people, shaped by Christ and sent for the sake of the world. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in your way of life over the ways of death, of courage over control, of welcome over exclusion. Use what we offer to strengthen your church as a living witness to your grace, that through our sharing and our serving, others may discover the identity of Christ and the hope found in him. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn** “Christ, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 550, vv. 1, 2, 5 & 6

## \*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

“Grand Dialogue”

3e Ton, Jacques Boyvin

# Announcements

## 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](mailto: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. **Help us Build Joy** by donating online through our website ([trinityshelburnefalls.org](http://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:** Betty Miles

**Acolyte:** Nicole Porter

**Reader 1:** Eileen McCusker Rauch

**Reader 2:** Nancy Parland

**Videographer:** Ginny Ray

## 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<br>Coffee Hour at 11am                                                                                      |
| Mondays    | Playgroup at 9:30am                                                                                                                 |
| Wednesdays | Playgroup at 9:30am<br>Community Clothes Closet at Cowell Gym<br>(2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays from 11am to 3:30pm) |
| Thursdays  | Contemplative Prayer Group at 11am<br>AA at 7pm                                                                                     |
| Fridays    | Creative Movement at 10:30am<br>Community Meal at 5:30pm                                                                            |
| Saturdays  | Community Clothes Closet at Cowell Gym<br>(2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 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.*