



TRINITY CHURCH

SHELBURNE FALLS

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



Lynch, Jessica Jane. Merciful Mother, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
<https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/57259> [retrieved September 9, 2026].

Worship Bulletin

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 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

Prelude

"Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ"

("I call to You, Lord Jesus Christ"), BWV 639, 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 “Where Charity and Love Prevail” UMH 549, vv. 1, 2, 3 & 6

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

Call to Worship

God is full of compassion and mercy,

slow to anger and of great kindness.

God has not dealt with us according to our sins,

but according to God's great mercy.

As a parent cares for their children,

So does God care for each of us.

*Opening Prayer

Let us pray... **O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may soften and unite our hearts with all living beings who suffer; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

"All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine"

UMH 166, vv. 1, 3 & 5

Time for All Ages

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

The First Reading

Romans 14:1-12

***The Gospel**

Matthew 18:21-35

The Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon “We Do Not Live to Ourselves” Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Musical Interlude “Lento” op. 35 no. 15, Flor Peeters

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray...**O God, we seek your mercy, yet we look for payback when we are wronged. We think it “only fair” and “what is right” when we retaliate and use harsh words and withdraw from relationship. The forgiveness you offer on our account is larger than we can comprehend, and still, we withhold forgiveness and carry grudges over petty items. We are eager to do your judging, and we conspire our inner thoughts to secure your forgiveness while avoiding honest repentance. Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we know in our hearts; save us from the sins we hide.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

God’s gift of forgiveness makes us able, with the power of Holy Spirit, to choose to forgive, renew, and live again in right relationship with each other and with our God. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
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 : "Dunk Down" Karisha Longaker
Sung by Julie Bailey, Dusti & Karyn Dufresne, and Nancy Parland

*Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God for all that love has done;
Praise God, all creatures here below Creator, Christ and Spirit one. Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray... **Merciful God, you part the waters when we feel trapped and forgive debts too great to repay. In the face of fear and brokenness, you lead us with compassion and grace. May the gifts we bring today reflect our deep gratitude for your mercy. Let them support ministries of reconciliation and acts of healing, justice, and welcome. Teach us to lead not with judgment, but with generosity, recognizing that what we have, we hold by your mercy. Bless these offerings and bless us as we seek to build a world where grace is not rare but abundant. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** "God, How Can We Forgive" TFWS 2169, all verses

*Benediction

Go now in the blessing and assurance that you are a forgiven people empowered by grace to forgive and heal the divisions that keep us from truly loving God, self, neighbor, and all creation with the fullness of our beings. **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

"Plein Jeu"
from *Messe pour les Couvents (Mass for the Convents)*, François Couperin

Announcements

Contemplative Prayer Moving to 10:30 am on Thursdays

Beginning in September, the Thursday morning Contemplative Prayer Group will be meeting at 10:30am instead of at 11am. All are welcome to participate in this open group, which meets in the Pastor's Study. During the first half hour we lift up prayer requests and celebrations and spend 20 minutes in silent Center Prayer. During the second half hour, we look at the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday using an adapted form of Lectio Divina. No prior experience is needed!

West County Community Resource Fair

Join us for West County's Annual Community Resource Fair on **Thursday, September 17, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM** at Mohawk Trail Regional High School ([26 Ashfield Road, Shelburne](#)). Hosted by the Mary Lyon Foundation, this free, family-friendly event offers a wonderful afternoon of connection, featuring a free dinner catered by Stone Soup Café, live music by Brookside Project, children's activities, face painting, free books, and valuable community health and support resources from over 30 local organizations, including a flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinic!

Trinity Church will have a table to share our ministries and connect with neighbors, and **we are looking for volunteers to help set up, greet visitors, and staff our table in shifts between 2:30 PM and 6:15 PM.** If you are interested in helping represent Trinity at this great event, please contact Pastor Ben at pastordurfee@gmail.com.

CROP Walk 2026

The 34th Annual Franklin County CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, October 4 at the First Congregational Church of Whately, 177 Chestnut Plain Road, Whately, MA [Google Maps](#).



This important event has been one of Trinity Churches missions for decades. The money raised helps fight food insecurities worldwide and 25% of the money stays right here in Franklin County.

Anyone can join this Fun event! There are two walking distances to choose from a 1 mile or a 5k. We will have our red Trinity Jackets available and of course a group photo will happen! Registration begins at 1pm and the walk will start at 2pm.

To donate you may offer cash or a check made out to CWS/Crop at the event or to any walker or you may drop off the donation at the Trinity Church office. You may also donate online following this link:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/trinity-church-shelburne-falls-2>

Please call Beth Martin at 413 772 9937 for any assistance or for more questions!
Thank you in advance for your participation in any way that you can!

"I am awesomely and wonderfully made..." (Psalm 139:14)

You are invited to attend a free presentation entitled:

Does the New Testament Condemn the LGBTQ+ Community? by Rev Dr Robert M Girard

The answer may surprise you! Please join us for this informative event:

Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:30pm Fellowship Hall,
United Church of Bernardston 58 Church Street, Bernardston, MA 01337

Today's Worship Ministers

Preacher/Presider: Rev. Benjiman Durfee

Organist: Keith Rollinson

Usher: Lois Bascom

Acolyte: Nicole Porter

Reader 1: Sue Mead

Reader 2: Nancy Parland

Videographer: Clare Chapman

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
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 10:30am 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.