



TRINITY CHURCH

SHELBURNE FALLS

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



Swanson, John August. Moses, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/56554> [retrieved September 23, 2026]. Original source: Estate of John August Swanson, <https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.

Worship Bulletin

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 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

"Prelude in G"

BWV 557, 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

"Fairest Lord Jesus "

UMH 189, all verses

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

Call to Worship

Listen to the stories of our ancestors!

We will listen to the parables from of old.

Don't only listen, but learn them, so that you may share them.

We will share the stories with our children.

Tell our children of God's glorious deeds!

We will sing to them of the wonders that God has done!

Opening Prayer

Let us pray... **God of all who wander in the wilderness, you go before us as beacon and guide. Lead us through all danger, sustain us through all desolation, and bring us home to the land you have prepared for us. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

"Praise to the Lord, the almighty"

UMH 139, vv. 1, 2 & 5

Time for All Ages

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

Orange Shirt Day

From 1819 to 1975, federal law forced Indigenous children to attend federally funded religious boarding schools in an attempt to “civilize” them by forcibly eradicating Indigenous culture, language, and identity. Christian missionaries, including those from Trinity Church’s parent denominations, believed that they were “saving souls” by participating in this government-led cultural genocide. Children were subjected to harsh labor, severe physical and psychological abuses, and untreated infectious diseases. It is estimated that more than 3,000 children died in government custody because of these neglectful conditions.

In 2021, the US government officially recognized September 30th as a “National Day of Remembrance for U.S. Indian Boarding Schools”, also known as Orange Shirt Day. The color orange represents remembrance, truth, courage, and strength. It carries a message of awareness, unity, and healing.

Trinity Church observes Orange Shirt Day as we repent of the Church’s racist and imperial doctrines and the Church’s responsibility for the abuse and deaths of Indigenous children. This day also serves as a reminder of our continuing commitment to the safety of all of God’s children. “EVERY CHILD MATTERS” because every child is made in the image of God.

The First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

*The Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Food for All”

Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Musical Interlude

“Larghetto in D $\flat$ ”

op. 55, Flor Peeters

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray...**Almighty God, we have been wandering in the wilderness of sin. We have complained in the face of your mercy. We have been selfish and conceited in the face of your sacrifice. We have not done your will. Teach us humility. Teach us gratitude. Infuse your spirit into our beings so that we might be reconciled to you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

People of God, our sins are forgiven. The Lord is loving, and we are reconciled to God. Therefore, let us live lives that bring Glory 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

"Fugue in F"

G. P. Telemann

*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... **Humble God, you meet us at the start of every day and invite us to take on the mind of Christ. As we bring these gifts, shape us for love, for shared work, and for joy in serving side by side. Use what we offer to build a community where hope rises in every heart and where our lives are formed through grace to look like Jesus. Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

UMH 154, vv. 1, 4 & 6

*Benediction

God in peace to love God and serve others and may God who is always near, bless you and keep you on your journey. **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

"Prelude in F"

BWV 556, J. S. Bach

Announcements

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](#).



Anyone can join this Fun event! There are two walking distances to choose from one 1 mile or 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!

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4th at 10am

In celebration of St. Francis Day, you are invited to bring your pet (or a picture of your pet) for a special blessing in gratitude for the blessing our pets are to us! All are welcome!



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!

Today's Worship Ministers

Preacher/Presider: Rev. Benjiman Durfee

Organist: Keith Rollinson

Usher: Andrew Porter

Acolyte: Nicole Porter

Reader 1: Dusti Dufresne

Reader 2: Sue Mead

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 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.