

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



The American Eel is a snake-like fish up to 4 feet long that is listed as Endangered. The adult lives in freshwater lakes, rivers, and brackish estuaries along the Atlantic Coast from Venezuela north to Canada.

Threats include habitat destruction, such as dredging, barriers to migration, such as dams, and pollution. It's generally nocturnal, and its color varies, depending on age. Considered a keystone species, the American Eel helps balance the aquatic ecosystem as it eats small fish and invertebrates and is eaten by larger fish and birds.

During the day, it buries into silt or hides under rocks and plants close to shore. It is considered catadromous, migrating to the ocean to spawn, the reverse of the spawning cycle of the salmon. The eel eggs hatch in the salt water of the Sargasso Sea, a region in the Atlantic Ocean near Bermuda. When adults return to the Sargasso Sea years later to reproduce and die, they will have completed a round trip migration as long as 5,500 km.



SEASON OF CREATION

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 2025

Order of Worship

We welcome all of you to our worship service this Sunday!
If you are visiting, please sign our guest book or fill out a welcome card
in the pew so we can better welcome you!

* = Please rise in body or Spirit.

We kindly ask for your cooperation in keeping our space fragrance-free.

PRELUDE – *Herzlich tut mich verlangen (I do dearly desire)*, op. 122, nr. 9, Johannes Brahms

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING HYMN

“CREATOR OF THE EARTH AND SKIES” (450 vv. 1 & 4)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Season of Creation for Episcopal Parishes)

Blessed be the One who creates all things.

The Holy One’s love is new every morning.

OPENING PRAYER (Season of Creation for Episcopal Parishes)

Let us pray... **O Creator God, you are known by your loving embrace of the undeserving and those who suffer: Grant us sight of your justice and conviction to love all creatures; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

“STARS AND PLANETS FLUNG IN ORBIT” (NC 567, vv. 1, 3 & 4)

TIME FOR ALL AGES

FIRST READING

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19

*GOSPEL READING

LUKE 16:19-31

SERMON – “Bridging the Chasm”

Pastor Benjiman Durfee

MUSICAL INTERLUDE – *Sing ye a joyful song*, Antonin Dvorak. Sung by Nancy Parland

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray together the Lord's Prayer, using whichever words or language are closest to our hearts (some versions may be found at UMH 894).

INVITATION TO OFFERING (BCP 376)

Walk in love, as Christ loved us.

Let us with joy and gratitude present our offerings to God.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY MUSIC — *Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin (With peace and joy do I go)*, J. C. Bach

*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... **Sheltering God, our refuge and relief, you draw near when the wilderness is too much, when the heat of the day drains our hope. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in your abiding love, a love that does not always keep us from trouble but never leaves us to face it alone. May what we give today bring shade to the weary, hope to the hurting, and a glimpse of the salvation you are always working out in us and through us. In gratitude and faith, we offer these gifts. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN **"WE ARE THE EARTH, UPRIGHT AND PROUD"** (STLT 303, vv. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION (*Season of Creation for Episcopal Parishes*)

Go forth now to care for God's world. Use resources wisely.

Share your knowledge. Sacrifice where necessary. Live in harmony with all creation. Go out into all the world as prophets of a new way of living and preach the good news to all. And the blessing of the Creator God, the Risen Son, and the Promised Holy Spirit bless you that you might be a blessing to others today and always. **Amen.**

Let us bless our God and all Creation. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE – *Prelude in D*, BuxWV 139, Dietrich Buxtehude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing of the Animals

All pets are welcome to come to the Blessing of the Animals any time between 2 and 3pm on Friday, October 3rd at the Farmer's Market! The Blessing of the Animals is a tradition that usually happens on or around the Feast Day for St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment. Spread the word and bring your pets to meet Pastor Ben for a special blessing!

Franklin County's annual CROP Walk to end hunger!

This year the walk takes place at the Trinitarian Congregational Church in Northfield MA on October 5. Registration at 1 pm , walk at 2 pm.

**As an open and affirming congregation
the Mission and Purpose of Trinity Church is to:**

Gather as God's people.

Grow in faith, love and service.

Go into the world as disciples and apostles.



Today's Worship Ministers

Presider & Preacher: Pastor Benjamin Durfee

Musician: Pastor Benjamin Durfee

Acolyte: Nicole Porter

Reader 1: Lois Bascom

Reader 2: Sue Mead

Usher: Betty Miles

Videographer: