



TRINITY CHURCH

SHELBURNE FALLS

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



Worship Bulletin

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 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

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 “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” UMH 430, all verses

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

Call to Worship

When we ask the animals, they certainly teach us
what the birds in the heavens will always sing loudly.

When we listen to Earth

then Earth’s voice surely teaches

what fish of the sea make continually clear.

When we take fierce facts of the climate as “signs”

and read “heaven” as “sky” and cherish all trees,

then we may be wise as the creatures who teach us:

To God belongs wisdom and power! Amen!

*Opening Prayer

Let us pray... **God incarnate, God With-Earth Embracing all flesh: You call us into your light that we may love with all our might. You enrich awe and wonder for us, creatures with creatures, as we sing out your praise with a wonderful “YES!”**

***Opening Hymn** “Lead On, O Cloud of Presence” TFWS 2234, all verses

Time for All Ages

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

The First Reading

Romans 13:8-14

***The Gospel**

Matthew 18:15-20

The Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Loving One Another Is a Natural Miracle” Rev. Leslie Fraser

Musical Interlude

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray... **Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, we confess that we participate in systems that perpetuate oppression and injustice. We are often numb to the pain of the world around us, resistant to change that costs us something, and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves. We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards of the land, the sea, and all their creatures. Make your home among us once more, O God, naming us beloved and opening our hearts to do your will. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of Jesus Christ, and frees you to love the world as you have been loved. Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more.

When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure. Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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

*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... **O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We dedicate these gifts to you, from you, for all the world to be. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives and all that we give to the care of this good earth. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Musical Setting A from UMH 17

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray... **Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*Closing Hymn

"Soldiers of Christ, Arise"

UMH 513, vv. 1, 2, & 4

*Benediction

God our Mother root you deep in grace. God our Neighbor stand with you in strength. God our Nourishment sustain you in hope and bless you unto evergreen life. May you notice everyday miracles in every breath you take. Go in peace. Flourish with creation. **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

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

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) 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. Leslie Fraser

Organist: Amy Roberts-Crawford

Usher: April Engle

Acolyte: Nicole Porter

Reader 1: Tom Williams

Reader 2: Julie Bailey

Videographer:

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.