

Trinity Church

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts



The Red-backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*) is one of the most common salamanders in our EcoRegion, and across the eastern US. It is 2-4" long, with a dark body and a distinctive wide red stripe running from its head to its tail. There is also a "leadback" color morph, which is only dark grey.

These salamanders are found under rotting logs in wooded areas, especially those of paper birch. When frightened, they will "drop" their tail; it wiggles frenetically while the salamander escapes.

Most salamanders lay their eggs in water, but these salamanders lay their eggs under decomposing logs. To keep them moist, the mother curls around the eggs until they hatch. After hatching and leaving their nest, red-backs hunt small invertebrates, especially ants. They are lungless, breathing entirely from air filtering through their skin, and spend the winters dormant in underground tunnels.

Photo: L. Rayton



SEASON OF CREATION

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 7, 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 – Idrang *Wilujeng*, slendro manyuro, traditional Javanese

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING HYMN ***“FROM ALL THAT DWELL BELOW THE SKIES”*** (UMH 101 vv. 1 & 4)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eternal God, maker of the skies above,
lowly Christ, Lover of the earth and its people,
unfettered Spirit, Giver of gracious gifts,
you are present among us.

O hidden mystery,
sun behind all suns,
soul within all souls,
in all we touch, in all we meet,
you are present among us.

As bearers of your image,
we come to be reshaped;
dependent on your mercy,
we ask to be made new.

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OPENING PRAYER (Season of Creation for Episcopal Parishes)

Let us pray... **Grant us, O God, the courage to choose Jesus’ way even at great cost, bearing our cross and releasing our possessions, for the liberation and healing of your world; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN ***“COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME”*** (UMH 694, vv. 1 & 2)

TIME FOR ALL AGES

FIRST READING

A Reading from "Our Relationship with Creation"
Br. Keith Nelson, SSJE

*GOSPEL READING

LUKE 14:25-33

SERMON – "Don't Give Up; Give it Up"

Pastor Benjiman Durfee

MUSICAL INTERLUDE – *Yonder Come Day*, arr. Judith Tucker.

Sung by Nancy Parland & Keith Rollinson

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 – *Peace of the River*, Viola Wood.

Sung by Nancy Parland & Keith Rollinson

*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 (Rev. Joel Daniel Hubbard, III)

Let us pray... **Holy One, in the beginning you created all that is; from the very matter of the cosmos you formed and shaped us; you loved and breathed into us the Spirit of Life and then proclaimed that it was all - very**

good. The gifts we share this morning are simple signs of our thankfulness and an opportunity for us to extend your blessing and provide for the care of all your creation. Consecrate not only these offerings, but most especially the thoughts, words, and deeds we will offer in the days to come that provide witness of our commitment and conviction. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

*CLOSING HYMN **"FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH"** (UMH 92, vv. 1, 2, 4 & 6)

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

May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marveled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
To listen to the voice of all creatures
That reflect God's glory in creation.
Go in peace to love and serve God's creation.
Thanks be to God the Creator.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE **"GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN"** (UMH 673, v. 1)

POSTLUDE – *lancaran Rena-Rena*, slendro manyuro, traditional Javanese

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 Benjiman Durfee

Musician: Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Reader 2: Tom Williams

Acolyte: Nicole Porter

Usher: Nancy Parland

Reader 1: Karyn Dufresne

Videographer: Beth Martin

Communion Assistant: Julie Bailey