

**Offertory:** “Be Thou My Vision” Dan Forrest

**Doxology** UMH #94

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

Faithful God, our guide and sustainer, as we offer these gifts, may they bear fruit for your kingdom. In this solemn season of Lent, we remember your call to repentance and renewal. Help us tend the soil of our hearts so that we may grow in faith and bear witness to your grace. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** “Come, We That Love the Lord (Marching to Zion)” UMH# 733

**Benediction**

**Postlude:** “Toccata in Seven” John Rutter

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**We thank those who participated in today’s service:**

**Guest Organist:** Scott Bailey is the collaborative pianist for the department of music at Westfield State University where he also directs the University Chorale. He has served as the music director at The Episcopal Church of the Atonement in Westfield and First Congregational Church in North Adams. He is a Colleague of the American Guild of Organists and is an active performer, conductor, composer, and music director throughout Western Massachusetts.

**Accompanist:** Steve Hays

**Acolytes:** Adeline & Anja Berke and Greta Rust

**Altar Ministry:** Julie Calhoun

**Carillonneur:** Thomas St. Marie

**Fellowship Hour:** Administrative Council and volunteers

**Liturgist:** Stella Christopher

**Participants:** Adult Choir & Chamber Choir

**Ushers:** Head Usher; Lisa Bakowski, Asst. Head Usher; Sheila Womble, Karen Andros, Wendy Regan, Ian Smythe, Judy Wing

**Video Team:** Brian Crawford, Nic Odell, Jack Rust, Anthony and Nicholas Skridulas

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**Please Pray for:**

Jim A, Bridget B, James B, Meri B, Natalie B, Pat C, Peg C, Mary C, Dominick E, Mary (T) G, Courtney H, Aurie I, Brenda L, Cristopher L, Katherine L, Amy L, Holly Joy P, Sue P, Catherine Ann R, Henry (Bing) S, Jane S, Thomas S, Carl S, Tammy S & family, Lynn T, Allie W, our service members and their loved ones, those affected by gun violence and natural disasters.

## Trinity United Methodist Church

361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA 01108

[www.trinityspringfield.org](http://www.trinityspringfield.org) ▪ 413-737-5311

*Bishop, Thomas J. Bickerton*

*District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe*

*Minister, Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun*

*Interim Directors of Music Ministries, David Belew & Holly Joy Pearson*

*Director of Family Ministries & Connections, Rob Powell, M.Div*

*Spiritual Director, Cathy MacGovern*



*Believing that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth, that Jesus' message was one of inclusion of those rejected by mainstream society, and that each member makes inherent and valuable contributions to the Body of Christ, we of Trinity Church welcome into this congregation people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic condition, family structure, and physical or mental ability.*



**Celebrate** God’s love

**Nurture** relationships with God and one another

**Serve** our community and world, as we share the light of Christ

## Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

10:30 a.m.

### WELCOME

*We worship using this liturgy and two songbooks: The United Methodist Hymnal (UMH) and The Faith We Sing (TFWS). Please silence your electronic devices. Nursery care is downstairs for children birth - 4 years.*

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit. Items in bold are read in unison.*

### WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE FOR A TIME OF QUIET MEDITATION

“You did not choose me. But I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit— fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Lord God will give you.” – John 15:16 NIV

### Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude:** “Offertoire” Théodore Dubois

### Moment of Reflection

**Introit:** “Morning Has Broken” John Rutter

### \*Call to Worship:

Leader: Wrap yourselves in the healing love of God!

**People: We seek God's presence in our lives.**

Leader: Know that God continually surrounds us with patience and persistence.

**People: Though we have not produced the “fruits” of hope that God seeks, God forgives and heals our weakness.**

Leader: Rejoice! Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

**People: We will turn our lives again to the Lord, to serve and seek God's presence. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** “God of Grace and God of Glory” UMH# 577

### \*Unison Prayer of Confession:

**We confess O God, that we have not always brought forth good fruit. In the midst of chaos and frenzy, we have often lost our way. Our feet have strayed from the place where we met you. Our egos have kept us from noticing our missteps; Yet, with you, we know there's another chance for change. There is another opportunity to bear good fruit. In a world full of spoiled and rotten produce and systems designed to kill, we are called to be the change that sustains generations. Let us lean with you into this chance for transformation. Amen.**

### \*Words of Assurance: –Discipleship Resources

God's grace and mercy abounds. God is with us in the change. God's everlasting arms embrace us. Each of us is beloved, affirmed, and set free. **Amen.**

### \*Response:

“We Are One In The Spirit”

TFWS# 2223 (v.4)

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

### Anthem:

“You Do Not Walk Alone”

Elaine Hagenberg

### Passing the Peace of Christ

### Children's Moment

### Pastoral Prayer, Joys and Concerns

### 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.**

### Prayer Response

### \*Hymn:

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

UMH# 375

*(5-13 yr. olds are invited to Grace Chapel for Chapel Kids. Parents please escort your children & pick them up.)*

### Scripture Reading:

Luke 13: 1-9 (NRSV)

N.T. p. 71

### Response to the Word:

**One:** The Word of God for the People of God.

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

### The Word in Reflection:

“The Fig Tree”

Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

### RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT'S PROMPTINGS

#### Invitation to Offering: – Discipleship Resources

Gracious God, as we bring these gifts before you, we reflect on your call to bear fruit in our lives. Like the gardener tending the fig tree, we pray that you cultivate in us the ability to use our resources for good, to grow in faith, and to bear the fruit of love, kindness, and generosity. May our collective giving be fruitful in advancing the church's mission and bring hope, healing, and transformation to all. **Amen.**