



TRINITY CHURCH

SHELBURNE FALLS

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



Daniel of Uranc. Jesus Walking on Water, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/59668> [retrieved August 5, 2026]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jesus_walking_on_water._Daniel_of_Uranc,_1433.jpg.

Worship Bulletin

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 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 “Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele” (“Soul, adorn Thyself with Gladness”)
op. 122, no. 5, Johannes Brahms

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 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” UMH 110, vv. 1, 3 & 4

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

Call to Worship Based on UMH #512, “Stand by Me”

“When the storms of life are raging, stand by me”

Lord, hear my cry and rescue me!

“When the world is tossing me like a ship upon the sea”

God who rules wind and water, stand by me.

God stands with you in bright sunshine and deepest storm.

God gently guides us to safety and peace.

*Opening Prayer

Let us pray... **God of mysterious ways, you take our fears and turn them into triumphs. You remind us that you are always with us and that we do not need to fear the wind and waves of life. Encourage us to step out of the boat; to come across these difficulties to your redeeming and transforming love. Give us courage and strength, joy and peace for all the times ahead. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** “Here I Am, Lord” UMH 593, all verses

Time for All Ages

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

The First Reading Romans 10:5-15

***The Gospel**

Matthew 14:22-33

The Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Learning to Walk on Water” Pastor Benjiman Durfee

Musical Interlude “The Lord is my Shepherd”, W. S. Passmore/Henry Smart.
Sung by Nancy Parland, soprano, and Anne Howland, alto.

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray...**Gracious God, you call us to step out in faith, trusting in you for all things. We respond to your command but then sink in doubt and fear. We hide from the challenges of bold discipleship. We are not able to fulfill your commandments, for our purposes are never in full accord with yours. Forgive us, we pray, when we confess with our lips but do not believe in our hearts. Help us to practice our faith in all circumstances. Lift us out of sin into the arms of your mercy. Though we are distracted by noise all around, allow us to hear your voice even with it is the sound of sheer silence.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

This is the good news we believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven! This is good news to share with all people! **Thanks be 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.**

0 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 “Andantino in Lydian mode” op. 55, no. 8, Flor Peeters

*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... **God of sea and storm, of sunshine and meadow, we present these offerings as tokens of our lives in grateful praise for your love for us. Use these gifts for the ministries of hope and justice in this, your broken world. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** “I Sing the Almighty Power of God” UMH 152, w. 1-4

*Benediction

You have been embraced by the love of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and blessed by Jesus to go into this world to offer healing and hope. Go in peace. **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 “Dialogues sur les Grands Jeux” François Couperin

Announcements

Franklin Association Church Picnic

The Franklin Association of the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ, invites you to an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fun! Sunday, August 16 at 1:00 p.m. The Picnic Grounds in Buckland.

This is simply a time to gather and enjoy one another's company—there will be no meeting and no Association business conducted. Everyone from our congregations is encouraged to attend, not only clergy and delegates. Church members, families, friends, neighbors, and newcomers are all welcome as we celebrate God's community together.

Please bring a dish to share and something to sit on. There will be lawn games, places to hike, and plenty of opportunities to relax, reconnect, and meet friends from across the Franklin Association.

Come for the picnic. Stay for the fellowship. Everyone is invited!

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. **Helps 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. Benjiman Durfee

Organist: Keith Rollinson

Usher: Andrew Porter

Acolyte: Nicole Porter

Reader 2: Sue Mead

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.