

Trinity United Methodist Church



*"Le retour de l'enfant prodigue," James Tissot
Watercolor over graphite, French, c.1890*

*and forgive us
our trespasses*

*as we forgive
those who trespass against us*

Matthew 6:12

1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. | McLean, VA 22101
703-356-3312 | umtrinity.org | info@umtrinity.org

October 4, 2026

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.



Welcome to Trinity Church! We are grateful you are here. We'd appreciate it if you would complete the registration pad and pass it down. For those worshipping in the Chapel today, please complete an attendance card. Remember to record each family member present today.

Please join us in our Fellowship Lobby following each service for delicious food and a chance for us to get to know one another!

PRELUDE

Meditation on AR HYD Y NOS (Rodríguez)

Jerry Rich

WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Ephesians 4

Laying aside all falsehoods, let us speak the truth to our neighbors,

for we are members of one another.

Let all bitterness and anger, all clamor and slander be put away;

let us be kind to one another, tender-hearted,

forgiving each other just as God in Christ has forgiven us!

* GATHERING HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign

UMH 157, vs. 1, 2, 4

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom spread from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
all prisoners leap and loose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.**

**To Jesus endless prayer be made,
and endless praises crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.**

MORNING PRAYER

O Father whom we share in common,
and who is always merciful and ready to forgive,
we confess that we do not find it easy to move through life
as forgiven and forgiving people.

**We easily pray that you would forgive our trespasses,
even as we keep a close account of others' trespasses against us.**

We feel a deep need to plead our case, to seek justice when we are wronged.

**We shrink back from the idea that we ourselves
could be called to account for our misdeeds.**

Rescue us, Lord, from unmerciful hearts, from petty impulses,
and from repeating the mistakes of the past...

[a time of silence follows]

In Christ, you have sent us one who intervenes for us,
restores our relationship to you, and opens the way to a reconciled life.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Laurie Strollo

ANTHEM

My Song Is Love Unknown (Ireland)
Our Father (Courtney)

Brendon O'Donnell (8:30)
Chancel Choir (10:30)

READING OF THE EPISTLES

Colossians 3:12-14

Suzanne Hamilton (8:30)
Andrea Hager (10:30)

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

This is the Word of God, for us, the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

"As We (would rather not) Forgive Others"

Dave Rochford

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Taehwan Roh

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made a covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke through the prophets to offer us paths to return to you and seek forgiveness.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Jesus healed the sick, ate with outcasts and those called "sinners," and from the cross prayed for his executioners: *"Father, forgive them."*

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit, wash away our guilt, heal our divisions, and bind us together in a ministry of reconciliation to all the world. Wake us to the joy of your forgiveness, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Pastor: And now, with the confidence of children who have been forgiven by a loving parent, let us pray together:

**All: 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.**

OFFERING *Our offering is received as we pass the plates, but you may also give online at
<http://umtrinity.org/give> or through our app.*

Doxology

UMH 94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

* CLOSING HYMN Forgive our sins as we forgive, You taught us, Lord, to pray; But You alone can grant us grace To live the words we say. How can Your pardon reach and bless The unforgiving heart That broods on wrongs and will not let Old bitterness depart?	<i>Forgive Us Our Sins, As We Forgive</i>	In blazing light, Your Cross reveals The truth we dimly knew; What trivial debts are owed to us, How great our debt to You! Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, And bid resentment cease; Then, bound to all in bonds of love, Our lives will spread your peace.	UMH 390
--	--	---	----------------

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE	<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (Walther)</i>	Jerry Rich
------------	---	------------

**congregation invited to stand*

A First-Person View of Life-Transforming Ministry: LMI - Honduras

Ever wonder what it would be like to be part of an international mission team? Well, we are pleased to announce Trinity's 2027 Spring Mission Trip to The Leadership Center in Comayagua, Honduras!

We will depart February 24 and return March 3, enabling us to spend six days on campus getting to know students and staff, and learning directly about how LMI is enabling young women in rural Honduras to become vocationally-successful, empowered community leaders.

For any who are curious, come to Wednesday Night Supper this week to see an engaging presentation of the amazing work of LMI - or you can drop in just for the 7:30 p.m. Zoom session with Chris and Dan Moore, our long-time stewards of this mission, that will follow afterward. Zoom link in Oct. 2 E-News. We'd love to hear from you, so with questions reach out to team leaders Chris (christinecmoore@gmail.com) and Dan (danmoore53@gmail.com) or Pastor Dave (drochford@umtrinity.org).





Grow — Pray — Study

Our weekly devotional is available at <https://bit.ly/TrinityGPS>

Monday, October 5 — Colossians 3:12–17

Paul begins his presentation of Christian forgiveness with God's initiative – and rightly so. We are not forgiven because we have become generous or good enough. God forgave us, and that free grace enables the way we treat others to change. This is why Paul describes forgiveness as part of a new way of life, shaped by compassion, kindness, patience, and love. But extending the forgiveness we have received to others is not easy, especially when the hurt remains, or the other person has not acknowledged what they have done. In such moments, forgiveness is not simply suppressing our feelings. It can mean allowing the grace we have received from God to shape the way we see and respond to that distressed relationship.

- How might holding to God's forgiveness change the way you see someone else?
- Is there a relationship where it is especially difficult for the grace you have received to "soak in?"
- Prayer: Merciful God, help me remember deeply the forgiveness I have received. May your grace be reflected in my words, actions, and relationships. Amen.

Tuesday, October 6 — Matthew 6:9–15

In the prayer Jesus has taught us, there is no clear distinction between God's forgiveness of us and our forgiving others. Jesus even returns to the subject of forgiveness immediately after sharing the Lord's Prayer. The life that seeks God's mercy and the life that extends mercy to others are in fact the same. That said, this connection can make us uncomfortable. We may delight in God's forgiveness, while forgiving someone who has offended against us can feel deeply discomfiting. Yet Jesus shows us that an experience of God's grace does not stay between God and us! That grace is meant to reach into our relationships and begin changing the way we live with one another. What distance are you inclined to place between seeking God's forgiveness and forgiving others?

- What could change if God's mercy were more visible in your relationships?
- Prayer: Forgiving God, keep me from receiving your mercy, only to hold it for myself. Let the grace I have received soak into my friendships and relationships with others. Amen.

Wednesday, October 7 — Matthew 18:21–35

Peter assumes that practicing forgiveness must eventually reach a practical limit when he asks Jesus how many times he should forgive. But Jesus shifts the focus from counting how many times we are obligated to forgive to remembering how much mercy we ourselves have received. Forgiveness is not simply an obligation, but a way of living that embraces mercy over retribution, love over being right.

Old wounds do not often disappear after a single decision to forgive. We may think we have forgiven, only to find that dark memories and anger return. In those moments, what matters may not be counting how many times we have forgiven, but opening that hurt to God and refusing to let it keep hold of us.

- Do you think of forgiveness as a moment, or as a process that may continue over time?
- What do you think a journey of forgiveness might look like? Might feel like?

- Prayer: Patient Father, bring healing to these hidden wounds. Help me remember your patience with me, as I walk along new paths to freedom and healing – for me. Amen.

Thursday, October 8 — Genesis 45:1–15

When Joseph at last meets the brothers who sold him into slavery, he does not deny or excuse what they did. But he refuses to interpret his entire life only through their betrayal and the injury it caused. Looking back after years of suffering, Joseph is able to name God at work *even within human wrongdoing* - preserving life and opening a marvelous future he could not have foreseen (or likely would have chosen).

Forgiveness does not erase or deny the past. It allows us to expose our hurts without giving them the final word over our lives. When we trust that God can bring healing to the memory of a thing we cannot change, the power of the past over our present has begun to give way.

- What experience from your past continues to intrude into your present?
- Is there room to allow God's presence into that rehearsed old story?
- Prayer: Healing God, help me face painful parts of my past without remaining captive to them. Teach me to trust you as the One who can make a new way even as my wounds are revealed. Amen.

Friday, October 9 — Romans 12:14–21

Paul urges those who follow Jesus not to repay those who harm them in a like way, but to leave final judgment and vengeance to God. This does not mean simply accepting injustice, however. Rather, it means refusing to let the wrong done by another person pull us into living a lesser life.

Forgiveness and justice are not opposites. We can name what is wrong and establish necessary boundaries without allowing vengeance and resentment to control our hearts. Refusing to let another person's wrongdoing determine the kind of person we become *is itself* one form of the freedom that forgiveness can bring.

- Can you distinguish between a desire for justice and a desire for revenge? How are they different?
- What might you need to release the bonds of regret and resentment?
- Prayer: God of justice and mercy, help me face what is wrong without becoming captive to bitterness. Give me wisdom and courage to entrust my anger and judgment to you, and to choose what is good. Amen.

Saturday, October 10 — Ephesians 4:25–5:2

Paul describes new life in Christ through very practical changes in our relationships: using words that build others up rather than tear them down, putting away bitterness and hostility, and treating one another with kindness and compassion. Always at the heart of all these changes is the forgiveness we ourselves have received from God.

Forgiveness is not only something within our hearts. It manifests in the way we speak, handle conflict, and respond to the shortcomings of others.

Because we are all flawed, we need God's grace, and as we extend that grace to one another, we grow into a community shaped by gestures of forgiveness and love.

- How is God's grace reflected in the way you handle conflict?
- What is one new way you can practice forgiveness and love within your community?
- Prayer: Loving God, help us live out the forgiveness we have received in Christ. May your love be revealed in our words and actions. Amen.

Today at Trinity

Martha's Table Snack Packaging

Following both worship services, we will gather in the Fellowship Lobby to make bags of trail mix for weekday distribution by Martha's Table in Washington, D.C. The snack bag assembly line is fun and also makes a difference in the lives of hundreds of people in our community. All supplies provided!

- 10 a.m. Chancel Choir**
The Chancel Choir meets each Sunday at 10 a.m. to prepare to lead worship at 10:30 a.m. New singers are always welcome! If you'd like to know more about Trinity's music ministry, please contact Jerry Rich, jrich@potomacschool.org.
- 10:40 a.m. Children's Worship**
Ages 4–6th grade. Meets following the Children's Message in our Fellowship Building (across the Breezeway).
- 2 p.m. Blessing of the Pets**
Bring your pets for a special blessing. Dogs must be leashed; other pets must be in carriers.
- 3:30 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal**
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Group**
Grades 7–12. We meet in the Fellowship Building to nurture lasting friendships while discussing Scripture, faith, life and more. Contact Catherine, umtrinityyouth@gmail.com for more.
- 6 p.m. Iglesia de Diós Worship**



This Week

MONDAY

- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Den 3**
7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 869

TUESDAY

- 10:30 a.m. Fall Pastors' Bible Study: Set Free to Live Free!**
Join Pastor Dave from 10:30–11:45 a.m. in the Church Library or via Zoom for a study of Galatians. Questions? Contact Pastor Dave at drochford@umtrinity.org.
- 6 p.m. Cub Scout Den 2**
7 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 1130
7 p.m. Langley Residential Support Services

WEDNESDAY

- 9 a.m. Prayer Group**
Join our weekly Zoom Prayer Group as we lift up the needs of our church, community, and world. For details, talk with a pastor or call 703-356-3312.
- 6 p.m. Wednesday Supper Program**
6:30 p.m. Children's Choir
Grades 1–6 rehearse 6:30–7:10 in the choir room, followed by supervised playground time. Contact Adelaide at adeloving11@gmail.com.

THURSDAY

- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Den 7**

SATURDAY

- 6 p.m. Iglesia de Diós**

Coming Up

Oct. 12 • Office Closed for Federal Holiday

Oct. 13 • Book Chat

This month's selection is *The Book Binder* (original title *The Bookbinder of Jericho*) by Pip Williams. Visit the Education webpage for Zoom details for the 6:30 p.m. meeting.

Oct. 15 • The Spire newsletter deadline

Oct. 17 • Christ House Meal Ministry in DC

Oct. 17 • Share New Beginnings

Trinity has agreed to work together with SHARE of McLean to furnish a new home for an unhoused local family. More details about how your help is needed are on page 6 at right.

Oct. 20 • Pastor's Bible Study

Join our five-week Bible Study, *Teach Us to Pray!* as we explore the Lord's Prayer through Scripture, discussion, and practical reflection. We'll consider prayer in both Testaments and real-life examples that help us practice the Lord's Prayer daily. Meets in the Library and via Zoom.

Oct. 25 • Trunk or Treat

Children's Ministry invites our Trinity church, preschool, and community families to our annual "spook-tacular" celebration on Sunday, October 25! The Trunk or Treat follows the 10:30 a.m. service in the back parking lot behind the Fellowship Building. Sign up to bring your car and a trunk full of treats! See the QR code on page 7.

SUPPER PROGRAM



Wednesday • 6 p.m.

This week's program will be presented by our Worldwide Missions Team leaders, Chris & Dan Moore. "Building Life-changing Leaders in Honduras" – Hear from two TUMC experts how a campus in a remote place called Comayagua draws and equips gifted young women to become civil leaders in one of the poorest countries in the West...and how we can get involved. Come enjoy a delicious rice chicken kebab catered dinner by Moby Dick's of McLean. Attendees also are invited to bring a side or dessert to contribute. Use the QR code on page 7 to sign up!

BUILDING HOMES. BUILDING HOPE.

Together with SHARE.

We are very much looking forward to working with our ministry-partner SHARE of McLean to make a home for an unhoused family, as part of the New Beginnings project! As the faith community partner that worked with SHARE to launch New Beginnings, we now make this a semi-annual mission, given that it meets a huge need in our community – in which family incomes often do not meet the steep cost of getting into rental housing.



We will come together as a church on

Saturday, October 17 *(a date that will be here soon!)*

and we will need your help in welcoming this family into a safe, new home of their own. Please consider assisting in any of these ways:



Donating/purchasing selected items from the wish list
(watch for the list of items to be shared soon)



Loading furnishings into the truck the day before (10/16)



Being part of the team that sets up and decorates the new home!



Helping provide lunch for our move team here back at TUMC

SIGN UP

Wish list, donation list and volunteer sign up can be found by scanning the QR code on page 7.



If any questions, please speak with
Cindy Oh, cohva7762@gmail.com
Lisa Russell, russ5bunch@gmail.com
Pastors Dave or Taehwan, or Church
Admin Harriet Latta.



Thank you for being a part of our
SHARE New Beginnings partnership!



About Our Ministries

Nursery

The **Nursery** is staffed during both our Sunday worship services for children 3 years old and under. Our nursery is located in the Fellowship Building; simply speak to an usher and they will provide assistance.

Children's Worship Folders

Folders are available during worship services and are categorized by age and reading ability. Please return your folder to the "used bin" so it can be replenished.

Fellowship: Getting Connected

You are invited to meet friends and neighbors after each of our worship services! Join us in the Fellowship Lobby across the breezeway. Each week individuals, families or ministry teams host our refreshments. Please consider signing up for the 8:30 service's Fellowship time. Scan the QR code under Quick Links below to sign-up.

Trinity Preschool of McLean

TPoM welcomes all students ages 2-6. Please visit umtrinity.org/preschool to learn more about this vibrant ministry or to schedule a tour for your child.

Ushers Needed

Ushers are needed each Sunday to greet people, answer questions and hand out bulletins. Use the QR code below to volunteer for this essential ministry of hospitality or speak to one of the pastors.

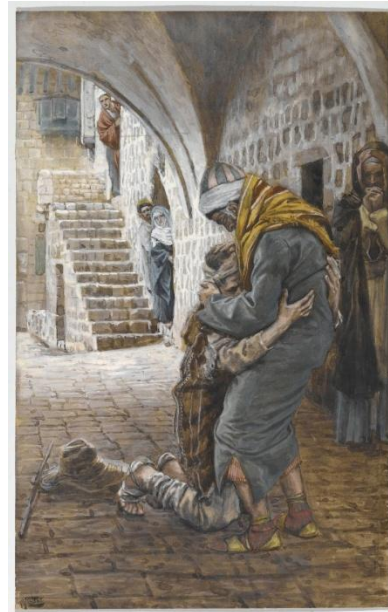
Quick Links

Scan QR code with your phone's camera & click the link. This page currently includes:

- Prayer Requests
- SHARE New Beginnings links
- Wednesday Dinner RSVP
- Trunk or Treat sign up
- Book Chat
- Children & Youth ministry registration
- Christ House wish list
- Ushers sign-up



Did You Know?



The watercolor image on our bulletin today, depicting a moment of reconciliation between a forgiving father and a repentant son, is the work of French painter James Tissot (1836-1902). In fact, Tissot had already taken up the subject several times before, in the guise of early, historicized scenes that helped establish his career as an artist.

Many observers then and since have pondered Tissot's demonstrated interest in Luke's familiar parable, noting that it may have had particular meaning for the artist. Tissot had left France for England in the 1870s, and acquired a reputation there for scandalous and self-indulgent living, while focusing his art on Victorian high-society. Upon the loss of his muse and romantic partner to tuberculosis, Tissot abandoned his London home and returned to France, as well as to the Catholic faith of his youth. His wide body of subsequent work includes more than 350 very intimate, impactful images that depict the life and ministry of Jesus.

Trinity Church Ministers and Staff

Harriet Latta
Adelaide Loving
Jose Nuñez
Jerry Rich
Dave Rochford
Taehwan Roh
Angi Oxendine
Laurie Strollo
Catherine Wethington

Office Manager
Director of Children's Choir
Facilities Manager
Director of Music
Lead Pastor
Associate Pastor
Preschool Director
Director of Children's Ministry
Director of Youth Ministry

hlatta@umtrinity.org
adeloving11@gmail.com
703-356-3312
jrich@potomacschool.org
drochford@umtrinity.org
troh@umtrinity.org
angio.trinitypreschool@gmail.com
lstrollo@umtrinity.org
umtrinityyouth@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sunday Worship: Chapel at 8:30 a.m.; Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. streamed on YouTube: youtube.com/UMTrinity.
If you're not yet receiving our weekly Friday e-mail, please send us your address to info@umtrinity.org.