



Trinity United Methodist Church

1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. | McLean, VA 22101
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September 7, 2025

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Trinity Church! We are grateful you are here. We'd appreciate it if you would complete an attendance card found in the pew rack (or scan the QR code on page 3 with your phone's camera and click the link) to register your attendance today. And do include **each** family member present.

Prelude *Pomposo from Trumpet Sonata* (Purcell) Jerry Rich (8:30); Diana Wensley, trumpet (10:30)

Welcome and Announcements

* Call to Worship *from Psalm 104*

I will sing to the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time.

When you give it to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

When you send your Spirit, they are created,

and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

may the LORD rejoice in his works!

I will sing to the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

* Gathering Hymn *Gather Us In*

[FWS 2236](#)

Prayer of Confession

God of all nations and peoples,

we praise you that in Christ, the barriers that have separated humanity are torn down.

Yet we confess that our slowness to open our hearts and minds

to those different from ourselves, those with scattered thoughts and faltering memories,

and those whose needs seem greater than our own.

Deliver us from the sins born of our fear, indifference and prejudice,

that we may move toward the day when we are each made whole

and your people are truly One in Jesus Christ.

For our sake, and the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

[a time of silent prayer follows]

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may dine at your Table and walk in your ways. **Amen!**

Children's Message

Laurie Strollo

*Children are invited to Children's Worship in Room 402-403,
a place for those 4 years through 6th grade to connect with God in their own ways.*

Prayers of the People

Taehwan Roh

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.*

Offertory

Come, O Thou Traveler (Wesley)
You Are Welcome in This Place (Martin)

Maggie Rabe (8:30)
Chancel Choir (10:30)

Reading from the Scriptures

Luke 14:1, 12-24

Norah Whittington

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God!"

Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

"But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it.

(Continued on page 2)

Please excuse me.'

"Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

"Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

"The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame!'

"Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

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

Message

Table Manners

Dave Rochford

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

[The minister continues this prayer of thanksgiving, concluding:]

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

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.

[The minister continues the prayer, recalling the institution of the Lord's Supper, concluding:]

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.

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

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 make us one with Christ,

one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,

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 (God), now and forever. Amen.

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

All are invited to come forward to receive bread and juice by means of intinction (the dipping of a piece of bread in the cup). You may then return to your seat by the side aisle. Those who prefer gluten-free elements may obtain them up front. Those who prefer to remain in the pew and receive Communion may certainly do so, and are asked to signal an usher.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for our place at the table
at which you have given yourself to us.**

Grant that we may go into the world

in the strength of your Spirit,

to enable others to seek you,

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Continued on page 3)

* Closing Hymn

Jesus' Wondrous Words of Grace
Text: Carolyn Winfree Gillette, 2018
Tune: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Jesus' wondrous words of grace
Welcome all to God's embrace:
Welcome if you're rich or poor,
If you're knocking at the door,
If you come from far away,
If you need a place to stay.
If you suffer want or pain,
You are welcome in God's reign!

Do you live in fear and doubt?
Do you seek to leave some out?
Do you think that some can't get
To the table God has set?
Think there is no room for you?
Jesus says you're welcome, too.
Think you're different, sinful, odd?
You are welcome, child of God!

Jesus says to all the church:
Welcome in the ones who search,
Welcome in the ones who mourn,
Welcome in the tired and worn,
Welcome those who live in fear,
Welcome in the sinners here.
As you do to these, you see,
So you also welcome me.

* Benediction

* Postlude *Allegro from Trumpet Sonata* (Purcell) Jerry Rich (8:30); Diana Wensley, trumpet (10:30)

* Please stand as you are able.

Our Prayer List

Anne, Annie Ruth, Arnold family, Audriana, Leth, Bud, Catherine, Corbin, Dale, Dara, Dave, Davey, David, Debbie, Douglas, Emmett, Evan, George, Gililand family, Gloria, Jason, Joan, Joel, Karen, Kenny family, Luke, Maines family, Margie, Mary Frances, Michael, Miso, Molly, Nancy, Rubina, Sheila, Spinks family, Vicki, Viviana, Willis & Carter, Winie & Joseph, Yancey, and prayer life for Trinity congregation, those who are traveling, people losing jobs, employment seekers, the children and staff at Heart to Heart Worldwide Village in Honduras, The Leadership Center, our nation's leadership and unity, soldiers abroad and at home, peace on earth, an end to antisemitism and Islamophobia, those affected by natural disasters, those grieving in Minneapolis, those trying to make a better future for our nation, government employees, immigrants, the homeless, victims of abuse and hostages throughout the world.

Grow — Pray — Study

Monday, September 8 — Luke 14:1-14

We've been told over the years that "context is everything." As we read the Bible, context certainly does matter! Observe what immediately precedes the Parable of the Wedding Banquet.

- What connection do you make of Jesus' fracturing of religious norms and the cheeky advice he then gives his host and fellow diners? And why is this odd inversion of social customs specifically called a *Parable*?
- Prayer: *Lord, we often see others who aspire to rank and privilege as conniving or insecure. But today, help me instead to see myself at the table, judging others. Amen.*

Tuesday, September 9 — Luke 14:15-24

In the Parable of the Great Banquet, comical excuses by would-be guests mask the profound offense caused to the Host. But his response is quite unwarranted - and wonderfully unexpected!

- How do we make excuses at times when the demands of the Gospel come our way?
- Prayer: *Lord Jesus, I get the sense it was not safe to utter religious platitudes in your presence. So rescue me from any disposition but gratitude, and give me a will to invite others to the party. Amen.*

Wednesday, September 10 — Luke 14:25-34

Jesus has many 'hard sayings' for those who would follow him, but vv.26-27 may well be the *hardest*. This is followed by a pair of parables about counting the high cost of radical discipleship - which, unfortunately for the crowd, is the only deal that Jesus is offering.

- Why do you think Jesus posed the "cost" of following him so starkly? It is still so costly faithfully to follow him today?
- Prayer: *Honestly, Lord Christ, you don't seem to ask much of me. My life seems close to what I have chosen for myself. Give me the courage to ask: what more would you ask? Amen.*

Thursday, September 11 — Matthew 22:1-14

Matthew's Parable of the Wedding Banquet has clear parallels to Luke's - but here, the dignity of the host is preserved, and the images are much darker. Here, we see that human disobedience toward the God who invites is not only tragic, but perilous.

- What does Matthew intend to say about God's Kingdom by this Parable? What does it mean that 'few are chosen'?
- Prayer: *Eternal God, I know it is your love for all the world that sent Jesus to us. But I want to be counted among those who answer, to bring you joy as I in turn bring others. Amen.*

Friday, September 12 — Titus 3:3-8

A lesser-known letter of Paul to a protégé, *Titus* is full of practical advice, including how to lead a transformed life that yields a community that transforms those beyond its boundaries. The reader might pay special attention to the way Paul characterizes the saving mission of Jesus.

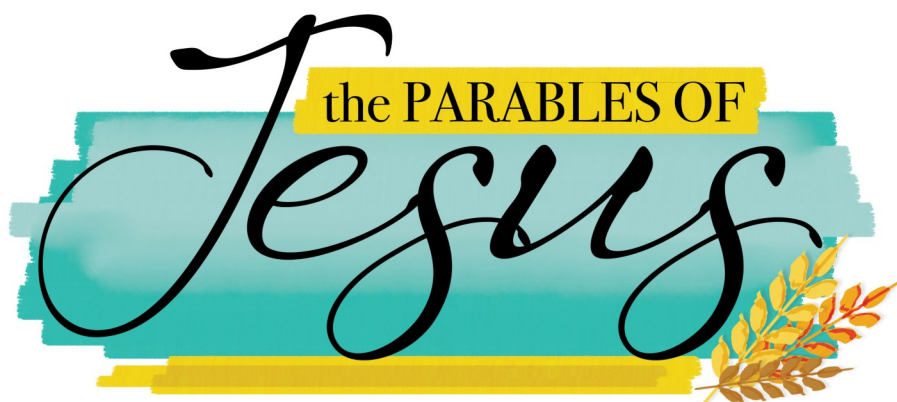
- Too often we focus on works: "*she does good things; he is a good person.*" But according to Paul, why is *mercy* essential to what it means "to do what is good?"
- Prayer: *Blessed Savior, today your mercy for me is both new and needed. I thank you for it, and with that spirit of gratitude may you empower me to change the world. Amen.*

Saturday, September 13 — Matthew 9:9-13

Sometimes Jesus enacted a parable - in real time! As Matthew recounts his own calling by Jesus, we hear the echo Jesus' words: "*I desire mercy, not sacrifice.*" Religion has never been the same since.

- Why did it so deeply offend devout experts in the Law (which was intended by God to make the people holy), that Jesus lodged and ate with people who lived openly in sinful behavior and seamy company? What do you understand Jesus' rebuke to this viewpoint to mean?
- Prayer: *Lord Jesus, I want to live in ways that would make you proud. But at times, I recognize that I am judgmental, selfish and small in spirit. In those moments, perhaps I am as close to you as I have been in years. Show me mercy then, and get started with me on what I may become. Amen.*

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



Today at Trinity

Bounce Back Sunday

We'll celebrate the new program year with a bounce house, games, picnic and fellowship. The Methodist Men will be grilling burgers, cheeseburgers, and hot dogs. Serving line will be outside the church, with tables both outside and inside the Fellowship Building.

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 (ages 4 - 6th grade) meets during the 10:30 service following the Children's Message.

Chancel Choir, 10 a.m.

The Chancel Choir meets at 10 a.m. to prepare to lead worship at 10:30 a.m. New signers are always welcome. If you'd like to know more about Trinity's music ministry, please contact Jerry Rich, jrich@potomacschool.org.

Pizza with the Pastors

See page 6 for details.

This Week

Tuesday & Wednesday: Fall Bible Study

All are invited to be part of "*Revolutionary Parables: Jesus' Little Stories that Shake the World*" with Pastor Dave, on **Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.** in our Church library (also offered then by ZOOM), and on **Wednesdays (at 7 p.m. via ZOOM only)**. Operating as on-ramps to God's coming Kingdom, the Parables were intended by Jesus to be troublesome, and we will use an Orientation/Disorientation/Reorientation approach to apply their lens to everyday living. Do join us in-person if you are able! Study will conclude mid-October. With questions, just reach out to Pastor Dave. Please use the QR code on the next page to register.

September 9: Book Chat

All are welcome to join our monthly book club on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. This year's selections and Zoom link can be found using the QR code on page 6.

Wednesday, 9 a.m.: Prayer Group

A dedicated community that meets via Zoom to lift up the needs of our church family, community and world. If you'd like to know more or to participate, please speak to one of our pastors or call the office, 703-356-3312.

Saturday, 10 a.m.: Celebration of Life of Susan Maines

Susan was a beloved member of Trinity Church who participated in mission trips and Bible studies and she served on Trustees and liaised with our Preschool. We'll gather with her family and friends to celebrate her life.

Coming Up

September 14: Martha's Table Snack Packaging Next Sunday!

September 14: Youth Group

Youth Group, grades 7-12, will resume their Sunday evening meetings, 4:30 - 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Building and will include Pizza with the Pastors.

September 16: Trustees Meeting

September 18: Executive Council Meeting

September 20: Christ House Meal Mission

Christ House is a place of healing; a residential, medical facility for homeless men located on Columbia Road in the Adams Morgan area of Washington, DC. We prepare lunch on the third Saturday of every month. Contact Connie Jeremiah for more information, dcjeremi-ah@verizon.net, 703-307-4635.

September 21: Youth Group

Youth Group, grades 7-12, meets on Sunday, 4:30 - 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Building.

October 5: Martha's Table Snack Packaging

October 5: Blessing of the Pets

Your whole family, especially the furry, winged and finned members, are invited to our Blessing of the Pets. The service will be held on the Large Field by the Fellowship Building at 2 p.m.

October 14: Book Chat

Full schedule for this Zoom meeting can be found on the church website. Use the QR code on page 6 for more.



About Our Ministries

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 cordially invited to meet friends and neighbors after each of our worship services. Join us in the Fellowship Lobby to the right of the breezeway. Each week individuals, families or ministry groups host our refreshments. Please consider signing up for either the 8:30 or 10:30 service's Fellowship time. Scan the QR code under Quick Links at the right to sign-up.

Trinity Preschool of McLean . . .

... is back in session tomorrow! We invite you to be in prayer for our students, their families and our staff as they begin a new school year.

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.

Quick Links

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

- > Worship attendance
- > Children & Youth registration
- > Fall Bible Study registration
- > Pizza with the Pastors RSVP
- > Book Chat discussion group
- > Christ House wish list
- > Fellowship Hour hosts
- > Ushers



PIZZA WITH THE PASTORS



Sundays, 5 p.m.

At the TUMC Parsonage,
6835 Gilliams Rd.

*All are welcome to choose any
one of these dates!*

September 14

Youth especially encouraged -
but welcome at any!

September 21

What to bring: yourself - and if
you like, a salad or a dessert

RSVP:

<https://umtrinity.org/about-us/quick-links>

Trinity Church Staff

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

Lead Pastor
Associate Pastor
Office Manager
Facilities Manager
Director of Music
Preschool Director
Director of Youth Ministry
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Summer Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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