



# Trinity United Methodist Church



*"The Ascension of Christ," Hans Süss von Kulmbach  
Oil on wood altarpiece, German, 1513*

you will receive power  
when the Holy Spirit comes on you

and you will be my witnesses  
to the ends of the earth

Acts 1:8

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May 17, 2026

**Ascension Sunday**

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 name 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!**

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PRELUDE

*Prelude* (Shostakovich) Kai Zinner, cello; Benjamin Kim, viola (8:30)  
*The New Commonwealth* (Vaughan Williams) Jerry Rich (10:30)

WELCOME

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

*from Psalm 68*

Sing to God, sing praises to his name, extol the Lord who rides on the clouds;  
rejoice before him, whose name is the LORD.

**God sets the lonely in families, God leads out the prisoners with singing;  
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.**

Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth,  
sing praise to the Lord,

**to the One who rides across the highest heavens, the ancient heavens,  
who thunders with mighty voice.**

Proclaim the power of God, whose majesty is over Israel,  
whose power is on high.

You, God, are awesome in your sanctuary;  
the Holy One of Israel gives power and strength to his people.

**Praise be to God!**

\* GATHERING HYMN

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* (Verses 1, 3, 6)

UMH 154

**All hail the power of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
and crown him Lord of all.**

**Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget  
the wormwood and the gall,  
go spread your trophies at his feet,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Go spread your trophies at his feet,  
and crown him Lord of all.**

**O that with yonder sacred throng  
we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
and crown him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
and crown him Lord of all.**

OPENING PRAYER

Everlasting God,  
your eternal Christ once dwelt on earth, confined by time and space.

**Give us faith to discern, in every time and place,  
the presence among us of the One who is Lord of all nations,  
Master of all circumstances, and Savior of all peoples,  
Jesus Christ, the Ascended One. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dave Rochford

*(Continued on page 2)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Our prayer will conclude with:*

**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.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:1-11

Charles Boykin (8:30)  
Livia Phillips(10:30)

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

MESSAGE

*In Search of . . . Jesus!*

Dave Rochford

RESPONSE OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

UMH 881

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;\*  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic\*\* church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

COMMUNION (8:30)

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 Down O Love Divine (Vaughan Williams)  
The Father's Love (Lole)*

Philip Keirstead (8:30)  
Chancel Choir (10:30)

*(Continued on page 3)*

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

*Go, Make of All Disciples*

UMH 571

**Go make of all disciples  
We hear the call O Lord  
That comes from Thee our Father  
In Thy eternal Word  
Inspire our ways of learning  
Through earnest fervent prayer  
And let our daily living  
Reveal Thee everywhere**

**Go make of all disciples  
We at Thy feet would stay  
Until each life's vocation  
Accents Thy holy way  
We cultivate the nature  
God plants in every heart  
Revealing in our witness  
The Master Teacher's art**

**Go make of all disciples  
Baptizing in the name  
Of Father Son and Spirit  
From age to age the same  
We call each new disciple  
To follow Thee O Lord  
Redeeming soul and body  
By water and the Word**

**Go make of all disciples  
We welcome Thy command  
Lo I am with you always  
We take Thy guiding hand  
The task looms large before us  
We follow without fear  
In heaven and earth Thy power  
Shall bring God's kingdom here**

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

*Grand Choeur (Handel)*

Jerry Rich

*\*congregation invited to stand*

# Grow — Pray — Study

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

## Monday, May 18 — Jeremiah 29:4–14

These words were spoken to people living far from home, in a place they did not choose and could not easily leave. Many hoped for a quick return or a dramatic change in circumstances. Yet through the prophet Jeremiah, God tells them to build homes, plant gardens, seek the welfare of the city, and continue to live faithfully even in uncertainty. God's presence was not limited to the place they had lost. God remained with them even in exile.

This passage reminds us that faith is not only about waiting for a future resolution. Often, we are called to live faithfully in the “between time”—the space between what was and what will be. We may not always know how long a season will last or how clearly we can see the future. Yet even there, God calls people to live, pray, serve, and hope. The life of faith continues not because every question has been answered, but because God remains present within the uncertainty.

- Where in your life do you feel caught in a “between time” right now?
- What might it look like to live faithfully even without full clarity about the future?
- **Prayer:** Faithful God, help me to trust your presence in uncertain seasons. Teach me to live with hope and faithfulness wherever I am. Amen.

## Tuesday, May 19 — Psalm 121

Psalm 121 begins with a question: “From where will my help come?” The psalmist looks toward the hills, searching for reassurance, yet the answer does not ultimately rest in geography or visible strength. Help comes from God, the maker of heaven and earth, whose care does not waver or fade. God watches over our journey—both the going out and the coming in. This psalm speaks to those moments when life feels uncertain or unsettled. We often look for stability in circumstances, plans, or visible signs of control. Yet the psalm points beyond those things toward the steady faithfulness of God. The promise here is not that difficulty will disappear, but that we do not walk through life alone. God's presence accompanies people through ordinary days, transitions, and unknown roads alike.

- What are the places or circumstances where you most often look for security?
- How does the image of God accompanying your journey shape the way you face uncertainty?
- **Prayer:** Watchful God, remain near to me in every season of life. Help me to trust your care when the road ahead feels uncertain. Amen.

## Wednesday, May 20 — John 14:15–29

In this passage, Jesus prepares the disciples for a future in which they will no longer see him. The disciples are troubled by the thought of separation, yet Jesus speaks not of abandonment but of continuing presence. God's Spirit will remain with them, teaching, reminding, and sustaining them in the days ahead.

This passage invites us to reflect on how often we long for certainty through visible signs. We may wish for clearer answers, stronger reassurance, or a more tangible sense of God's presence. Yet Jesus points the disciples toward a different kind of relationship—one grounded not in physical proximity, but in trust, remembrance, and the work of the Spirit. The absence they fear will become the space in which they learn new forms of faithfulness and dependence upon God.

- When have you struggled with feeling distant from God or uncertain about God's presence?
- What practices help you remain attentive to the quiet work of the Spirit in daily life?
- **Prayer:** God of peace, remain with me in times of uncertainty and change. Teach me to trust your Spirit even when I cannot clearly see the way ahead. Amen.

## Thursday, May 21 — Hebrews 11:8–16

Hebrews describes Abraham and Sarah as people who lived by faith while still journeying toward promises they could not yet fully see. They traveled without complete certainty, trusting God while living as sojourners and aliens. Their faith was not rooted in possessing everything immediately, but in continuing forward with hope.

This passage reminds us that much of the life of faith unfolds without full resolution. We often want immediate clarity or visible outcomes, yet Scripture repeatedly describes faith as movement, trust, and endurance. The people of God are not always those who have arrived, but those who continue walking while trusting the One who leads them. Faith does not remove uncertainty; rather, it teaches us how to remain faithful within it.

- What does it mean for you to continue walking in faith even when outcomes remain unclear?
- How might patience and trust become part of your spiritual journey right now?
- **Prayer:** Guiding God, help me to walk faithfully even when I cannot see the full path ahead. Teach me to trust your promises with patience and hope. Amen.

## Friday, May 22 — Ephesians 3:14–21

Paul's prayer in Ephesians moves beyond information about God toward a deeper experience of God's love and strength. He prays that believers would be “rooted and grounded in love,” not merely informed about faith, but sustained inwardly by the presence of God. The focus is not on achieving spiritual certainty through effort, but on receiving the depth of God's grace. Paul reminds us that Christian faith is not sustained only by knowledge or external activity. There are seasons when we feel weak, overwhelmed, or uncertain about the future. In those moments, Paul points toward the inner work of God's Spirit—the quiet strengthening that allows people to remain grounded even amid changing circumstances. God's presence becomes not merely an idea to affirm, but a reality that shapes our inner life.

- What helps you remain spiritually grounded during stressful or uncertain seasons?
- How have you experienced God's strengthening presence in quiet or unexpected ways?
- **Prayer:** Loving God, root my life deeply in your love. Strengthen me inwardly through your Spirit and sustain me in every season. Amen.

## Saturday, May 23 — Acts 16:6–15

This passage describes a moment of unexpected redirection in the ministry of Paul and his companions. Their original plans change repeatedly, and the path forward becomes obscure when they reach the end of the road, in the grimy port city of Troas. Instead of certainty from the beginning, they experience guidance step by step, responding to God's leading as they continue moving forward. Even from a dream!

What follows is not a dramatic conclusion, but a simple act of faithful response. A prominent businesswoman named Lydia listens, responds with faith and offers them hospitality. The work of God unfolds not only through dreams, but through ordinary acts of welcome, attentiveness, and obedience. This passage reminds us that God's guidance is often discovered while we are already on the journey, not before it begins.

- How do you respond when your plans change unexpectedly or the future feels uncertain (or even derailed)?
- What ordinary act of faithfulness or hospitality might God be inviting you to practice this week?
- **Prayer:** God of guidance, help me to remain open to your leading even when plans change. Teach me to follow faithfully, one step at a time. Amen.

# THE CREATION STORY



We extend our gratitude to Meri Faust for her leadership as playwright and director and to our children for their hard work in presenting the Creation Story this past Sunday! Their skit was full of energy, imagination, and faith - and was a delight for our whole church family.

## Today at Trinity

### Fellowship Hosts

9:30 a.m. Charles & Genee Boykin  
11:30 a.m. Missions Committee

### Chancel Choir, 10 a.m.

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, jrlich@potomacschool.org.

**Children's Worship, 10:30 a.m.** (ages 4 - 6th grade)  
Children's Worship takes place following the Children's Message in our Fellowship Building across the Breezeway.

### Youth Group, 12 p.m.

Youth, grades 7 - 12, will gather for fellowship and lunch.  
Iglesia de Dios Worship, 6 p.m.

### SHARE Interfaith Benefit Concert, 7 p.m.

Trinity's Chancel Choir will join with other local choirs in a benefit concert for SHARE of McLean. All are welcome to attend this free concert and bring something from SHARE's most-needed items list. The list can be found using the QR code on page 7.

Thursday, 5:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 1127  
7 p.m. Langley Moves

Friday, 6 p.m.: Iglesia de Dios

Saturday, 6 p.m.: Iglesia de Dios

## Coming Up

### May 25: Office Closed for Memorial Day



### May 31: Graduate Recognition Sunday

The high school and post-secondary Class of 2026 will be recognized in worship on May 31. Send your name and the name of the school from where you graduated and future plans (as known) by May 27 to info@umtrinity.org.

### May 31, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.:

#### Rededication of Trinity House as Parsonage

After each of our services, you are invited to gather at Trinity House (by the playground at the far end of the parking lot) for a celebration of its rededication as a parsonage for our Associate Pastor and his family. Refreshments provided by our SPRC and tours by our Trustees.

### June 7: 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!

### June 9, 6:30 p.m.: Book Chat

Book Chat will meet on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. when Molly Sproule will lead us in discussing *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* by Dame Muriel Spark. For more, contact Suzanne Hamilton or use the QR code on page 7.

### June 15: *The Spire* newsletter deadline

### June 17 - 20: Annual Conference

### June 19: Office Closed for Juneteenth

### June 20: Christ House Meal Mission

Christ House is a residential medical facility for homeless men located in the Adams Morgan area of Washington, DC. We prepare and serve lunch on the third Saturday of every month. Contact Connie Jeremiah for more information, dcjeremiah@verizon.net or 703-307-4635.

### June 25: Executive Council meeting

## IF I CAN HELP SOMEBODY

Tonight



10TH ANNUAL BENEFIT CONCERT  
SHARE OF MCLEAN

INTERFAITH CONCERT

May 17 @ 7pm

Trinity United Methodist Church  
1205 DOLLEY MADISON BLVD.  
MCLEAN, VIRGINIA

Donate an item as your entrance ticket  
<https://www.shareofmclean.org/most-needed-list>

Reception with service fair to follow



## This Week

Monday, 7:30 p.m.: Scout Troop 869

Tuesday, 7 p.m.: 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.

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Den 1

## 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](http://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.



## Did You Know?

The bright, ringing peal that calls us to ready ourselves for worship each Sunday in the Sanctuary is "**the Langley Bell**," a visible link to Langley Methodist Church (1853), our predecessor congregation. Before the community called McLean existed, the Langley Bell would summon Methodists to make the journey to Sunday service by foot, horse and surrey.

Today, we seek elementary-age disciples to ring our 128-year-old bell. Doing so with a mallet is safer than, but perhaps not as *fun* as, the days when the bell rope was known to lift people off the floor (even grown-ups!). If YOU would like to ring the Bell, speak to either of our pastors today.

## Quick Links

Scan QR code with your phone's camera & click the link.

- > Prayer Requests
- > Children & Youth registration
- > Book Chat discussion group
- > Christ House wish list
- > Fellowship Hour hosts
- > Ushers



## Our Prayer Ministry

Trinity Church is grateful to receive any request for intercessory prayer. Each Wednesday, our Prayer Group meets at 9 a.m. to lift up these submissions as well as on-going needs. Those willing to pray with us are both welcomed and invited! Please speak to one of our pastors if you would like to know more.

*Prayer requests can be submitted by scanning the QR code on the left with your phone's camera and clicking the link, or you may fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate.*

### Trinity Church Staff

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

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Office Manager  
Facilities Manager  
Director of Music  
Preschool Director  
Director of Youth Ministry  
Director of Children's Ministry

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

Worship is in-person and 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](https://www.youtube.com/UMTrinity). Our 5 p.m. Celtic Service is in-person and streamed on the last Sunday of the month. If you're not yet receiving our Friday weekly events e-mail, please send us your address at [info@umtrinity.org](mailto:info@umtrinity.org)