



"Parable of the Mustard Seed," Nicusor Dumitru
Orthodox Icon, egg tempera on wood, Romanian

The KINGDOM of HEAVEN

is like the greatest of all shrubs

Matthew 13:31-32

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July 26, 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 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!

PRELUDE

Sarabande from Holberg Suite (Grieg)

Jerry Rich

WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 80

Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved!
You transplanted a vine from Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
You cleared the ground for it,
and it took root and filled the land.
The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.
Its branches reached as far as the Sea,
its shoots as far as the River.

* GATHERING HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

UMH 147

Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
the Lord God made them all.**

**Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings. (Refrain)**

**The purple-headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky. (Refrain)**

**The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one. (Refrain)**

**God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well. (Refrain)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

adapted from Moira Laidlaw

Lord Jesus Christ,
We remember with gratitude all those who have sowed seeds of faith in our lives.
Above all, we recognize how you have blessed our lives with the gift of the Holy Spirit,
so that our faith has grown, miraculously and mysteriously.

**We confess the times when we fail to involve ourselves in planting any seeds of faith
in the lives of others, when our personal agendas become more important than your mission,
when we have denied others the opportunity to glimpse your Kingdom
through our lack of interest or involvement, and when our lives become so entangled
with the values of the world that we forget what you have said, and done, and promised.**

Lord Jesus, we know that when we become disconnected from you,
our lives become parched and unfruitful, and our faith, stunted and dry.

**Bless and renew our lives, we pray, so that we remain connected to you
at all times and in all places, strengthening our faith to expand
and, growing abundantly and vigorously, to bear the fruit of your mercy,
your love, and your undying life. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Laurie Strollo

ANTHEM

Spirit of Gentleness (Manley)
Here I Am, Lord (Schutte)

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:31-35

David Case (8:30)
Lizzy Conroy (10:30)

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world."

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

MESSAGE

Skunk Cabbage

Dave Rochford

* HYMN

Seek Ye First

UMH 405

***Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and His righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, Allelujah!***

***Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek, and ye shall find;
knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, Allelujah!***

COMMUNION (8:30)

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.**

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

(Service continues on next page)

**To what can the kingdom of God be compared?
A mustard seed falls where a field's been prepared,
And there, where predictable plantings should be,
There grows up a wild bush — as big as a tree!**

**God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is amazing, your ways still astound,
Just like that new life springing forth from the ground.**

**A small bit of leaven will change the whole bread:
A poor woman sees that her neighbors are fed,
A church reaches out to the youth in the town,
A man shares his faith and God's blessings abound.**

**God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is among us, Creation is blessed,
When even a few faithful lives change the rest.**

**While some look for treasure or one priceless pearl,
God's reign is the gift wise ones seek in this world.
A girl sells possessions to help those in need;
A boy chooses faithfulness rather than greed.**

**God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise:
Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives.
Your reign is a treasure that wise ones pursue;
May we seek your kingdom in all that we do.**

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Psalm 100 (Knecht)

Jerry Rich

**congregation invited to stand*

Grow — Pray — Study

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



Monday, July 27 — Matthew 13:31–35

In today's Gospel, Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a mustard seed. While many people today imagine a tiny seed growing into a magnificent tree, Jesus' first listeners would have pictured a fast-growing shrub that spread wherever it pleased. Mustard was not carefully cultivated or admired for its beauty. It was persistent, surprising, and sometimes even considered a nuisance! And that may have been exactly Jesus' point. God's Kingdom often grows in quiet and unexpected ways, challenging our assumptions about greatness. We tend to look for God in visible success or impressive accomplishments, yet God is often at work through humble acts of kindness, faithful service, and ordinary people. If we have eyes to see, God's Kingdom is already growing among us.

- Where have I been looking for God's Kingdom in extraordinary things?
- What small act of faithfulness might God be inviting me to embrace today?
- **Prayer:** God of surprising grace, open my eyes to recognize your Kingdom growing in unexpected places. Help me to faithfully join your work with humility and trust. Amen.

Tuesday, July 28 — 1 Samuel 16:1–13

When Samuel arrived at Jesse's house, he assumed God's chosen king would be the oldest, strongest, or most impressive son. Instead, God chose David, the little brother who had been forgotten in the fields. God reminded Samuel that while people look at outward appearances, the Lord looks at the heart.

God's Kingdom always challenges the values of our world. We often measure people by success, ability, or influence, but God delights in working through those who seem ordinary or unnoticed. As followers of Christ, we are called to see others through God's eyes and remember that faithfulness is far more valuable than recognition.

- Am I evaluating people by the world's standards or by God's heart?
- Who around me may need encouragement because they feel unseen or overlooked?
- **Prayer:** God who sees every heart, help me value people as you do. Teach me to recognize your work in those whom the world so often ignores. Amen.

Wednesday, July 29 — Philippians 2:1–11

Although Christ shared fully in God's nature, he chose humility instead of privilege. He emptied himself, took the form of a servant, and revealed God's love through sacrificial obedience rather than worldly power. God's greatest work came through humility.

Jesus continues to invite us to follow that same path. In a world that values recognition and success, we are called to quietly love, generously forgive, and faithfully serve. As we live with humility, we reflect the character of Christ and bear witness to God's Kingdom.

- Where is Christ inviting me to choose humility over recognition today?
- How can I reflect Christ's servant-hearted love through one simple act of service?
- **Prayer:** Lord Jesus, shape my heart to become more like yours. Free me from the desire for recognition, and teach me the joy of humble service. Amen.

Thursday, July 30 — Zechariah 4:6–10

After returning from exile and beginning the difficult work of rebuilding their community, God's people wondered whether their small efforts could accomplish anything meaningful. Through Zechariah, God reminded them not to despise a day of small beginnings. God's purposes would not be fulfilled by human strength but by God's Spirit. We also may become discouraged when results seem slow. Yet every faithful prayer, kind word, and quiet act of obedience becomes part of God's work in the world. What appears small today may become a blessing far greater than we can imagine.

- What small sign of hope has God placed before me today?
- How can I remain faithful without seeking immediate results?
- **Prayer:** Faithful God, help me never to overlook small beginnings. Teach me to trust your Spirit even when I cannot yet see the outcome. Amen.

Friday, July 31 — Luke 17:20–21

The Pharisees expected God's Kingdom to arrive with dramatic signs that everyone would recognize. Instead, Jesus told them the Kingdom was already among them. They were searching for power while failing to recognize God's presence right before them.

The same temptation remains today. We often expect God to work through extraordinary events, yet the Kingdom quietly appears wherever forgiveness overcomes resentment, generosity replaces selfishness, and hope rises in difficult times. God's presence is often closer than we realize.

- Where have I witnessed God's Kingdom quietly manifesting this week?
- How can I become more attentive to God's presence in my daily life?
- **Prayer:** God who is always near, quiet my heart so I may recognize your presence and faithfully participate in your work. Amen.

Saturday, August 1 — Micah 6:6–8

As we prepare for worship tomorrow, Micah reminds us that God is not impressed by outward displays of religion or human achievement. Instead, God calls us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. These simple practices reflect the true character of God's Kingdom.

Throughout this week, Jesus has reminded us that God's reign on earth often grows quietly and unexpectedly. Tomorrow we gather not because we have achieved greatness, but because we belong to the God who delights in working through humble and faithful people! May we come ready to worship and continue living as citizens of God's Kingdom throughout the week.

- Looking back on this week, where have I seen God's Kingdom growing in unexpected ways?
- How is God inviting me to walk more humbly in the week ahead?
- **Prayer:** Lord Christ, thank you for revealing your Kingdom through humble lives. Prepare my heart for worship and continue shaping me according to your will. Amen.

July Collection School Supplies for Grace Ministries

- Backpacks
- No. 2 pencils
- Erasers
- Wide-ruled notebooks
- Glue sticks
- Rulers
- Blunt-tipped scissors
- Washable markers
- Plastic folders
- Pencil sharpeners
- Assorted construction paper



GRACE Ministries of the United Methodist Church (graceministriesumc.org) is a faith-based community outreach program serving over 1,000 low-income families each month in Northern Virginia. GRACE provides emergency food, clothing, household items, diapers and healthcare information and screenings at seven local United Methodist Churches.

Donations can be left in the collection bins in the Narthex stairwells, as well as in our Fellowship Lobby.

Today at Trinity

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, 10:40 a.m. (ages 4 - 6th grade)
Children's Worship takes place following the Children's Message in our Fellowship Building (across the Breezeway).

Praise Band Rehearsal, 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Iglesia de Diós Worship, 6 p.m.

This Week

Monday - Friday: Stringtime Camp

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.

Thursday, 7 p.m. Youth Group at Lazy Mike's

Every Thursday in July, from 7 to 8 p.m., we're heading to Lazy Mike's for ice cream, laughter, and good old-fashioned fellowship. Lazy Mike's is located at 7049 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church. Come cool off and catch up with friends!

Friday, 5 p.m.: Stringtime Concert

You're invited to the StringTime student/faculty violin, viola, and cello camp end-of-week concert at Trinity United Methodist Church on July 31 from 5-6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Students will play original pieces by StringTime Resident Composer Daniel DiMarino (a composer for the Duolingo music app) and teachers will perform short snippets of famous pieces by your favorite classical composers. Children are encouraged to attend. Reception to follow.

Saturday, 6 p.m.: Iglesia de Diós

Coming Up

Aug. 3 - 7: Stringtime Camp

Full-day camp for children ages 7 – 12 to learn violin, viola or cello. Instruments are provided; no experience necessary. See stringtimemusic.org for more details.

Aug. 7: Stringtime Concert, 5 p.m.

You're invited to the second StringTime student/faculty violin, viola, and cello camp end-of-week concert at Trinity United Methodist Church on August 7 from 5-6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Children are encouraged to attend! Reception to follow.

Aug. 2: 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!

Aug. 15: 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.

Aug. 15: The Spire newsletter deadline

Aug. 26: Wednesday Night Suppers

Children's Choir returns! Look for more details to come.



Aug. 30: Lay Readers Potluck Lunch, 12 p.m.

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 ministry teams are assigned to host our refreshments.

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.

Did You Know?

When British forces invaded Washington during the War of 1812, they sacked and burned the US Capitol and the White House among other federal buildings. Whenever possible, the invading army destroyed or looted government documents - but the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights were *not among them*. These vital documents were spirited out of the city to Virginia, and briefly hidden in a gristmill before being transferred to a Methodist minister named John Littlejohn. An itinerant preacher since 1776, Rev. Littlejohn was also Justice and Sheriff of Loudoun County, and hid America's greatest treasures of all in the basement vault of an abandoned house in Leesburg, where they remained until their return to Washington was deemed safe. Believe it...or not!



Quick Links

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

- Prayer Requests
- Children & Youth ministry registration
- Christ House wish list
- Ushers sign-up



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 Ministers and Staff

Dave Rochford
Taehwan Roh
Harriet Latta
Jose Nuñez
Jerry Rich
Angi Oxendine
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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. If you're not yet receiving our Friday weekly events e-mail, please send us your address at info@umtrinity.org.