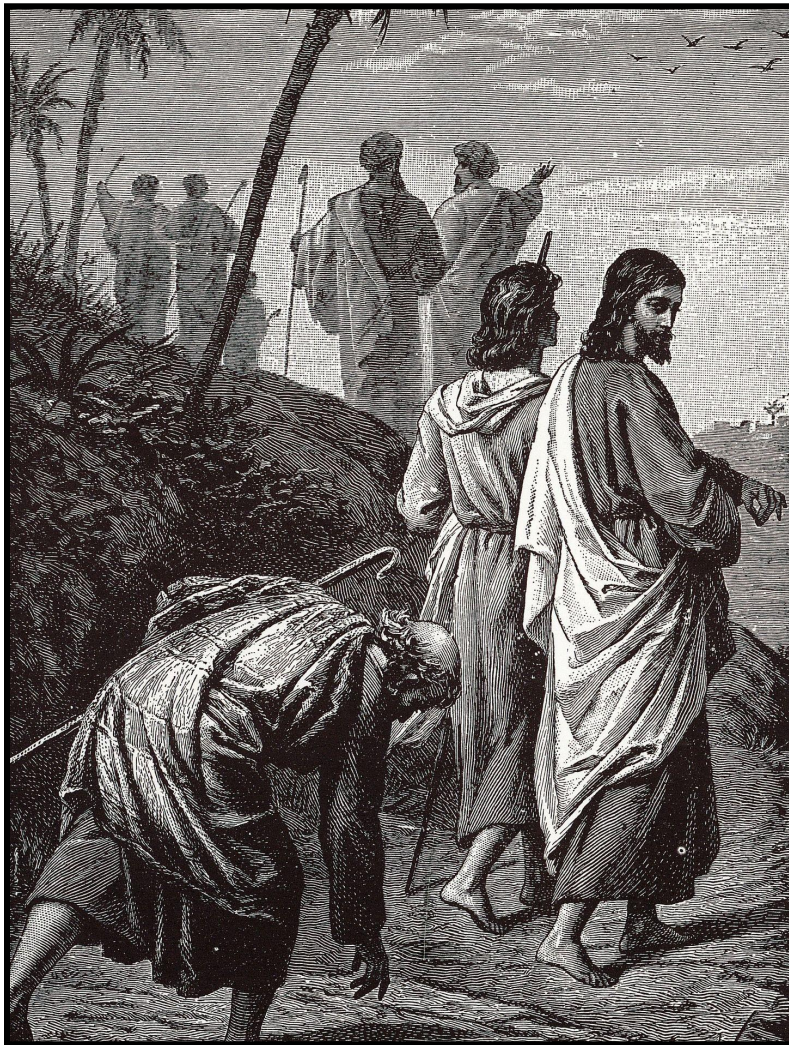


Trinity United Methodist Church



*"Crossing the Mount of Olives," William Linton
Woodcut engraving, American, 1858*

Who do you say I am?
Matthew 16:17b

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

August 30, 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

Entrée in G Minor (Handel)

Jerry Rich (10:30)

WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Romans 12

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true and proper worship.

**Let us not be conformed to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of our minds.**

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, which is good, pleasing and perfect.

**May we never be lacking in zeal, but keep our spiritual fervor,
serving the Lord.**

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Share with the Lord's people who are in need;

bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse!

Let us not be overcome by evil, but instead overcome evil with good.

* GATHERING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

UMH 159

Refrain:

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine.**

[Refrain]

**Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.**

[Refrain]

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.**

[Refrain]

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!**

[Refrain]

A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Holy God, we ask for your help, your power, your Spirit,
so that we can soften our spirits and grow each day into the image of Christ.

**We confess that we are averse to what is different,
that we find it easier to lock the doors
than to receive those who don't look the way we look,
believe as we believe, or vote the way we vote.**

We confess that we have not lived out your call that we take up our own cross;

**we have allowed ourselves to be shaped by the ways of the world,
quarrelsome and selfish, rather than by the example of your Son.**

But we believe that you have the power to turn us around,

**so we ask you to give us the vision and courage to change,
and the imagination and energy to manifest you in all we do or say. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Laurie Strollo

ANTHEM

*Make Me a Channel (Temple)
Where Love Dwells (Custer)*

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:13-17; 20-25

Pamela Danner (8:30)

Brandon White (10:30)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven."

Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

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

MESSAGE

A Generous Spirit of Love

Dave Rochford

* HYMN

Jesus Calls Us

UMH 398 (verses 1, 4, 5)

**Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
saying, "Christian, follow me!"**

**Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.**

**In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these!"**

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

* CLOSING HYMN

I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
"Take thy cross and follow, follow me."

Refrain:

Where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow,
where he leads me I will follow;
I'll go with him, with him all the way.

I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him through the garden,
I'll go with him, with him all the way.
[Refrain]

Where He Leads Me

I'll go with him through the judgment,
I'll go with him through the judgment,
I'll go with him through the judgment,
I'll go with him, with him all the way.
[Refrain]

He will give me grace and glory,
he will give me grace and glory,
he will give me grace and glory,
and go with me, with me all the way.
[Refrain]

UMH 338

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Allegro from Suite in C (Purcell)

Jerry Rich

**congregation invited to stand*

Grow — Pray — Study

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



Monday, August 31 — Luke 9:57–62

As Jesus travels toward Jerusalem, several people express a desire to follow him. Jesus responds by making clear that discipleship is more than admiration or having good intentions. Following Christ means allowing that commitment to shape our priorities, our decisions, and the direction of our lives.

It is easy for faith to become one part of an already busy life—something we express at church or when circumstances allow. Jesus invites us to something deeper. Discipleship begins when we seek after not simply how faith fits into our lives, but how our lives might be shaped by our decision to follow Christ.

- In what ways does following Christ have the greatest influence on the choices you make each day?
- Is there an area of your life that you have kept cordoned off from your faith?
- **Prayer:** Faithful God, teach me what it means to follow you with my whole life. Shape my priorities and choices so that my faith may become more than something I profess, but truly a way of life. Amen.

Tuesday, September 1 — Colossians 3:12–17

Paul describes the qualities that should characterize a Christian disciple: compassion, kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness, and above all, love. These qualities do not simply appear in us overnight, but grow as we continually allow the peace and Word of Christ to shape who we are becoming.

Christian transformation tends to happen through ordinary choices, repeated over time. We practice patience when we would otherwise react, forgiveness when resentment would be easier, and gratitude when we are tempted to focus only on what is missing. Through such practices, God gradually forms in us a life that more clearly reflects Christ.

- Which quality in this passage do you most need God to cultivate in you right now?
- What ordinary practice might help that attribute become more deeply rooted in your life?
- **Prayer:** Transforming God, continue your work within me. Form in me the character of Christ, so that my words, choices, and relationships may increasingly reflect your love. Amen.

Wednesday, September 2 — 1 Corinthians 9:24–27

Paul famously compares the life of faith to an athlete training for a race. Athletes of course do not prepare only when they feel motivated, but condition themselves for the journey ahead. In the same way, discipleship involves disciplines that help us remain attentive and faithful to God.

Prayer, reading Scripture, worship, generous giving and service are not ways to God's love, but means to make room for divine Grace to shape us. These disciplines can seem ordinary and repetitive, but over time these practices prepare us to respond faithfully when love requires patience, courage, sacrifice, or action.

- Which spiritual discipline has helped shape your faith most deeply over time?
- What practice might you need to begin, renew, or approach with greater intention?
- **Prayer:** Gracious God, grant me patience and discipline as I grow in faith. Through the practices of discipleship, prepare my heart and life to respond faithfully wherever you lead. Amen.

Thursday, September 3 — Philippians 2:1–8

Paul points to Jesus as the clearest picture of a life shaped by self-giving love. Jesus did not cling to privilege or place himself above others, but chose the way of humility and gave himself up for the sake of the world. Paul then calls the Church to that same mind and spirit.

Most of us will not be asked to make one dramatic sacrifice. More often, self-giving love appears in smaller choices: giving our time, listening when we would rather speak, setting aside our own preference, or making room for another person's needs. These choices may seem small, but they train us to love in the way of Christ.

- When has loving someone required you to give up something you valued—time, comfort, preference, or recognition?
- Where might God be inviting you to practice self-giving love in an ordinary situation this week?
- **Prayer:** Self-giving God, free me from the need to put myself first. Give me the humility of Jesus and teach me to love generously through the choices I make this day. Amen.

Friday, September 4 — Matthew 5:13–16

Jesus tells his disciples that they are “the salt of the earth and the light of the world.” Salt affects what surrounds it, and light reaches to the farthest places. In the same way, the faith being formed within us is never intended to remain only within us! A life shaped by Christ inevitably touches other lives.

That influence does not always come through dramatic acts or persuasive words. Kindness can change the atmosphere of a room. Courage can help another person speak. Generosity can inspire generosity in someone else. When the love of Christ becomes visible in the way we live, its influence can travel farther than we may ever realize.

- Who has influenced your faith through the way they lived rather than simply through what they said?
- What might people around you experience differently because of the way you choose to live your faith?
- **Prayer:** God of Light, let the work you are doing within me become a blessing to others. May my words, choices, and actions reflect your love and move others toward hope, compassion, and faith. Amen.

Saturday, September 5 — Acts 11:19–26

After persecution scattered the believers from Jerusalem, some traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch. What began in one place did not remain there. Ordinary people carried the Good News with them, new converts came to faith, and new communities began to grow. It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called “Christians” – which meant “little Christs.”

The life of discipleship has always had this outward movement. We are formed by Christ not only for our own spiritual growth, but so that God's Grace may reach others through us. As we've observed, we may never know how far a word of encouragement or a faithful example will travel. But faith becomes fruitful when what God has planted within us is allowed to spread beyond us.

- Where do you see an opportunity for your faith to send encouragement, hope, or love beyond your “Jerusalem” – your usual routines and places?
- If our church were to live more intentionally “outward,” who in our community might experience God's transforming love through us?
- **Prayer:** O God who sends, take the faith you are forming within us and give it wings and purpose. Give us the courage to share your love in ways that welcome, serve, and bless others, so that your Grace may spread far and wide, as your Kingdom on earth. Amen.

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, jrich@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).

Lay Readers Potluck Lunch, 11:30 a.m.

Iglesia de Diós Worship, 6 p.m.

This Week

Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.: Fall Pastors' Bible Study: Set Free to Live Free!

Join Pastor Dave on Tuesdays beginning **September 1**, from **10:30 to 11:45 a.m.**, in the **Church Library** or via **Zoom**, for a six-week study of Paul's Letter to the Galatians. Together, we'll explore what it means to be truly free, how to live faithfully, and why this early New Testament letter remains relevant today. No book is required, just bring your Bible! Expect thoughtful discussion, encouragement, and fresh insight into the Christian faith. **Questions?** Contact Pastor Dave at drochford@umtrinity.org.

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, 6:30 p.m.: Executive Council Meeting

Saturday, 10 a.m. Praise Band Rehearsal

6 p.m.: Iglesia de Diós

Coming Up

Sept. 6: 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!

Sept. 8: Book Chat

All are welcome to join us on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *Walk Ride Paddle: A Life Outside* by Tim Kaine.

Sept. 12: Music Ministries Concert: A Time of New Beginnings

Trinity's Music Ministry will present its annual concert on Saturday, September 12, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The

theme is "New Beginnings," to celebrate our new Praise Band! Vocal soloists Philip Keirstead, Adelaide Loving, Brendon O'Donnell, Maggie Rabe, Chris Steubner, and Catherine Wethington will be joined by Trinity's Chancel Choir, Handbell Ensemble, Praise Band and selected soloists on alto sax, clarinet, and flute; Music Director Jerry Rich will accompany. We'll also hear about our newest group: the return of the Trinity's Children's Choir!

September 16: Wednesday Night Dinner

All are invited to join us for **Wednesday Night Suppers**, beginning **September 16 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.**

in **Langley Hall**. Enjoy a prepared meal, fellowship with our church family, and a relaxed discussion on topics such as wellness, coping with anxiety, and conflict resolution. At 6:30 p.m., children will depart for **Children's Choir** while adults continue conversation and connection. Those with special dietary needs are welcome to bring appropriate food and join us. We hope this intergenerational gathering will be a blessing to all! For more information, contact **Pastor Dave**.



September 26: Anacostia Waterway Clean-Up

Held at Anacostia Park from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Help care for God's earth and #seathechange with Ocean Conservancy and the Trinity Youth Group. Registration is free (use QR code on page 7), waivers may be signed in advance or upon arrival. Gloves, trash bags, and trash pickers are available onsite. Driving/carpooling is recommended. Shuttle buses from Potomac Ave Station are available (blue, orange, & silver lines). For more details contact Catherine umtrinityyouth@gmail.com



October 17: Share New Beginnings

We'll work together with SHARE of McLean to furnish a new home for an unhoused local family. More details will be available as we receive them, but your help is needed for this church-wide undertaking

Thou Shalt Not...Fall Prey to Scammers!

As you will likely have heard, financial scammers are increasingly inventive and adaptive. They surf small-business and church websites for contact info, so you may receive an email or text message claiming to be from an acquaintance (or even your Pastor!), asking you to purchase gift cards or digital currency. Thieves ask for gift cards precisely because they are nonrefundable, and may seek payments in Bitcoin and other digital currencies for the same reason. Trinity's pastors will *never* ask you for these! Do not reply to such messages.

A telltale sign of a scam is the use of pressure to induce any scammers will frequently use the threat of financial loss or v pose a "solution." The scammer may claim to be from Micro bank, the IRS or even a local law enforcement agency, and phone at all costs - while walking you through how to make : to give them your banking data. It is best *a/ways* to presume are scams and to hang up on them. If you are concerned, y purported company or agency on your own.

The FTC has a fine [article](#) about how to identify these scams and report them to authorities. Remember, we called to be open-handedly generous as followers of Jesus – but not marks or victims!

Ready to Assist in Nepal/China

Flash Flooding: UMCOR

We join in prayer for those impacted by devastating flash floods along the border of Nepal and China. We pray especially for the families of the hundreds who have died or remain missing, and for those who have lost homes and livelihoods.



As first responders assist survivors and search for the missing, UMCOR will be on-site in support of local partner United Mission Nepal, as well as other relief organizations in the region. You may click this link if you would like to give in support of these efforts: **please visit** bit.ly/umcoridr



Covenant Bible Study: A Closer Walk with God

This fall, Trinity is launching **Covenant Bible Study**, a new small-group opportunity for those who want to deepen their understanding of Scripture, grow in faith, and discern how God may be calling them to serve and lead. Participants will journey together through a series of study modules over several months, building community and encouraging one another in faith. Meeting day and time will be determined based on participants' availability. Regular attendance is encouraged as possible. To learn more or express interest, contact **Pastor Taehwan** at troh@umtrinity.org or **703-356-3312**. Please respond by **September 6**.

Trinity Children's Choir

Children in **grades 1-6** are invited to join the new **Trinity Children's Choir**, beginning **Wednesday, September 16**. Following the Wednesday Night Supper in Langley Hall, choir members will gather at 6:30 for a **30-to 40-minute rehearsal** in the choir room downstairs, followed by supervised playground time.



Led by **Adelaide Loving**, a former Trinity Children's Choir member with experience directing choirs and teaching ensembles through the Children's Chorus of Washington, the ministry seeks to nurture both musical growth and faith development in a fun and supportive environment.

Families interested in participating should contact **Adelaide Loving** at adeloving11@gmail.com. Children outside the designated age range may be considered upon request. All are welcome to come and help launch this exciting new ministry for Trinity's young singers!

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.

Quick Links

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

- Prayer Requests
- Anacostia Waterway Clean-Up
- Book Chat
- Children & Youth Registration
- Christ House wishlist
- Ushers sign-up



Did You Know?



...that something beautiful has been unfolding, stroke by stroke, down in our Preschool wing? For all of us who saw a starkly lit, very loooong basement hallway, one of our disciples saw a *canvas*. In consultation with our Preschool and the Trustees, over the past several weeks Gillian Grunenfelder undertook to conceive, design, outline and paint a large mural depicting *jungle animals of the world*. As you can see, her work has not only brightened the space, but made the entryway come alive with zoomorphic magic and mystery!

Gillian, who begins her Masters in Fine Arts studies at American University this week, can often be found ushering at our 10:30 service - so make sure to thank her for her amazingly generous way of offering her time and talents to our Church for the glory of God!

And do visit the basement of the Langley building to see her work sometime. (And if *you* are a painter, graphic artist, photographer, coms professional, carpenter, web designer, space-organizer or whatever creative type we forgot to name, we'd love to hear from you! Just speak to one of our Pastors to be part of *what's new at Trinity UMC!*)

Trinity Church Ministers and 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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