Trinity United Methodist Church



The Servant Hiding His One Talent in a Pit, Harmen Jansz. Muller
Engraving, c. 1567–1570

"So I was afraid,
and I went
and hid your talent in the ground."

Matthew 25:25

1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. | McLean, VA 22101
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November 15, 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 *Christ, You Make Us Holy* (Telemann) Jerry Rich

WELCOME

* GREETING THE SAINTS *from Psalm 123, Matthew 5*

Raise your eyes to the God of heaven and earth.
We raise our hearts and voices with songs of praise.
Awaken your mind to the mysteries of God.
We open ourselves to listen and learn in new ways.
Notice your blessings and gifts, miraculously given by God.
We offer our lives and gifts to bless and grow God's love in the world.

* GATHERING HYMN *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* UMH 89

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward,
in the triumph song of life.

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you have surrounded us with your love and faithfulness. Yet we confess that we do not always recognize your presence in our daily lives.
We become distracted by our worries and responsibilities. Forgive us when we forget to seek your wisdom and guidance.
You call us to love one another as you have loved us. Yet we often place our own needs and concerns before those of others.
Forgive us when we fail to listen, show kindness, or offer compassion. Teach us to see others through your eyes of love.
You continue to invite us into a deeper relationship with you. Yet we sometimes allow the busyness of life to draw our hearts away from you.
Renew our hearts and strengthen our faith. Help us walk more closely with you and reflect your love in all we do. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Dave Rochford

ANTHEM *All Who Love and Serve Your City* (Routley) Brendon O'Donnell (8:30)
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (Thomerson-Hayes) Chancel Choir (10:30)

READING OF THE EPISTLES Matthew 25:14-30 Lizzy Conroy (8:30)
Chris Stuebner (10:30)

""Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained

two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. " 'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

MESSAGE *The One Who Lost Nothing* Taehwan Roh

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.

HOLY 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.*

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 *Freely, Freely* UMH 389

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,
I've been born again in Jesus' name,
And in Jesus' name I come to you,
to share his love as he told me to.

All power is given in Jesus' name,
in earth and heaven in Jesus' name,
And in Jesus' name I come to you,
to share his power as he told me to. *[Refrain]*

Refrain:
He said, 'freely, freely, you have received
freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
others will know that I live.

***** BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE *Festivo* (How) Jerry Rich

Walking with God This Week

This week's daily devotional is available at https://umtrinity.org/devotions

Monday, November 16 — Matthew 25:14–30

The third servant in Jesus' parable did not steal his master's money or waste it. He carefully protected what had been entrusted to him and returned the full amount. Yet he was the one who received the master's rebuke. His failure was not simply a matter of losing an opportunity to make more money. His fear shaped the way he understood his master and what he believed was expected of him.

Sometimes we approach our relationship with God in a similar way. We become so concerned about making mistakes that we hesitate to act at all. But God's grace is not given to us merely to be kept safe. It invites us into a life of trust, faithfulness, and participation in God's kingdom. Faithfulness involves more than avoiding failure; it means responding to the grace we have received.

- What fears sometimes keep you from responding to God's invitation?
- How might trusting God's grace change the way you approach your responsibilities?
- **Prayer:** Gracious God, free me from the fear that keeps me from acting in faith. Help me trust your grace and respond to your invitation with courage and joy. Amen.

Tuesday, November 17 — Ephesians 2:4–10

We often measure our lives by what we accomplish. Whether at work, at home, or even in church, it can be easy to believe that our value depends on how much we contribute. Over time, we may begin to approach our relationship with God in the same way, as though we must first prove ourselves worthy of God's love.

Paul reminds us that salvation is a gift of grace, not something we earn through our achievements. Yet he also tells us that we are created in Christ Jesus for good works. These two truths belong together! We do not serve others in order to earn God's acceptance, but, because God has already welcomed us through grace, we are free to live in ways that reflect that gift. Our actions become a response to God's love rather than an attempt to deserve it.

- Where do you feel pressure to prove your worth through accomplishments?
- How might remembering God's grace change your motivation for serving others?
- **Prayer:** Loving God, thank you for welcoming me through grace rather than my achievements. Help me live with gratitude and let my actions reflect the love I have already received. Amen.

Wednesday, November 18 — 1 John 4:16–21

Fear can be a powerful influence on our decisions. We may avoid difficult conversations, hesitate to help someone, or remain silent when we should speak because we are worried about what might happen. Sometimes our fear comes from imagining how others will respond. At other times, it comes from the possibility of making a mistake.

John reminds us that God's love is the foundation of our relationship with God. Perfect love casts out fear, not because every difficulty disappears, but because we no longer have to live as though fear has the final word. When we know ourselves to be loved by God, we can begin to approach others with greater openness and courage. The love we receive becomes the love we are called to share.

- What fear has been influencing your choices or relationships recently?
- How might confidence in God's love help you respond differently?
- **Prayer:** God of love, remind me that your love is greater than my fears. Give me courage to love others sincerely, even when doing so requires trust and vulnerability. Amen.

Thursday, November 19 — Isaiah 55:1–5

In a world where almost everything has a price, Isaiah's invitation sounds surprising. Those who have no money are invited to come, buy, and eat. The invitation reminds us that God's generosity does not operate according to the usual rules of exchange. What God offers cannot be purchased through our efforts or earned by proving ourselves to be deserving.

Yet the invitation still calls for a response. Those who are thirsty are invited to come, listen, and receive what God freely provides. Grace is not a reward waiting at the end of our accomplishments, but a gift that opens the way to a new kind of life. When we recognize how generously God has provided for us, gratitude can begin to shape how we use our time, resources, and opportunities.

- Where have you experienced God's generosity without having earned it?
- How might gratitude for God's gifts influence the way you live today?
- **Prayer:** Generous God, thank you for offering what I could never earn on my own. Open my heart to receive your gifts with gratitude and respond through a life of generosity. Amen.

Friday, November 20 — Matthew 25:31–40

When Jesus describes the final judgment, he speaks about ordinary acts of compassion. Feeding someone who is hungry, welcoming a stranger, and visiting those who are sick or imprisoned may not seem like extraordinary achievements. Yet Jesus identifies these acts of care with service offered to him. The life of God's kingdom becomes visible through the way we treat people in need.

We sometimes imagine that responding to God's calling requires something dramatic or impressive. But opportunities to share God's grace often appear in familiar places and ordinary relationships. A person who feels overlooked may need our attention. Someone carrying a heavy burden may need practical help. We do not have to wait until we can accomplish something great! We can begin by recognizing the people God has placed before us.

- Who around you might be in need of care, attention, or encouragement?
- What practical act of love could you offer someone today?
- **Prayer:** Lord Jesus, open my eyes to those who need compassion. Help me recognize opportunities to serve you through simple acts of kindness, generosity, and love. Amen.

Saturday, November 21 — Philippians 2:1–11

Our daily lives offer countless opportunities to choose between protecting our own interests and caring for others. Often those choices are small: listening patiently, offering help without being asked, or setting aside our preferences for someone else's sake. Such actions may go unnoticed, but they reveal something important about the kind of life we are learning to live.

Paul points us to Jesus Christ, who did not cling to his status but humbled himself and took the form of a servant. Christ's example reminds us that life in God's kingdom is not defined by holding tightly to what we possess. It is expressed through love that gives itself for others. As we prepare to worship again, we can remember that the grace we have received is meant to shape not only what we believe but also how we live.

- Where might you be holding too tightly to your own comfort or interests?
- How can you reflect Christ's humility and love in the coming week?
- **Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ, teach me to follow your example of humility and love. Help me use what you have given me to serve others and reflect the joy of your kingdom. Amen.

"A little touch of Italy in McLean"

Est. 1977

Rocco's

Italian Restaurant

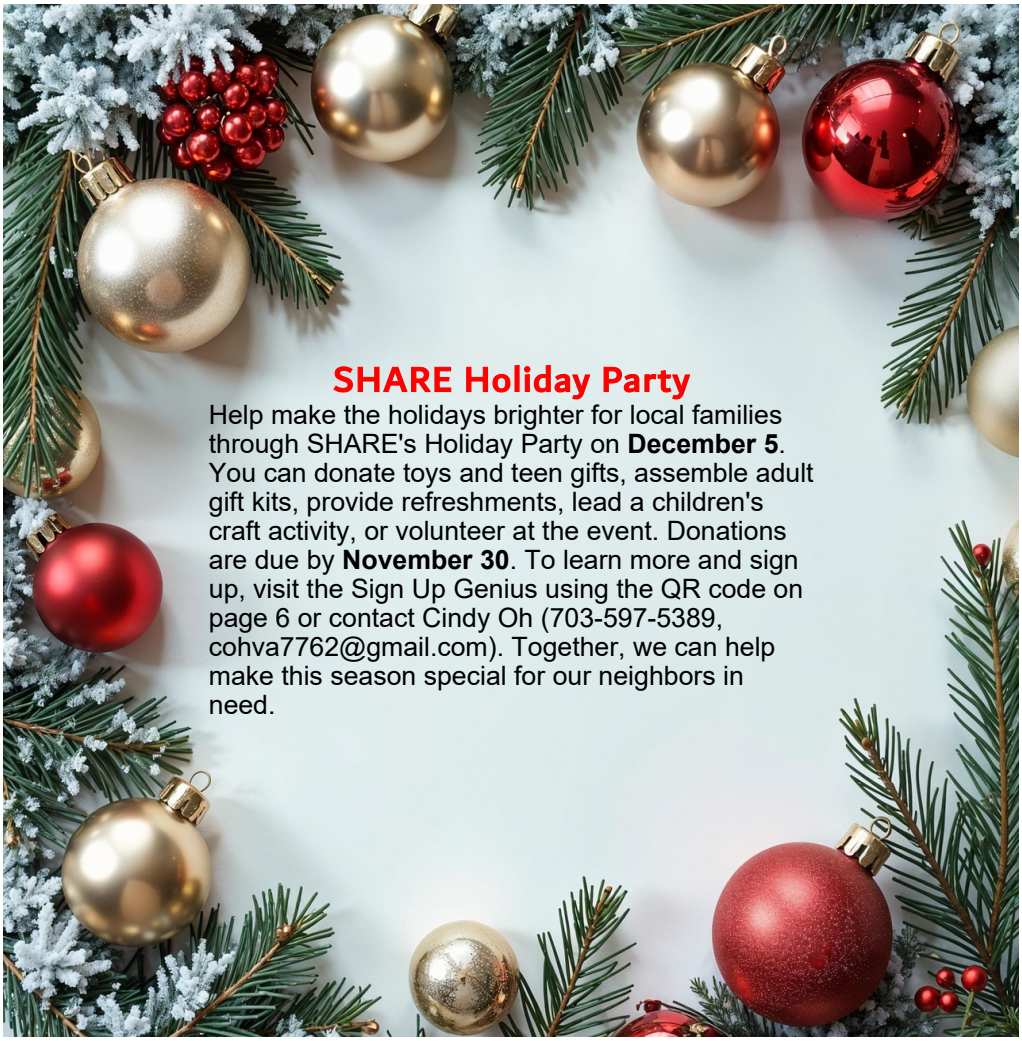
Calling All TUMC Ladies

You are cheerfully invited to take part in an **informal dinner fellowship** for all women of TUMC. The HAH ("Hot Takes and Hallelujahs") Group periodically convenes for food and fellowship at local restaurants: our next gathering will be **Friday, November 20 at 5:30 p.m**., at **Rocco's**, McLean. With any questions, contact the church office at 703-356-3312; hope to see you there!

Almost Time for Christmas Tree Sales!



After our delightful Thanksgiving Church Family Potluck this Sunday at 11:40 a.m., stay a few minutes for an orientation to *How to Work the Christmas Tree Lot*. Catherine Wethington will lead us through keenly interesting topics like "How to Tie a Tree That Won't Fall Off" and "Perfecting the 'There Is No Bad Side' Spin." Please stay and learn how to help out this year; all proceeds benefit our Youth Fellowship and we are so grateful for your taking part!



SHARE Holiday Party

Help make the holidays brighter for local families through SHARE's Holiday Party on **December 5**. You can donate toys and teen gifts, assemble adult gift kits, provide refreshments, lead a children's craft activity, or volunteer at the event. Donations are due by **November 30**. To learn more and sign up, visit the Sign Up Genius using the QR code on page 6 or contact Cindy Oh (703-597-5389, cohva7762@gmail.com). Together, we can help make this season special for our neighbors in need.

Today at Trinity

Thanksgiving Potluck Lunch, 11:40 a.m.
Bring your favorite dish to enjoy a holiday meal with your church family. The turkey will be provided, but donations are requested to help cover the cost. (Suggested amount of $10 per person or $25 per family). Lunch will begin at 11:40 a.m. in Langley Hall, and followed by an option of a Christmas Tree Lot training for all our elves (see p. 4).

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. **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**

This Week

MONDAY
7 p.m. **Covenant Bible Study**
7:30 p.m. **Boy Scout Troop 869**

TUESDAY
10:30 a.m. **Fall Pastors' Bible Study: Teach Us to Pray!**
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 expressions of prayer in both Testaments as well as real-life examples that help us practice the Lord's Prayer daily. Meets in the Library and via Zoom. Contact Pastor Dave, drochford@umtrinity.org, to learn more.
7 p.m. **Boy Scout Troop 1130**
7 p.m. **Langley Residential Support Services**
7 p.m. **Staff - Parish Relations Committee Meeting**

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** (see adjacent column)
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.
6:30 p.m. **Cub Scout Dens 6**

THURSDAY
6:30 p.m. **Cub Scout Pack 1127**

FRIDAY
5:30 p.m. **Hot Takes and Hallelujahs Group**
An **informal dinner fellowship** for all women of TUMC. We will meet at Rocco's., McLean. With any questions, contact the church office at 703-356-3312; hope to see you there!

SATURDAY
10 a.m. **Christ House Meal Mission**
6 p.m. **Iglesia de Diós**

Coming Up

Nov. 1 – 30: Stone Soup Food Drive!

Join Trinity's Children's Ministry and Preschool in supporting SHARE of McLean through our Stone Soup Food Drive. Inspired by the beloved folktale where everyone contributes a little to create a feast for all, we're collecting nonperishable food items throughout November to help neighbors facing food insecurity. Drop donations in collection boxes in the Fellowship Lobby. Together, our small gifts can make a big difference for local families.

SHARE's current most needed items:

- ☆ Canned fish
- ☆ Canned fruit / Fruit cups
- ☆ Granola bars
- ☆ Pasta & Sauce (plastic containers)
- ☆ Tomato products (diced, sauce, whole)
- ☆ Broth
- ☆ Canned vegetables
- ☆ Beans

And more… use the QR code on page 6 to view the full list.

Nov. 22: Hanging of the Greens

Nov 24: Christmas Trees Arrive, 8 a.m.

Nov. 26-27 Office Closed for Thanksgiving

Nov. 27: Christmas Tree Sales Begin

Dec. 6: Martha's Table Snack Packaging

Dec. 8: Trinity Ladies' Cookie Exchange

All women of Trinity are invited to the Loving residence for our annual cookie exchange on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. Please bring 2 dozen cookies and an extra container. RSVP: Jamie Loving (jamie.loving@verizon.net) for the address.

SUPPER PROGRAM

Wednesday • 6 p.m.



Come join us this Wednesday for dinner and an engaging discussion with **Gail Cardwell** and **Andrea Hager** as they present ***"The Power of Praying Continuously."*** Gail will lead a conversation on how prayer calms our fears, deepens our relationship with God, and helps us discern God's will in our lives. Andrea will guide us in practices that engage our senses and keep us connected to God, even during life's busiest seasons. Discussion starts at 6:30!

Our 6 p.m. dinner will feature homemade chicken pot pie. (Attendees are also welcome to bring a side or dessert to help round out our offering each week.) Hope to have you with us!

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's Most Needed Items
† Thanksgiving Potluck
† Christmas Tree Lot Volunteers
† Children & Youth ministry registration
† Christ House wish list
† Ushers sign-up, Book Chat

agree to disagree

Did You Know?

While John Wesley, the 18th century Anglican minister who launched the Methodist Revival, is credited with a great many sermons, hymns, books and religious innovations, he appears to have orginated one common figure of speech to modern discourse.

The story: Wesley had a friend and travelling companion named George Whitfield, who was a prominent evangelist in his own right on both sides of the Atlantic. The two often engaged in heated theological disputes over free Grace and human will that tested the mettle of their friendship. But when he offered the memorial sermon on Whitfield's death in 1770, Wesley mused: "There are many doctrines of a less essential nature. (...) In these, we may think and let think; we may 'agree to disagree.' But, meantime, let us hold fast the essentials." This would appear to be the first documented use of the phrase **"agree to disagree,"** so often used today. It appears Wesley and Whitfield each used the term to mean: sticking to your convictions while remaining in meaningful connection with someone - even when you do not agree with them.

Today that spirit very much remains within the Methodist tradition! In divisive seasons, we 'think and let think' and 'agree to disagree,' and practice our faith "with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

Believe it or not! (And if not, well, agree to disagree.)

Thank you to all who helped make yesterday's Good Works Day a success. As church family we worked together to complete many repair, cleaning and replacement projects to keep our church property welcoming. It could not have been done without you - the window cleaners, food preparers, trash haulers, etc.

Trinity Church Staff

Harriet Latta	Office Manager	hlatta@umtrinity.org
Adelaide Loving	Director of Children's Choir	adeloving11@gmail.com
Jose Nuñez	Facilities Manager	703-356-3312
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Dave Rochford	Lead Pastor	drochford@umtrinity.org
Taehwan Roh	Associate Pastor	troh@umtrinity.org
Angi Oxendine	Preschool Director	angio.trinitypreschool@gmail.com
Laurie Strollo	Director of Children's Ministry	lstrollo@umtrinity.org
Catherine Wethington	Director of Youth Ministry	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.