



Trinity United Methodist Church



Two or Three Gathered in My Name, James Tissot
Water color over graphite, French, c. 1888

*For where two or three gathered in my name,
there I am with them.*

Matthew 18:20

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

September 6, 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

Meditation on NETTLETON (Callahan)

Jerry Rich

WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Matthew 14

Christ comes for us in sunshine and in the deep of night.

Welcome the presence of Christ.

We welcome you, O Christ! Blessed be your name!

Christ reaches out to us in the stillness of peace and in the raging of the storm.

Nothing overwhelms our Savior;

nothing overcomes his faithfulness to us.

Our hope and trust are in you, O Lord! Blessed be your name!

* GATHERING HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

UMH 545, vs. 1, 2, 4

The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till, with the vision glorious,
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

A PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you created us for life together and call us to love one another,
even when relationships are difficult.

**We confess that love is not always easy. We carry hurts, misunderstandings,
and words we wish we could take back.**

You meet us with patience and grace, and invite us to offer that same grace to one another.

**Help us to listen more deeply, to speak with kindness and truth,
and to make room for understanding.**

You do not abandon us when relationships become difficult, but continue to lead us in the way of Christ.

**Forgive what needs to be forgiven, heal what has been wounded, and renew us by your grace.
Shape our life together by the love of Christ, and lead us in the way of your peace. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Laurie Strollo

ANTHEM

Christians We Have Met to Worship (Atkins)
Psalm 91 (Allen)

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:15-20

Tom Long (8:30)

Charlie White (10:30)

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

MESSAGE

Where Two or Three Are Gathered

Taehwan Roh

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 vine.

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 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 require packeted 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 this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Jesus, United by Thy Grace

UMH 561, vs. 1, 3, 4, 6

**Jesus, united by thy grace
and each to each endeared,
with confidence we seek thy face
and know our prayer is heard.**

**Touched by the lodestone of thy love,
let all our hearts agree,
and ever toward each other move,
and ever move toward thee.**

**Up unto thee, our living Head,
let us in all things grow;
till thou hast made us free indeed
and spotless here below.**

**This is the bond of perfectness,
thy spotless charity;
O let us, still we pray, possess
the mind that was in thee.**

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Sonata in C (Gallol)

Jerry Rich

**congregation invited to stand*



Grow — Pray — Study

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

Monday, September 7 - Genesis 33:1-11

After years of separation, Jacob finally sees Esau approaching. Their last encounter had ended with deception, anger, and Jacob fleeing for his life. Jacob cannot know how Esau will respond, but instead of running away again, he moves toward his brother. What follows is something Jacob may

never have expected: Esau runs to meet him, embraces him, and weeps with him.

Reconciliation does not always end this way, and we cannot control how another person will respond. But Jacob's story reminds us that sometimes the first faithful step is simply turning toward a relationship we have been

avoiding. We may not know what will happen when we take that step, but healing cannot begin if we remain forever at a distance.

- Is there a relationship in your life where distance has become easier than taking a step toward the other person?
- What might one faithful and appropriate step toward that relationship look like?
- **Prayer:** Gracious God, give me wisdom and courage in the relationships that are difficult for me. Help me know when and how to take a faithful step toward healing, and guide me with your Grace along the way. Amen.

Tuesday, September 8 - James 1:19-27

James tells the church, "Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger." These words are especially challenging when we believe we have been misunderstood or hurt. In those moments, we often prepare what we want to say before we have truly heard what the other person is saying. Listening does not mean that we must agree with everything we hear or ignore what is wrong. It means making enough room to hear another person before deciding that we already understand them. Sometimes reconciliation begins not with finding better words to say, but with learning to listen differently.

- When conflict arises, which comes more naturally to you: listening, explaining, defending, or withdrawing?
- What might change in one of your relationships if you listened with the intention of understanding rather than responding?
- **Prayer:** Patient God, make me quick to listen and slow to anger. Give me the humility to hear others carefully and the wisdom to speak in ways that reflect your Love. Amen.

Wednesday, September 9 - 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Paul describes reconciliation as something that begins with God. In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, and then entrusted to us the "ministry of reconciliation." Reconciliation, therefore, is more than a useful way to maintain peaceful relationships. It grows out of the Grace we ourselves have received from God.

This changes the way we approach broken relationships. We do not seek reconciliation because we are always right, or because every relationship can easily be repaired. We seek it because we belong to the God who moves toward what is broken and works to make things new. As people reconciled to God, we are invited to become participants in that same work.

- How has experiencing God's Grace changed the way you see your own failures and the failures of others?
- What might it mean for you to participate in God's "ministry of reconciliation" in your everyday life?
- **Prayer:** Reconciling God, thank you for meeting me with Grace in Jesus Christ. Let the reconciliation I have received from you shape the way I approach others, and use my life as an instrument of your healing and peace. Amen.

Thursday, September 10 - Acts 15:1-21

The early church was not a community without disagreement. In Acts 15, a serious conflict arises over whether Gentile believers must follow the law of Moses in order to belong fully to the community. Paul and Barnabas disagree sharply with others, and eventually the church gathers in Jerusalem to consider the question together.

What follows is not a picture of instant agreement. People speak, others listen, experiences are shared, Scripture is considered, and the community seeks a faithful way forward. Christian community does not require us to avoid difficult questions or pretend that differences do not exist. Sometimes

faithfulness means making room for one another as we listen, discern, and seek God's direction together.

- How do you usually respond when someone within your community sees an important issue differently from you?
- What helps a community move from simply defending different positions toward discerning together?
- **Prayer:** God of Wisdom, be present when differences and disagreements arise among us. Teach us to listen with humility, speak with Grace, and seek your will together as the Body of Christ. Amen.

Friday, September 11 - Genesis 50:15-21

After their father's death, Joseph's brothers become afraid that Joseph may finally take revenge for what they did to him. Joseph does not pretend that the past was harmless. He tells them plainly, "Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good." Yet he refuses to allow their wrongdoing to determine what he will do next.

Forgiveness does not require us to call what was wrong right or to erase the pain of the past. It means refusing to let that wrong have the final word over our lives and relationships. Sometimes forgiveness can lead to renewed relationship; sometimes wisdom requires boundaries. But in either case, forgiveness opens the possibility that the future does not have to remain imprisoned by what happened in the past.

- Is there a past hurt that still has significant influence over the way you think, respond, or relate to someone?
- What might forgiveness mean in that situation without denying the truth of what happened?
- **Prayer:** Merciful God, meet me in the places where forgiveness is difficult. Give me Grace to face the truth without being ruled by resentment, and lead me toward the freedom and healing you desire. Amen.

Saturday, September 12 - Ephesians 4:25-32

Paul describes a community in which faith becomes visible through everyday relationships. Speak truthfully. Do not allow anger to become destructive. Let your words give Grace to those who hear. Be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving. These are not simply instructions for avoiding conflict; they describe the kind of people Christ is forming us to become. A healthy Christian community is not one where no one ever disagrees or hurts another person. It is a community that learns what to do when those things happen. We tell the truth with love, listen with humility, seek forgiveness, and refuse to give up too quickly on one another. Through these ordinary practices of Grace, our life together can become a place where the presence of Christ is made visible.

- Which instruction in this passage would most strengthen the way you relate to others right now?
- What could our church practice more intentionally to become a community where truth, Grace, forgiveness, and love shape our life together?
- **Prayer:** God of Grace, shape the way we live with one another. Let our words give Grace, our relationships reflect your Love, and our life together reveal the presence of Christ among us. Amen.

Today at Trinity

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!

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)

Meets following the Children's Message in our Fellowship Building (across the Breezeway).

Praise Band Rehearsal, 2 p.m.

Iglesia de Diós Worship, 6 p.m.

This Week

Monday: Office Closed for Labor Day

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

Join Pastor Dave on Tuesdays 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.

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. 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. For more information and the Zoom link, please use the QR code on page 7.

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.

Saturday, 4 p.m.: Music Ministries Concert: A Time of New Beginnings

This annual concert theme, "New Beginnings," celebrates our new Praise Band! Vocal and instrumental soloists will be joined by Trinity's Chancel Choir, Handbell Ensemble, Praise Band; Music Director Jerry Rich will accompany. We'll also hear about our newest group: the return of the Trinity's Children's Choir!



Saturday, 6 p.m.: Iglesia de Diós

Coming Up



September 13: Bounce Back Sunday

Immediately following the 10:30 a.m. church service, we will have a church picnic featuring hot dogs and hamburgers. Please feel free to bring a side or desert to share. The hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages will be provided. In addition to the great meal and fellowship, there will be a moon bounce for children, lawn games for children of all ages, and an opportunity to learn more about the various ministries of the church. We can't wait to see you!

September 16: Wednesday Night Dinner

All are invited to join us for Wednesday Night Suppers beginning September 16 from 6–7:30 p.m. in Langley Hall.

Enjoy a prepared meal, fellowship, and relaxed discussion on topics like wellness, anxiety, and conflict resolution. Children leave for Choir at 6:30 while adults continue conversation. Those with dietary needs may bring their own food. All ages are welcome. For details, contact Pastor Dave.



September 26: Anacostia Waterway Clean-Up

At Anacostia Park from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., help care for God's earth 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

Trinity has agreed to 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 extraordinarily worthy, church-wide undertaking!



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 today.

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!

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 anxiety. Telephone scammers will frequently use the threat of financial loss or victimization, then pose a "solution." The scammer may claim to be from Microsoft, Amazon, a bank, the IRS or even a local law enforcement agency, and will keep you on the phone at all costs - while walking you through how to make a payment online or to give them your banking data. It is best *always* to presume that such contacts are scams and to hang up on them. If you are concerned, you may then call the purported company or agency on your own.

The FTC has a fine [article](#) (link in E-News) 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, UMCOR is on-site in support of local partner United Mission Nepal, as well as other relief organizations in the region. You may visit this link if you would like to give in support of these efforts: **please visit bit.ly/umcoridr**

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 began her Masters in Fine Arts studies at American University of late, 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
Director of Children's Ministry

drochford@umtrinity.org
troh@umtrinity.org
hlatta@umtrinity.org
703-356-3312
jrich@potomacschool.org
angio.trinitypreschool@gmail.com
umtrinityyouth@gmail.com
lstrollo@umtrinity.org

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