



*"Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another...
if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us."*

~ 1 John 4:11-12

Trinity United Methodist Church
Alexandria, Virginia

Fall Kick-Off Sunday
September 8, 2019

Eleven o'clock in the morning



CONNECTING
GROWING
SERVING
CELEBRATING

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

**Please stand in body and/or spirit.*

*Out of reverence for God and respect for fellow worshipers, please silence all electronic devices.
Childcare for preschool aged children (birth-preK) is available in our nursery (downstairs, room 105).
Children's Worship (for elementary aged children) meets immediately following Children's Time
upstairs in room 206. Please see an usher for more information.*



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Grace Han

*Welcome to Trinity United Methodist Church. God's love be in us and among us as we greet all who enter our doors as children of God.
Please take a moment to complete the Connection Card and prepare to place it in the offering plate later in the service.*

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Song of Joy
Trinity Ringers*

Anna Laura Page

INTROIT

Joyfully, Heartily Resounding

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bryce Benson

Come, let us gather to worship our Timeless God.

**We gather together to share with your children
the past blessings we have received from our God.**

Come, let us gather to worship our Awesome God.

We gather together to listen for God's word for us today.

Come, let us gather to worship our Glorious God,
who delights in our worship, witness and service.

**We gather together to share our hope and trust in our
merciful God, who has never failed or forgotten us.**

*HYMN

Lift High the Cross

Hymnal no. 159

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

Pastor Grace Han

Holy God, we confess that we do not always love our neighbor.

We confess that we have despised others,

We confess that we have been hurt by others.

**We confess that forgiveness and reconciliation at times
are just impossible for us.**

We know that nothing is impossible in You.

We come to You, seeking healing and wholeness for us.

**Help us, whenever possible, to live in peace with others,
to seek reconciliation and healing and forgiveness.**

(All offer prayers of confession in silence)

For nothing is impossible with God.

There is no place we can go,

no end of the earth we can run, where God cannot find us.

There is nothing on earth or beyond death that can

separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You are forgiven.

You are loved.

You are reconciled to God.

Go and live with the love of God. **Amen.**

*THE PEACE

All exchange signs and words of peace and reconciliation.

Commendation and Welcome

Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.**

**As members together with you in the body of Christ
and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church
by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service,
and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Hannah Day Donoghue

*Immediately following Children's Time, elementary aged children are welcome to participate in Children's Worship upstairs in room 206.
Children will return to worship during the last hymn.*

BLESSINGS OF THE BACKPACKS

**Gracious God,
we lift to you today these incredible students.
They stand here ready to receive your blessings
as they begin a new year of studying and learning.
We ask your blessing on each one of them.
We also ask your blessing on these backpacks and these key chains.
As these students carry these backpacks, and use these key chains,
may they go forth into the world reminded of the love
and care of this congregation that surrounds them each and every day. Amen.**

ANTHEM

An Eternal Prayer

William Anderson

Trinity Choristers

Guide me, drive doubt and fear away, protect me every day, my soul is in Your hands. Hear me, hear this my humble plea, won't You watch over me? Help me to know Your will. Lead me, like a shepherd leads the lamb, like you led Abraham, Give ear unto my prayer. Hide me, in the shadow of Your wing, Oh, teach my heart to sing, Have mercy on my soul. Make a land where children can run free again, Give us the strength, the strength of God within. Make a land where children live in peace again. Help me forgive, forgive who sinned against me. And the love of God shall live within our heart. God will help us do our part. He can turn the darkness into light. Bless the Lord and all rejoice, Shout His praise with every voice. Come, let us lift our prayer to God.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 John 4:7-12, 17-21

Pew Bible, NT, page no. 241

Bryce Benson

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of God for the People of God **Thanks be to God.**



*GOSPEL LESSON Luke 15:11-32 Pew Bible, NT, page no. 78 Pastor Grace Han

¹¹ Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

“The Secret to a Perfect Relationship”

Pastor Grace Han

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Grace Han

A pause follows each prayer, which ends with: *Leader: Lord, in your mercy ... People: **Hear our prayer.***

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.**

OFFERTORY

How Can I Keep From Singing?

Z. Randall Stroope

My life goes on in endless song, above earth's lamentation, No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging. It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing? Although the storms around me blow, I know the truth will guide me, Although the darkness 'round me grow, my song's the light beside me. While Love is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

*THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal no. 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 uplifts!****Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!****Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Grace Han

Almighty God,**giver of every good and perfect gift,****teach us to render to you all that we have and all that we are,****that we may praise you, not with our lips only,****but with our whole lives, turning the duties, the sorrows,****and the joys of all our days into a living sacrifice to you;****through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hymnal no. 384

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastor Grace Han

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

Menuet from Suite Gothique

Leon Boellmann

SUNDAY MORNING AT TRINITY CHURCH

Those Assisting in Worship Today

Acolyte: Eliza Costle-Tyler**Crucifer:** Taylor Hoganson**Greeters:** Nancy Hill**Liturgist:** Bryce Benson**Ushers:** Mia Benson, Vera Benson, Lucelle O'Flaherty (Head Usher), George Pinn, Marcia Summers

Today's anthem: An Eternal Prayer is from the musical The Troubbable of Zerubbabel, words and music by William Anderson b. 1945. Dr. Anderson also directs the Chancel Choir at Topeka First Baptist Church and continues to compose vocal music for both youth and adults. Through Choristers Guild, he has two musicals published: Zerubbabel and Daniel.

Today's offertory anthem is an arrangement of a hymn written by Robert Lowry (1826-1899), a Baptist minister, professor of literature and a composer of over 500 hymns and tunes. The lyrics were written by Anna Bartlett Warner (1820-1915), author of many novels and verses, including the words for the hymn "Jesus Loves Me". For many years, she and her sister held Sunday School classes in their home for cadets from West Point. Dr. Z. Randall Stroope had arranged this music for the University of Nebraska at Omaha Concert Choir. He is currently the Director of Choral and Vocal Studies at Oklahoma State University.

TRINITY CHURCH'S WEEKLY NEWS

Please join us following worship in the Courtyard and Fellowship Hall for Trinity's Annual Fall Kick-Off and Picnic Lunch! There will be food, fun, and games for all ages!

Nursery (9:45 AM - 12:15 PM): For children birth-preK (Room 105, downstairs, around the corner to the left, first door on the right). Led by Luz Reyes and Helen Simms.

Children's Worship: During worship, elementary aged children (K-5) are invited to participate in an age appropriate time of worship. After Children's Time, join Hannah upstairs in room 206 for Children's Worship. Children will return to the Sanctuary at the end of service, during the last hymn. We are also seeking volunteers to be assistants during Children's Worship once every two months. Contact our Hannah Day Donoghue at programdirector@trinityalexandria.org if you are interested.

Fall Sermon Series - The Secret to a "Perfect" Relationship: Starting today we begin a new sermon series called The Secret to a "Perfect" Relationship. Through this sermon series we will explore the most important relationships in our lives--our friends and neighbors, co-workers, family, community, spouses and significant others. These relationships are a gift from God and the source of many blessings, but they are also the source of much pain--through conflict, disappointment, and hurt feelings. During this series, we'll look at what the Bible says about these relationships. Perhaps we need to stop looking for the "perfect" relationship and start learning how to love perfectly. I hope you will all join us!

Youth Group Kick-Off: Calling all 6th-12th graders! We invite you to our Youth Group Kick-off tonight from 5:30-7:30 PM at Beverly Hills UMC. Parents are invited for a special parent meeting at 5:30 PM as well. Dinner will be provided! Hope to see you all there. Questions? Contact Hannah Donoghue at programdirector@trinityalexandria.org.

Sunday School starts Sun, 9/15! A reminder that Sunday School for children, youth, and adults will begin next Sunday, September 15th at 10 AM. All are invited to participate to grow in faith through Bible study and fellowship. For questions or concerns, contact Hannah Day Donoghue at programdirector@trinityalexandria.org.

- b** Children--Room 201
- b** Youth--Chapel
- b** Adults--Parlor

Join our Music Program at Trinity! Teens and adults are invited to join the Chancel Choir, (rehearsals Thursdays from 7:45-9:45 PM) or join the Trinity Ringers (rehearsals Thursdays from 6:15-7:30 PM) as we prepare music for singing and ringing. For questions or concerns, contact Linda Cancellieri at music@trinityalexandria.org.

Children and Youth Choirs start up! All parents are invited to join your children this Wednesday, September 11th at 6:30 PM in the Music Suite for choir registration and orientation. Your input is needed as we discuss plans for the upcoming year. This year, the Trebles (K-4th grade) will rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:15-7 PM and the Choristers (5th-12th grade) will rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:15-8:15 PM. Questions? Contact Music Director, Linda at music@trinityalexandria.org.

Volunteer Opportunity - ALIVE! provides many vital services to our fellow Alexandrians and an important one we help with is the ALIVE! Furniture Program. This Saturday, September 14th, we're looking for volunteers who are available for a few hours in the morning to assist with picking up donated furniture and delivering it to households in need. ALIVE! provides the box trucks, drivers, and assistants. This mission isn't as daunting as it may sound as the furniture is typically disassembled and can be moved in manageable parts. It's a great way to get a bit of exercise and help our neighbors. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mary Gillman (marycgillman@gmail.com).

Another opportunity to prepare dinner for **the Rising Hope UM Mission Church 5th Sunday dinner** on September 29th is here. The following dishes are needed and should be brought to Trinity Church by Friday, September 27th at 10 AM and placed in the freezer/refrigerator. Please mark with directions to reheat or cook and for "Rising Hope" on your dish. They will be delivered that afternoon. Contact the Church Office (office@trinityalexandria.org) by email to let us know how you will share in this meal preparation. Thanks for sharing from our abundance with those who are less fortunate.

Dinner needs:

- 2 persons to prepare a Chicken Casserole to feed 12
- 1 persons to bring canned vegetables to serve 20
- 2 persons to bring salad for 30 persons
- 1 persons to bring dinner rolls for 30 persons
- 1 persons to bring 3 dozen cookies each

TRINITY CHURCH'S WEEKLY NEWS

Trinity's Table: Starting this Wednesday, September 11th, join us each week at 5:30 PM on Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall for Wednesday Night Fellowship.

Menu - 9/11: Hamburgers & Hot Dogs with all the fixins', Spring Salad, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, French Fries, Birthday Cake

Vegan Menu: Veggieburger

Menu - 9/18: Spaghetti Night: Marinara Sauce, Meatballs, Caesar Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert

Vegan Menu: Veggie Noodles

Menu - 9/25: Pizza Night: Cheese Pizza, Veggie Pizza, Pepperoni Pizza, Spring salad, Dessert

Vegan Menu: Cauliflower Pizza

Cost: \$8 per adult/\$5 per child (5th grade and younger)/\$25 for family of 4 or more (2 adults and children, 5th grade and younger). Questions? Contact Jenessa Stokes, in the Church Office, office@trinityalexandria.org.

The **United Methodist Women** meet Tuesday, September 17th, at 6:00 PM for dinner, at Tempo Restaurant, 4231 Duke Street in Alexandria. Mark your calendar and join the United Methodist Women for an evening of Christian fellowship. RSVP to Linda Pitts: ibcpitts@aol.com.

Blessing of the Animals, Saturday, September 28th at 9 AM in the Courtyard on Cameron Mills Road side of the church: ALL Creatures Great and Small are to be individually blessed by Pastor Grace. Each pet receives a certificate with its name on it, signed by Pastor Grace. Bring a picture of pets unable to attend. Dog treats and water are provided. No retractable leashes, please. If you have questions, please contact Lucelle O'Flaherty at 703.408.4008.

Reserve Altar Flowers: The Trinity Flower Committee invites you to reserve altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. The sign-up sheet is across from the church office. We request a \$65 donation to the Flower Committee. Designations for the bulletin can be included on the sign-up sheet. Following the worship service, the altar flowers are yours to take home and enjoy or share with a friend or family member. If you have questions, please contact Jenessa in the Church Office (office@trinityalexandria.org) or Mary Beth Buchholz at marybeth@freespiritfloral.com.

Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church Food Drive: Rising Hope UMC serves the homeless, the left out, the lost, and the least among us, has asked Trinity to be a partner church for the month of September to help fill their food pantry. Please bring food and place it in the Narthex closet to the left of the front door as you come in. Items might include canned fruits and vegetables and meats and fish, bags of rice, boxes of pasta and cereals, and peanut butter. This is stewardship in action. What a great way to show our appreciation for all God has given to us by sharing with those in need. I am sure we can fill the closet to overflowing.

The Welcome Statement of Trinity United Methodist Church is:

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." Matthew 10:40

Trinity United Methodist Church is committed to be a congregation of Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors. We believe all people are of sacred worth and dignity as part of God's creation and as demonstrated by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. As God's love extends to all, we welcome everyone without exception, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, family structure, socio-economic or marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, faith history or life experience. We recognize that we are all different, and those differences make us a stronger community of faith as we worship together to grow in our relationship with God and one another.

The Mission of Trinity United Methodist Church is:

Building a strong Christian community to find, share, and celebrate the love of Christ in our hearts, neighbors and our world.

TRINITY CHURCH'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 8th ~ 5:30 PM - Youth Group & Parent Meeting at Beverley Hills UMC

Wednesday, September 11th ~ Wednesday Fellowship

Trinity's Table at 5:30 PM

Choristers & Trebles Rehearsal and Parent Meeting at 6:15 PM in Music Suite

Sunday, September 22nd ~ Acolyte Training at 12:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Saturday, September 28th ~ Blessing of the Animals at 9:00 AM in the Courtyard

Sunday, September 29th ~ Charge Conference at 3:00 PM

Sunday, October 6th ~ Lunch with the Pastor at 12:30 PM.

Saturday, October 26th ~ Trunk or Treat - Stay tuned for details.

Sunday, November 3rd ~ All Saint's Sunday with selections from the Fauré Requiem during worship. Daylight Saving Time ends



Trinity United Methodist Church

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Monday - Thursday 9 AM - 5 PM | Friday 9 AM - 2 PM

Find us on the Web: www.trinityalexandria.org | Facebook: *Trinity UMC-Alexandria*

Trinity United Methodist Church Staff

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Alexandria District Superintendent
Pastor
Director of Music
Program Director
Office Manager
Head of School, Trinity Preschool
Office Manager, Trinity Preschool
Nursery Supervisor
Nursery Assistant
Facility Manager
Accountant

Bishop Peter D. Weaver
Rev. Jeff Mickle
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