

Welcome
to our
Church Family



Minister: The Rev. Diane Knowles
Pastoral Care Coordinator: Judy White
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 **TRINITY**
UNITED CHURCH
The heart in the heart of Huntsville

WELCOME

We're glad
you're here!



*Loving hearts
Open minds
Serving hands*

Welcome to Trinity

The Heart in the Heart of Huntsville

Sunday November 16, 2025 – 10 am

“Loving Hearts ... Open Minds ... Serving Hands”

*“Forgiveness is the spiritual practice
of unclenching our hearts.”*

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude: Kyung-A Lee

Introit: “Shine, Jesus Shine”

All: Shine, Jesus’ shine!

Fill this moment with Spirit’s glory.

Blaze, Spirit blaze, light our hearts on fire!

**Flow, river flow, flood the nations with
grace and mercy.**

Send forth your word Spirit, let there be light.

Greeting

One: Jesus calls us to follow him and to light our hearts on fire!

**All: He leads us on a spiritual journey of becoming the
people of light we long to become.**

Good morning and welcome to Trinity United Church –
the heart in the heart of Huntsville!

Welcome in Friendship! Welcome in Faith!

Welcome in God’s all-inclusive and forgiving love!

*Whoever you are and wherever you may be on your
spiritual journey- YOU are welcome here as we celebrate
God’s presence together.*

Announcements

In Our Joys And Concerns

A Moment of Mediation

Call to Worship

One: Come, all who are carrying the weight of the past.

All: We come seeking release and renewal.

One: Come, all who have been hurt and who have hurt others.

All: We come in need of God’s mercy and grace.

One: The God who forgives meets us here, with open arms
and tender love.

**All: We come to celebrate the One who restores and
makes all things new.**

Opening Hymn: “I’ve Got Peace like a River” (VU 577)

*(This is a great musical expression of the peace that comes with
forgiving and being forgiven.)*

Opening Prayer

**All: Merciful One, you know our hearts, our wounds,
our regrets and our hopes. You know the burdens we
carry and the walls we build to protect ourselves.
Forgive us for the times we have hurt others and for
the times we have not forgiven ourselves. Soften our
hearts with your grace. Through Christ we are
forgiven, renewed and made whole again. Thanks be
to God. Amen.**

Light Beamer Song: “Jesus Loves Me” (VU 365)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Time with our Light Beamers

It's time to hear the stories of Jesus and how his stories teach us a better way to live. We strive to teach our Light Beamers to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, following his movement and mission of hope, forgiveness and love. During our time with our Light Beamers, our goal is to teach them how to be their best selves so they can in return go into the world to help other people. With God's help, may this be so. Rev. Diane

Choir Anthem: "We Are The Hands Of Christ"

WE LISTEN FOR OUR GOD'S WORD

Our Scripture reader today is Robert Dalziel.

Prayer of Illumination

Reader: Divine One, as we open the pages of Scripture, breathe your Spirit into our hearts and minds. Teach us not to only understand your Word but to live it. In the name of the One who is love incarnate. Amen.

New Testament Reading: John 8: 1-11

(Jesus and the woman who is caught in adultery. The whole village is poised to stone her to death until Jesus has something to say about it.)

Second New Testament Reading: Matthew 7:3-5

(Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and fail to notice the log in your own?)

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to our hearts.

All: **Amen.**

*Today we are continuing our message series called **The ABC'S of Faith**. So far, we have explored the meaning of **Belief** and **Believing** and how faith is more about living in the Way of Jesus than it is about believing a strict list of*

*statements or doctrines to be true. Our first week we heard how "**G**" for **Gratitude** is an act of holy defiance- refusing to allow the darkness to have the final say. Gratitude allows us to push back against the struggles in our world. Then the next Sunday we highlighted "**C**" for **Community, Christ, and Connection**. We heard that community is not something we attend but something we build. Then we delved into the letter "**D**" for **Discipleship** and how today's disciples become tomorrow's saints. Last week, our letter was "**R**" for **Remembrance, Renewal and Resilience**. Today, we are diving into the letter "**F**" for **Forgiveness**. That's a whopper for sure!*

Minister's Message: "Dropping Our Stones"

A Moment of Reflection and An Invitation of Letting Go

Lighting the Candle of Forgiveness

As this candle burns remember God's mercy is wider than our mistakes, deeper than our pain and stronger than any resentment we may carry. Breathe in God's love and breathe out the burdens you have been carrying.

Prayer of Forgiveness

All: God of grace, we lay our hurts in your hands. We release what no longer serves us, we surrender what we cannot change and we trust that you are still at work. Heal what is broken, mend what is torn in our lives and fill our hearts with peace. Jesus teaches us to drop the stones, remove the logs and extend mercy both to others and to ourselves. Let your grace wash over us, softening our hearts, healing our wounds and freeing us to live in a renewed lightness and wholeness. Amen.

Gospel Hymn: “Down by the Riverside”

This African American Spiritual has been sung for generations.

After hearing Jesus say, “Let one without sin cast the first stone” we all realize every one of us have some stones we have been carrying. Old grudges, hurts, judgments, the kind of burdens that weigh the heart down.

This next song invites us to lay them down... like we just did... and meet God “down by the riverside” where grace washes over us and new life begins.

Down by the Riverside

(Traditional African American Spiritual)

Verse 1

I’m gonna lay down my burdens,
Down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside.
I’m gonna lay down my burdens,
Down by the riverside,
Ain’t gonna carry them no more.

Verse 2

I’m gonna lay down my hurts and angst,
Down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside.
I’m gonna lay down my hurts and angst,
Down by the riverside,
Ain’t gonna carry them no more.

Verse 3

I’m gonna trust in God’s justice,
Down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside.
I’m gonna trust in God’s justice,
Down by the riverside,
Ain’t gonna carry them no more.

Invitation for Offering

One: We are forgiven freely and completely, no strings attached. When we give, we respond to this kind of love open-handed and open-hearted trusting that grace multiplies what we share. Let us bring our gifts with gratitude.

Our morning tithes and offerings will now be received.

Offering Hymn: (tune of Edelweiss)

**All: God of love, hear our prayer,
bless this offering we bring you.
May our lives do your will, guide and guard us forever.
Give us the courage to stand for peace,
help us care for others.
God of love, hear our prayer,
bless this offering we bring you.**

Offering Prayer

**All: Gracious God, you pour out mercy like sunlight,
warming the earth on a cold autumn day. Receive our
offerings as signs of our gratitude and as instruments
of your healing grace. Use them and us for the work
of forgiveness and reconciliation. Amen.**

Hymn: "Prayer"

(sung to the tune of "Rock of Ages Cleft for Me")

All: **God of life and God of love,
Holy Spirit, Blessed Dove,
in each moment of my life,
in times joyful, times of strife,
listen to the words I share,
as I come to you in prayer.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

All: **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, the power and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" (VU 684)

One: Before we sing, let's take a quiet moment to remember what Jesus showed us today, that it's not our job to cast stones but to extend grace. This song is really a prayer that God would make us instruments of peace, channels of healing and bearers of mercy in a world that can be so quick to judge. Let's sing together...

Commissioning

One: Go forth now as forgiven and forgiving people.

Benediction

One: Friends, as we go from here, remember the stones we've been holding, the harsh words, the old hurts and the need to be right. May our eyes open to the grace we need and soften our hearts to share the same grace with others. Go now in peace, forgiven, free, and full of love.

A Choral Blessing: "An Irish Blessing"

Postlude: Kyung-A Lee

Following the Postlude, let us take three minutes to turn and greet one another with signs of Christ's peace and blessing as we move into a brand-new week.



Please join us in Trinity Hall following today's service where you are invited for a cup of tea or coffee and fellowship time.

Your hosts today are Thelma and David Beaudry.



Spiritual thought for your week!

*"If you want to see the brave,
look to those who can return love for hatred.
If you want to see the heroic,
look to those who can forgive."*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER STUFF!

The Outreach Team thanks you for helping to collect Food for the Corner Lighthouse food bank. **November is Canned Soup.**

UCW Kitchen Clean Up! – Friday November 21 at 9:30 am.

Trinity's Frosty Fair will be held on Saturday November 22!

Doors open at 11:45 am. A chicken pot pie lunch will be served at 12:00 noon and 12:45 pm and there will also be our Annual Bake Sale!

The UCW would greatly appreciate donations of Christmas baking like cookies, loaves and squares. Thank you.



Fundraiser for the Corner Lighthouse - Homemade Unbaked Tourtieres (French meat pie). Sizes: 8" - \$25 and 9" - \$30.



Available while supplies last. Call Lynne Doyle at 705-380-1800 to place your order!

White Gift Sunday is December 7, 2025! Again, with your faithful support, we are hoping to ease the stress of Christmas for families in need. We have found it is more helpful if gift certificates/cards were given by members of the congregation to be distributed as required.

Regardless of the value of the gift card, all express the same love and compassion. The cards will be distributed to various organizations beginning the week of December 15.

Thank you for your goodwill and generosity!



Are you seeking a deeper connection with the Divine and searching for God's presence in your life? Alexander (Alex) Jones is a Certified Spiritual Director of the University of British Columbia's Pacific Jubilee Program with the Vancouver School of Theology. As a Spiritual Director or Soul Companion, he can help you discern where God may be leading you in and your unique God-given mission in life. Jones also is available to help you establish a deeper meditative inner life and realizing your oneness with Spirit. He is now available to do one on one spiritual counselling. If this is something that speaks to your heart, he can be reached at: alexandersolyts@gmail.com or contact Rev. Diane or Suzy at the office.

Tea Talk!

When: **Wednesday, November 26th.**

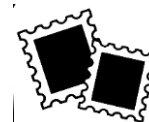
Where: **Mitchell Funeral Home Reception Room, 15 High Street.**

Time: **2:00 pm to 3:30 pm.**

Come join with other members of our Trinity family for an afternoon of Fellowship and "Community" building. We'll have some fun and conversation over a cup of tea, cookies too of course! If you are interested in attending or have questions please contact: Colleen Mitchell at 705-789-5020 or email tweenmitchell@gmail.com.



Used Postage Stamps!! Did you know ... Oxfam Canada raises approximately \$30,000 annually by sorting and selling used postage stamps to collectors. You can help by saving the used stamps from incoming mail. Cut the stamps off the envelope leaving a half inch border around the stamp. Your donated stamps can be left at Suzy's office or in the "stamp tub" on the bottom shelf of the mailboxes outside the office. Lynn McGregor will mail donated stamps to Oxfam's Stamp programme in Ottawa.





“Oh, Come All Ye Faithful And Ye Not So Faithful Too!”

Special Advent and Christmas Services 2025

The First Sunday in Advent – November 30, 2025

This is our Sunday of “Hope”. Today we are lighting the candle of Hope in our Advent wreath.

The Second Sunday in Advent- December 7, 2025

Today we are lighting our candle of Peace in our Advent wreath. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with peace in our hearts.

It is also **White Gift Sunday** - warm articles of clothing for our harsh winter weather and gift cards are all graciously and gratefully received.



Our Service of Comfort and Hope- Thursday December 18 at 7 pm

Christmas is often a season of sadness and loneliness for many people. Come and join us for this service of quiet reflection and memories.

The Third Sunday in Advent- December 14, 2025

Time to break out your annual Christmas sweaters and attire!

As we continue to make our way to Bethlehem, we will light our candle of joy. The closer we get to Christmas the brighter the light on our Advent wreath becomes.

We will also be remembering our loved ones who are no longer with us this Christmas as we place our special ornaments on our “**Think of Me**” Tree. May our good memories encourage us and fill us with hope and healing.



The Fourth Sunday in Advent or Christmas Sunday - December 21, 2025

This is a wonderful Sunday of celebration. Often, this is THE Christmas celebration for many people who will not be around for Christmas Eve services. Holy Communion will be served this morning.

Christmas Eve Services- December 24, 2025

Family Service - 5 pm

Children get home in plenty of time to hang up their stockings and read The Night Before Christmas.



Carol Sing - 6: 30 pm

Carols and Candlelight Service - 7 pm

This is a quieter, more reflective service with readings and songs as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child in our hearts. Have a Joyous and Blessed Christmas season!

Last Sunday in the year- December 28, 2025

Hymns, Taizé, and Prayer Service led by Kyung-A Lee.

A Taizé Prayer Service is a simple, meditative form of worship that consists of generous silence and repetitive sung prayers. Taizé prayer is named for the ecumenical Christian community that formed in Taizé, France during World War II.



Christmas Blessings from our house to yours!

May the love that made the stars be your guiding light.

May the love revealed in Jesus
be your hope and inspiration.

And may the love of the ever-present Spirit
give you courage, joy and hope
now and forever more. Amen. ###

