

# TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

120 W. Park Ave. Tallahassee, Florida  
850-222-1120 | www.tumct.org

Vol. 46

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
MAY 10, 2026

No. 19

## THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Services at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m.

†Please rise in body or in spirit.

### CHAPEL SERVICE

8:30 a.m.

WELCOME AND MISSION STATEMENT

**"Because of God's love for us through Jesus Christ,  
we exist to worship, grow, and serve."**

PRELUDE "Symphonie 2: Choral" Douglas Chaplow  
Louis Vierne

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN Hymnal #384  
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Hymnal #881  
The Apostles' Creed

†GLORIA PATRI Hymnal #71

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER Hymnal #895

OFFERTORY

†DOXOLOGY Hymnal #94

†SCRIPTURE READINGS  
2 Timothy 1:3-7, John 14:15-21  
*"Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I  
may be filled with joy."*

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

SERMON Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams  
"Mothers of the Mountain Road"

†RECESSIONAL HYMN Hymnal #408  
"The Gift of Love"

†BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

†POSTLUDE Douglas Chaplow

### CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

9:45 a.m.

†WORSHIP SONG "Everlasting God"

†WELCOME AND MISSION STATEMENT

†WORSHIP SONG "Faithfulness"

†PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

†OFFERTORY HYMN "Victory in Jesus"

†SCRIPTURE READINGS  
2 Timothy 1:3-7, John 14:15-21  
*"Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I  
may be filled with joy."*

SERMON Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski

†WORSHIP SONG "O Come to the Altar"

†WORSHIP SONG "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"

†BENEDICTION Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski

*During the worship songs, you are invited to utilize the Prayer Station  
by the stained-glass window and light a candle as you pray.*

Large-print bulletins are available from the ushers upon request.

LITURGICAL SERVICE  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
11:00 a.m.

†Please rise in body or in spirit.

WELCOME AND MISSION STATEMENT

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

**“Because of God’s love for us through Jesus Christ, we exist to worship, grow, and serve.”**

PRELUDE

"Symphonie 2: Choral"  
Louis Vierne

Douglas Chaplow

INTROIT

"The Lord of Hosts is With Us"  
Chancel Choir

Daniel Gawthrop

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Love Divine All Loves Excelling"

Hymnal #384

†OPENING PRAYER

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

†GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.**

Hymnal #71

†PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

†SONG OF PEACE

"The First Song of Isaiah"  
**Surely, it is God who saves me;  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and he will be my Savior.**

TFWS #2030

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

*Congregational Response:*

Amelia Margaret Pye

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.**

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**Crucifer** | Michael Plagens | **Ushers** | Brent Chumbler, Billy Hilaman, Frank Mercer, Jamie Trulock, Scott Trulock, John Elliott, Linda Bianco, Mike Marschall, Sid Matthew | **Altar Guild** | Kathleen Stinson, Becky Bishop, Sarah Teresa Haskell | **Club Car Drivers** | Edward Young, Ben Gilleland, Jimmy Henderson, Ed Dowell

*Call the church office at 850-222-1120 to reserve altar flowers for the Sunday services in the sanctuary.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Candace Duclos, Senior Director of Christian Education  
*Children ages 3 through 2nd grade are invited to Kids' Praise in Room 205.*

ANTHEM "For the Beauty of the Earth" arr. Jason Krug  
Heavenly Chimes

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  
Lord in your mercy.  
**Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER Hymnal #895

PRAYER RESPONSE "Hear Our Prayer" Daniel Gawthrop  
Chancel Choir

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "God Is Our Refuge" Allen Pote  
Chancel Choir

†DOXOLOGY Hymnal #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!**

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2 Timothy 1:3-7, John 14:15-21  
*"Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy."*  
The Word of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

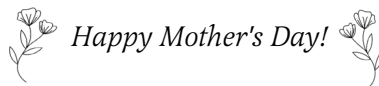
SERMON "Mothers of the Mountain Road" Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

†RECESSIONAL HYMN "The Gift of Love" Hymnal #408

†BLESSING Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

†CHORAL BENEDICTION "God Be In My Head" Daniel Gawthrop  
Chancel Choir

†POSTLUDE Douglas Chaplow



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Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Anna Brook Opalinski, Associate Pastor  
Rev. E. Wayne Curry, Minister of Pastoral Care  
Alex Taylor, Contemporary Worship Music Leader | Gregory Hilliard, Director of Traditional Music  
Douglas Chaplow, Organist

## WELCOME

Welcome to worship today! We're glad you are here. Please sign the pew pad to register your attendance. If you're visiting, fill out a Visitor Connect Card or scan the QR code, and on your way out, be sure to see one of our ushers for a small gift to thank you for joining us!



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**May we pray for you?** Prayer cards can be found in the Welcome Center and Narthex. Prayer requests are listed by **name** only. Please lift up in prayer...

Rita May

Mike Quan

Joe Wilburn

## MONTHLY COLLECTION

During May, Local Missions will be collecting Visa gift cards in any amount for Residing Hope and electric fans for Elder Care Services. Gift card donations can be left in the offering plate during Sunday services or at the church office. Please include a note designating that the gift card is for Residing Hope. Fan donations can be left in the collection bin in the Welcome Center or Narthex.

## LAY ACADEMY - FLOWER ARRANGING

On May 13 at 5:15 p.m., join us in room 306 for one hour of flower arranging! We will learn the basics and enjoy fellowship as we create a lovely arrangement. The cost of the class is \$10 to cover all of the supplies! Scan the QR code to register.



## GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Calling all graduates in our Trinity family! On May 17, at the 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. services, we want to celebrate 2026 graduates of high school, college, graduate school, or any other learning institutions. At 10:30 that morning, graduates and their families are invited to gather in the Sewell Memorial Prayer Garden for breakfast bites, photos, and fellowship. Scan the QR code to register a graduate. Please register by today, May 10.



## SCAN THE QR CODES FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON AT TRINITY



Sunday School



Serving



Fellowship



Giving

### Our Vision

The vision of Trinity United Methodist Church is to be a diverse Christian community that leads as a shining beacon of God's love, actively engaging as the heart, hands, and feet of Christ in the world.

### Our Mission

Because of God's love for us through Jesus Christ, we exist to worship, grow, and serve.

## THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

### Sunday, May 10

8:30 a.m.  
8:30 a.m.  
9:45 a.m.  
8:30/9:45/11:00 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.  
4:00 p.m.  
5:00 p.m.  
5:00 p.m.  
6:15 p.m.

Chapel Service  
Yates Heritage Center Open  
Contemporary Service  
Sunday School  
Liturgical Service  
Youth Praise Band  
UMYF  
Steel Pans  
Jubilation Bells

### Monday, May 11

10:00 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.  
6:30 p.m.

UWF Circle 1  
Snack Pack Distribution  
Centering Prayer

### Tuesday, May 12

7:00 a.m.  
9:45 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.  
12:10 p.m.  
1:00 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.  
7:30 p.m.

Men's Daybreak  
BFC Staying Strong  
BFC Variety Mix  
BFC Flex on the Floor  
Heavenly Chimes  
Celebrate Recovery  
Young Adult Bible Study

### Wednesday, May 13

3:30 p.m.  
4:15 p.m.  
5:30 p.m.  
5:30 p.m.  
6:15 p.m.  
6:15 p.m.  
6:15 p.m.  
6:30 p.m.  
7:30 p.m.

NETKids  
Richard Andrews' Bible Study  
Dinner  
Yates Heritage Center Open  
Lay Academy  
Parenting Village  
Trinity Ringers  
Praise Band  
Chancel Choir

### Thursday, May 14

10:30 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.  
12:10 p.m.  
5:30 p.m.

Mats for Friends  
Snack Pack Distribution  
BFC Variety Mix  
BFC Staying Strong  
BFO Pickleball

### Friday, May 15

10:00 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.  
11:30 a.m.

Friday Study Group  
Directory Photo Sessions  
Preschool VPK Graduation

### Saturday, May 16

10:00 a.m.

Directory Photo Sessions



# *Mothers of the Mountain Road*

A Personal Bible Study

Rev. Dr. Matthew M. Williams

Mother's Day | May 10, 2026

## A Bible Study

John 14:15–21 | 2 Timothy 1:5 | Genesis 1:1–2 | Proverbs 8: 1–4, 22–23

### How to use this study

This is a guide for quiet, personal reflection. Work through it at your own pace.

### The Texts

Read these passages slowly. Let them settle before you move to the reflection questions.

#### John 14:15–21 (NRSV)

*“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”*

#### 2 Timothy 1:5 (NRSV)

*“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.”*

#### Genesis 1:1–2 (NRSV)

*“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.”*

#### Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–23 (NRSV)

*“Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: ‘To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.’ ... The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.”*

Before reading further, write down one word or phrase from any of these passages that caught your attention. What draws you to it?

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## Part One: The Wind from God

### A word worth knowing: Ruach

The Hebrew word translated “wind from God” or “Spirit of God” in Genesis 1:2 is Ruach (pronounced ROO-ahkh). It means breath, wind, or spirit. Ruach is grammatically feminine in Hebrew. The ancient writers chose their words carefully. When the Spirit moved over the formless waters at creation, they reached for a word that carried feminine resonance and for an image drawn from a mother bird brooding over a nest, warming what has not yet come to life.

The same Ruach appears throughout the Hebrew scriptures. It is the breath God breathed into Adam’s nostrils. It is the wind that parts the sea. It is the Spirit that falls on the prophets. This means that the biblical tradition has always understood the Spirit’s work in terms that our tradition has more often associated with the feminine: brooding, breathing, hovering, sustaining, giving life to what cannot yet live on its own.

Read Genesis 1:2 again. Imagine the Spirit as a mother bird hovering over a nest. What does that image suggest to you about how God was present at the beginning of creation?

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Have you ever thought of the Holy Spirit in feminine terms before? Where does that land for you — does it feel natural, surprising, uncomfortable, or something else?

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The sermon described a woman who tended seven lamps on a mountain road before dawn, without recognition. In what ways does this image rhyme with how the Spirit is described in scripture — present, unseen, sustaining?

## Part Two: The Wisdom Cries Out

In the book of Proverbs, Wisdom is not an abstract quality. Wisdom was present at creation not as a bystander, but as a craftsman beside God, delighting in the work.

Proverbs 8:30–31 (NRSV)

*“...then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.”*

In the Jewish tradition, Wisdom — Chokhmah in Hebrew, Sophia in Greek — was understood as a feminine expression of the divine presence in the world. Early Christian theologians drew a direct line between the figure of Wisdom in Proverbs and the Holy Spirit. The Spirit, they believed, is the Wisdom of God at work in creation and in human lives: calling, searching, delighting, and refusing to be ignored.

Wisdom in Proverbs 8 is described as rejoicing and delighting. This is not the image of a stern or distant God. How does a Spirit characterized by delight change how you think about your relationship to the divine?

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## Part Three: As Truly as God Is Our Mother

**Julian of Norwich (c. 1343–after 1416)**

Julian was an English mystic whose feast day falls on May 8, the week before Mother’s Day. She lived in a small cell attached to a church in Norwich, England, and from that narrow place wrote the first book in English known to be authored by a woman: Revelations of Divine Love. Her theology of the maternal God is not sentimental. It is precise, orthodox, and centuries ahead of its time.

**Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love, Chapter 59**

*“As truly as God is our Father, so truly is God our Mother. Our Father wills, our Mother works, our good Lord the Holy Ghost confirms.”*

Julian sees as a distinct role to each person of the Trinity. The Father wills — God’s purpose and intention. The Mother works — the active, sustaining, nurturing labor of love in the world. The Holy Ghost confirms — seals, certifies, makes certain what love has done.

This was her revelation. What is yours?

**Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love, Chapter 60**

*“A mother can give her child milk, but our dear mother Jesus can feed us with himself, and he does so most courteously and most tenderly with the holy sacrament, which is the precious food of life itself.”*

Julian was writing in the fourteenth century, during a time of plague and upheaval, from a room most people would find confining. What does it mean to you that one of the richest theologies of God’s maternal nature came from a woman who had almost nowhere to go?

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The Spirit, in Julian’s framework, “confirms” — seals and certifies what love has done. Is there something in your life that you need confirmed right now? Something you have done in faith and faithfulness, without knowing whether it mattered? Bring it here.

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## **Part Four: The Lamp She Left**

Paul names two women in a single sentence and moves on. He does not explain what they did or how they did it. He simply says: the faith that lives in Timothy lived first in them. Lois and Eunice are the ruach of Timothy's life — the breath, the presence, the hovering faithfulness that made something live.

Paul calls Timothy's faith "sincere" — genuine, not performed. Who breathed that into him? Who has breathed something genuine into you?

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The Spirit, like a mother, tends what we cannot always see. Where in your own life do you need to trust that something is being tended — in you, or in someone you love — even when you cannot see the work being done?

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## **Part Five: I Will Not Leave You Orphaned**

Let this rest within you. You always have God with you, in you, and for you. Reflect on this promise.

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Thanks be to God.

## A Closing Prayer

Breath of God, wind over the waters,  
Wisdom crying at the crossroads,  
Mother who works while the world sleeps —

I have not always known how to see you.  
I have looked for you in the loud places  
and missed you in the quiet ones.  
I have waited for announcement  
when you were already out checking the oil.

Confirm what love has done in me.  
Tend what I cannot tend myself.  
Breathe on what is not yet living.  
Hover over what is still formless and dark  
and do what only you know how to do.

I will not leave you orphaned.  
Let me believe it.  
Today, let me believe it.

Amen.