

Trinity United Church of Christ Worship Bulletin

Letting God's light shine since 1901

We worship God and seek to share His Word with everyone through faith in Jesus Christ

August 16, 2026

www.trinityuccwestville.org

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at Trinity!

Gathering and Preparing to Worship

**Denotes to please stand in body or in spirit*

Thoughts Before Worship

By Nancy C. Townley

Our lives can get so noisy. In this moment, take the time to calm your spirit, rest your body.
Listen for the voice of the Good Shepherd who desires the best for you.

Checking in on social media

You are invited to take the time to check in on social media and let people know where you are.
First, it helps get the word out on Trinity United Church of Christ in Westville
Second, it can give you a good alibi, just in case you need one.

Sounding of the Bells

Throughout the centuries, bells have rung to call people to worship or bring them news.
We use the chiming of the bell to joyously call us to worship, and prepare ourselves.

Welcoming

One: Welcome to worship today at Trinity United Church of Christ in Westville Illinois. If you are worshipping with us on line, you can download a bulletin from our church's website
www.trinityuccwestville.org.
They are located in the events section under today's date,
Let us now pause for prayer to calm ourselves down and prepare our hearts to worship our living and loving God.

Opening with Prayer

By Nancy Townley

One: Let us pray...
Many: As summer draws to a close, we begin to focus our attention to the activities of autumn. For some it will mean preparing children for school; for others youth will be preparing to enter college or the work force or perhaps military service. Be with these precious ones as they embark on life's journeys. Be with each one of us as we encounter life's challenges. Open our hearts to receive your healing mercy and your transforming love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Call to Worship

By Nancy Townley

One: What joy we feel when we are called together to celebrate God's love.
Many: God's love flows through our lives!

One: Look around. This is what it means to be the body of Christ!
Many: Together, this is what it means to be faithful witnesses to God.

One: Let us give thanks and rejoice on this day!

Many: Lord, we thank you for the many blessings you pour on us every day.

***Hymn of Gathering This is a Day of New Beginnings**

1 This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

2 For by the life and death of Jesus,
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.

3 Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

4 Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new,

Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: We may praise God, but we prefer to live our way, becoming captive to our foolish choices. But God longs to set us free, so let us confess to our God, as we pray together our prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

By Nancy Townley

One: Let us pray...

All: God of infinite mercy and love, we come before you this day, knowing that we have not always been faithful to what you would have us do. We have too often turned our backs on those in need, choosing not to hear their cries.

Please take a few moments of silence for personal reflection, and release back to God those things
you need to be forgiven for, in your life

One: Let us continue...

All: Forgive us, O Lord. We know that you do not want us to behave in this way. Your love and mercy, so generously showered over us, should be a beacon to guide our own actions. We ask your forgiveness and blessing, turning us again around and placing us on the path of compassion and peace. This prayer we offer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Nancy Townley

One: God's love is greater than our understanding and our comprehension.
That love is continually given to each and every one of us each day.

Many: Let us rejoice! Through Jesus Christ, God's forgiving love is poured out for each one of us, now and always. 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.

Sharing of Christ's Peace

One: As God has poured out the grace of forgiveness and love and peace through Christ, let us also share that grace and peace with others. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

Please type in, post and share the peace of Christ with those gathered.
Please make sure your comments are appropriate. You can use words such as
"The peace of Christ be with you,"

Listening for God's Still Speaking Voice

Prayer for Illumination

One: Let us pray...

Many: Lord, open our hearts this day to receive your word for us. May it give us courage to help others, and hope for the future. Amen.

Scripture Readings for Today

Matthew 15:10-28

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. ¹¹ What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."

¹² Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?"

¹³ He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴ Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."

¹⁵ Peter said, "Explain the parable to us."

¹⁶ "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. ¹⁷ "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

²⁶ He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

²⁷ "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted."

And her daughter was healed at that moment.

A Refection on the Word

By Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

*** Hymn of Response**

**She Came to Jesus by Rev. Carolyn Winfrey-Gillette
Sung to the tune Be Thou My Vision**

**1 She came to Jesus from outside the fold —
Canaanite woman! Persistent and bold!**

Looking to Jesus, she wanted to see
One who would help her and set her child free.

2 Claiming a blessing, a touch of God's grace,
She knew God's love was not bounded by place.
Jesus, you listened, debated — then healed —
For in her asking, her faith was revealed.

3 God, you still bless those who seek you in prayer.
You welcome dreamers who faithfully dare.
In Christ, now risen, your mercy extends:
Those on the outside are welcomed as friends.

Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives

One: Knowing that every good and perfect gift has the Holy One as its original source,
let us share the blessings that God has trusted with us.
If you are able, please consider giving to the work and ministry of Trinity United Church of Christ.
You may drop your offering for today in the offering plates as they are brought forward.
Your gifts are used in service to others through the ministries and mission of Trinity UCC.
We graciously thank all who are able to support Trinity UCC during this time.

To mail your offering or pledge, please send it to

Trinity United Church of Christ, 311 E. Moses Ave. Westville, IL. 61883

Our morning Offering will now be received

*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts! Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

* Blessing What We Can Give Back to God

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

Many: God of many blessings, may we not offer you the leftovers of our resources and our lives, but let
these gifts be but part of the main course that we give back to you, as we seek to serve your people
and your creation. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Please drop off any prayer requests in the offering plate.
Please only first names, and keep your prayers appropriate to our worship.
If you are worshipping via Facebook Livestream
Please type in and post in the comments section and share any prayer requests.
We will try and get to every prayer posted during worship.
If we don't get to your request, we will lift up your requests after worship.
After Pastor David reads the petition, he will say "Lord in Your mercy,"
and the congregation will respond with **"Hear our prayer..."**

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

*** Our Hymn of Departure What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

1 What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

*** Charge and Benediction**

One: Now go, to serve as God's people.

Many: We will work to remove all that divides us from others.

One: Now go, to share the grace of Jesus.

Many: We will love others just as we are loved.

One: Now go, to be the Spirit's community.

Many: We will invite everyone to join us in this life of faith and service.

One: Now go out into the world in peace. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, and all your strength; and love your neighbor as yourself.

Many: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

One: And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you, now and forever. And may laughter and joy go with you every step of your journey.

Many: Amen.

Sing "A-Men!"

