

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

June 22, 2025

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: Open our hearts today, O Lord, to feel the powerful strength and love you have for us. Help us to listen, not only with our ears, but with our spirits for your words of compassion and healing. Enable us to become more faithful disciples for you; for we ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Announcements

Call to Worship

By June Botwell

One: Friends, don't let public opinion influence how you live out your faith.

Many: God lives by different rules. God lifts up and honors the poor while sending the rich away empty.

One: God's favor is promised to those who love God.

Many: Love is more than saying the right words, it is doing the right thing for others.

One: Be good to your people, O God.

Many: The hearts of the people are right and just, doing the Lord's work!

***Hymn of Gathering**

Praise to the Lord

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration.

2 Praise to the Lord, Who over all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

3 Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

4 Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before Him
Let the "Amen" sound from his people again
Gladly forever adore Him.

Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: With the angry words we use, with the things we do to others, it is as if we are saying to those around us, as well as our God, to keep away from us! But God is always ready for us to find the grace, the hope, the forgiveness being offered to us. Let us come, to tell of our lives, trusting the One who comes to be with us and save us. Join me, as we pray together our prayer of confession,

Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

All: Listening God, we do not call them demons anymore, but there are those words which chain our hearts to them - words which shame others, there are those actions which bind our lives to them - those fears and that anger which pushes away those around us. There are those thoughts which draw us into the shadows, where we seek to hide from you, hoping you do not see the lives we lead.

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: Yet, you refuse to stay away but come to closer to us in every moment, God. You would clothe us with grace, so we might be your people in this world. You would tear down all that separates us from others, so we might be one. You would make us heirs to the promise of life and hope with our Brother, Jesus the Christ, who comes to heal us and make us your children. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Hear the good news, dear friends. Our God comes, not to torment us, but to release us from all that keeps us from being God's beloved children. We are sisters and brothers of Jesus, those who have been blessed, forgiven, transformed.

Many: Thanks be to God, who reaches out to us and shows us the way out of the shadows, pointing to the path of mercy and hope. We are forgiven! 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**

By June Boutwell

One: Knowing that God has prepared a place for us; knowing that Christ has come to bring us peace, let us greet one another now in the power of God and the glory of Christ's peace.
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

By Jaime D. Greening

One: Let us pray...

Many: Teach us your wisdom, O Lord, that we may live wisely, not foolishly.

May your love and wisdom flow through us, into this world of hatred and mistrust, that we may sow the seeds of peace. Illumine our hearts to the path of truth, Holy Spirit, that we may celebrate the ways that lead to life. Amen.

Scripture Readings for Today Luke 8:26-39 Jesus Restores a Demon-Possessed Man

²⁶ They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. ²⁷ When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" ²⁹ For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

³⁰ Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. ³¹ And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

³² A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. ³³ When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, ³⁵ and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. ³⁷ Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹“Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

A Refection on the Word

By Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

* Hymn of Response

There is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.

Refrain

2 Don't ever feel discouraged
For Jesus is your friend
Who, if you ask for knowledge
Will never fail to lend

Refrain

3 If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus
who died to save us all. Refrain

Refrain

Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives

One: As God has so richly blessed us, in our gratitude let us return a portion of these blessings back to God, 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 June Boutwell

One: Let us pray...

Many: All that we do is in your holy name, O God. Even as we share the riches of our labors, may we continue to honor your name in all that we do. Bless these gifts given freely, that your justice and mercy may prevail in a weak and weary world. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Please drop off any prayer requests in the basket located in the narthex, or 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

Blessed Assurance

1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine;
Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,
Born of His Spir-it, washed in His blood.

(Refrain)

This is my sto-ry, this is my song,
Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.
This is my sto-ry, this is my song,
Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light,
Vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
An-gels de-scen-ding, bring from above
Ec-hoes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
(Refrain)

3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest,
I in my Sav-ior am happy and blest;
Watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing above,
Filled with His good-ness, lost in His love.
(Refrain)

* Charge and Benediction

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: What have we to do with the forgotten around us, we ask?

Many: And so, God sends us to welcome with love our sisters and brothers we do not notice.

One: What have we to do with the injustices which others must bear, we ask?

Many: And so, Jesus calls to stay with those whom the powerful ignore, and challenge those who could bring about the changes that are needed.

One: What have we to do with the silence which greets the cries of those in the shadows, we ask?

Many: And so, the Spirit gives us the light, the peace, the hope we can share with others in a world chained by fears, prejudices, and hate.

One: What we have to do but 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"