

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 17, 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.

Our Opening Prayer

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

Many: Gracious God, in the debris and litter of the world, you clear a place where we can be planted. A place where your justice can bring hope to the oppressed; and your righteousness can receive even our enemies in peace. Come Jesus, and break up the stony ground of our hearts, so grace might be planted and love might grow. Amen.

Announcements

Our Call to Worship

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: The One who commands the clouds calls us to be poured out for others.

Many: We can, by faith, be the waters of peace which quench the fires of hatred.

One: The One who creates mercy and hope, longs for a world of fair play and grace.

Many: We can, by faith, let righteousness and justice be our constant companions.

One: The One who is with us in every moment composes a love-song for our hearts.

Many: We can, by faith, teach this song to everyone we meet.

***The Opening Hymn of Praise**

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Be Thou My Vision

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

3. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4. High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

The Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Being human, we never find it easy to ask for forgiveness. But as God's children, called to live in relationship with one another, we know we must speak of how we have hurt others, so we might be forgiven and restored to new life. Please join me as we pray to God, saying our prayer of confession...

Prayer of Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

All: What more can we say, Expectant God, that you don't know already? You long for justice for all people, but it is washed away by the flood of violence in our world. You hope that righteousness will walk with us, but you hear the clear cries of those we mistreat. You ask us to speak up for those in need, but we quiet our voices and turn away.

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

All: Forgive us, Righteous God. Have mercy when we do not bear the fruit we could. Even though we have not lived our faith to the fullest, may we receive the promises of hope and grace you have given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Listen! Can you hear them? The saints of heaven - those who have gone on before us - are cheering us on as we run towards the finish line of our faith.

Many: Thanks be to God! The victory has already been won for us in Jesus Christ. 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

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

One: In the face of a stranger, in the greeting of a friend, we see our Lord, Jesus Christ.

As a forgiven and renewed people, please share the peace of Christ with those around 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,"*

We Listen for God's Word

Our Prayer for Illumination

One: Let us pray...

Many: Open our ears to hear, our minds to think, and our hearts to move us to do the work you call us to do in Your name Lord. Amen.

Our Scripture Reading for Today

Luke 12:49-56

Not Peace but Division

⁴⁹ "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. ⁵² From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Interpreting the Times

⁵⁴ He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. ⁵⁵ And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. ⁵⁶ Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?"

A Refection on the Word

By Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

We Respond to God's Word

***Our Hymn of Response**

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Help Us Accept Each Other

**1 Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.**

**2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.**

3 Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

4 Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice, and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

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 Give Back to God**

One: Let us pray...

Many: As you share your blessings with us, Gracious God, you show great faith that we will use them
wisely and offer them generously to others. So, by faith, may our gifts bring healing to the broken,
hope to the despairing, and laughter to those who mourn. This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

One: Christ invites us here. This meal is what connects us to that river of living water and the tree of life that
never lacks food for bellies or shade for peaceful rest. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's
journey, you are invited to Christ's table of extravagant welcome

Many: **O let us taste and see the goodness of the God who calls us to the table and meets us in every feast!**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: May God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: People of God, lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them to the One whose heart is broken for us.**

One: Offer your praises and joy to the God who is our Creator.

Many: **We sing our love-songs to the One who loves us and watches over us.**

One: Almighty God, You sent the prophets to tend and nurture us, pruning us so we could bear the fruit of justice and righteousness. You took pity on us as we weakened ourselves by our pride, and placed your hand upon Jesus sending him to be strong for us.

Therefore, we lift our thanksgiving to you, joining our voices with the witnesses of every age, echoing their glad songs of praise, offering our hope to you:

Many: Holy, holy, holy are you, Creator of the Vineyard.

By faith, all creation cries out for your salvation.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes to run with perseverance the race which is set before him.

Hosanna in the highest!

One: Holy are you, Shepherd of all people, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your sign of hope and grace. Surrounded by all the faithful, he humbled himself, coming to set the pace for us in this race we call life. Worthy of all glory and praise, he disregarded human acclaim, and died on the cross that we might be given life. Picking up sin and death, and tossing them aside, he cleared the way to you, that we might enter your kingdom.

As we remember his death and resurrection,
as we look for signs of his life in our time,
we receive that mystery of faith
which is promised to us.

Many: Christ died, the perfecter of salvation;

Christ was risen, the pioneer of resurrection;

Christ will come again, for the sake of our joy.

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon the gifts of the bread and cup, and upon those who, by faith, come to your Table. As we receive these signs of a grace we cannot see, may we be transformed into signs of peace and hope for our time.

As we taste the broken Bread, may we draw strength to serve a shattered world.

As we drink of the gift of grace, may we become robust in our giving to others.

As we open our hands to you, may we go to hand out justice to the lost, the little, the least.

As we go out to help others, help us to be the body of Christ in the world. Let us, as the body of Christ, pause to lift up those in need of our prayers this morning...

Prayers of intercession may be offered here.

One: Help us, O God, to love as Christ loved. Knowing our own weaknesses, may we stand with all who stumble. Sharing in his suffering, may we remember all who suffer. Held in his love, may we embrace all whom the world denies. Rejoicing in his forgiveness, may we forgive all who sin against us. And when the past is finally behind us and we are gathered in the new Jerusalem with our sisters and brothers of every time and place, we will join our hands around your feast, and sing your praises from the depths of our hearts. We ask these things, both spoken and unspoken, in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray

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

Words of Institution

One: On the night on which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This bread is my body, given for you. Do this remembering me."

And in the same manner, he also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant, sealed in my blood, given for the forgiveness of sin. Drink from it, all of you. Do this remembering me."

Sharing the Elements

One: Christ, our host, offers us the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Come, all has been prepared.

(Please take what you are using for the bread of life and hold it up)

The body of Christ, broken for you, take and eat.

(Please take what you are using for the cup of salvation and hold it up)

The cup of Salvation, poured out for you, take and drink.

Prayer After Communion

One: Let us pray...

Many: Gracious God, we thank you for this meal and for all of the ways you nourish us. Help us to grow so that we may nourish others. Sustain us as we press toward the goal of your call to serve all of your children in the name of our savior, Christ Jesus. Amen.

We Go to Love and Serve God in God's World

*Our Hymn of Parting

1 My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.

I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul.

How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

*Charge and Benediction

One: In faith, we have worshiped the God of all grace and hope.

Many: By faith, we will go to be poured out for all around us.

One: Through faith, we have come to follow the Servant of the poor.

Many: With faith, we will go with our companions, justice and righteousness, to serve the oppressed.

One: By faith, we learn the songs of the Spirit of love.

Many: In faith, we will sing these songs with those for whom the music has gone silent.

One: So faithfully 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!"

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My Life Flows on in Endless Song

3 What though my joys and comforts die,
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

By Rev. Thom Shuman