

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 31, 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 the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

One: Let us pray...

Many: God of Glory, we acknowledge your presence among us as we gather. You have knit us together as a community. In your kingdom, the first will be last and the last will be first. We only exalt you yet you come near to us. Dwell in the praises we voice, in the hope to which we cling, and the love that persists. Reveal yourself to us, Great One, and we will declare and spread your goodness throughout the land. Amen.

Magic Penny

Announcements

Call to Worship

by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

One: Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to God.

Many: Happy are those who revere the Holy One. Generation to generation delight in God's blessings.

One: Sing aloud to God our righteousness; shout for peace to God.

Many: **We rise from the depths in mercy, grace, and justice.**

One: Sing aloud to God our hope; shout for love to God.

Many: **Our hearts are steady and secure. Come, let us worship the Holy One!**

***Hymn of Gathering O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing Vs. 1 - 4**

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

3 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

4 He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.

Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Despite all the ways we speak of sin - failures, mistakes, intended acts. Scripture tells us that we are stubborn-hearted, wanting only our way. But, if we pause to listen to God, if we open our mouths (and our hearts) to confess our sin, God will fill our emptiness with forgiveness and hope. Let us pray together our prayer of confession

Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

All: Watching God, we are always uncomfortable when you notice how we want to sit in the seats of honor. We can be so proper, so good, so well-off, that it is easy to imagine we are superior to the poor. We are so busy completing our 'To Do' list each day, that we forget to do good when we have the chance.

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, welcoming God. Fill our emptiness with your grace and humility that we would spend our lives alongside Jesus, our Lord and Savior, throwing a party for the poor, the damaged, the prisoner, the lost, the oppressed. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: This is the good news: after what God has done for us, what can anyone or any thing do to us? We are new people, graced by our loving God.

Many: **Forgiven, embraced, and welcomed by our God, we will offer open hearts and serving hands to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. 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: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **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,"

Listening for God's Still Speaking Voice

Prayer for Illumination

One: Let us pray...

Many: **Open our hearts to the reading of your word, o Lord. May it reach and teach us to do your will and your work in our world today. Amen.**

Scripture Reading for Today Luke 14:1; 7-14

Jesus at a Pharisee's House

14 One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. ⁷ When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸ "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹ If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹ For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

A Refection on the Word

By Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

* Hymn of Response

The Servant Song

1. Brother, sister let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road.

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother sister let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives

One: The resourcing of our shared ministry depends upon the gifts that we bring. As image bearers of the divine, we receive the privilege of generosity. Through our gifts, we demonstrate trust in the Sovereign One and hope in our collective future. Let us give with an abundance of love and faith.
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 the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

One: Let us pray...

Many: Holy God, be glorified in our giving. Receive and magnify these gifts so that needs will be met,
communities transformed, and lives renewed. We dedicate them in your precious name. 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 O Jesus I Have Promised Vs. 1, 3 & 4**

1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve Thee to the end;
be Thou forever near me,
my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if Thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if Thou wilt be my Guide.

3 O let me hear Thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control!
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou Guardian of my soul!

4 O Jesus, Thou hast promised
to all who follow Thee
that where Thou art in glory
there shall Thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend!

*** Charge and Benediction**

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Having listened to God's words, we are sent to serve others.

Many: Today and tomorrow, we will follow where God leads.

One: Having joined in songs of praise and hope, we will carry these gifts into the world.

Many: Today and tomorrow, we will serve beside Jesus.

One: Having been filled with the Spirit of justice, we will go to be with all who struggle.

Many: Today and tomorrow, we will bring justice and peace to those around us.

One: Having worshipped our living and loving God, 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.

Many: Sing "A-Men!"

*Thank you for worshipping with us today! Remember, no matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at Trinity UCC*