

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

September 7, 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 Disciples of Christ

One: Let us pray...

Many: We come to you, O God of wonder, because you first came to us. You have known us long before we came into this world, and you have searched for a relationship with us and with all your children. Draw us back into the wonder of searching for a deeper connection with you. And in that searching, may we come to better know ourselves as we truly are, and as you would want us to be. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Call to Worship

by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

One: We come into your house, Divine Potter. We are your clay.

Many: We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works. Mold us into your disciples!

One: We bring our burdens and concerns, our hopes and dreams, our doubts and our delights.

Many: We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works. Hold us in your sure and righteous hand!

One: We seek your wisdom. Reveal your direction and our path.

Many: We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works. Rebuild and replant us!

***Hymn of Gathering**

Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart

1 Re-joyce ye pure in heart; lift praises to the sky

Your fes-tal ban-ner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!

Refrain

Re-joyce (*Re-joyce*) Re-joyce (*Re-joyce*) Re-joyce give thanks and sing

2 Bright youth and seasoned age, strong souls and spir-its meek

Raise high your free ex-ult-ing song; God's wonderous prais-es speak

Refrain

3 With Voices full and strong as o-ceans surg-ing praise

Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an-cient days

Refrain

4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as you go

From youth to age, by night and day, in glad-ness and in woe

Refrain

5 Praise God who rules all worlds, the ris-en Christ a-dore

Praise God the Spir-it, Ho-ly fire, one God for ev-er more!

Refrain

Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Our sins are not to be hidden from God. Rather, we bring them into the Light and lay them on the table, trusting in the One who shaped us for goodness and will transform our brokenness into wholeness. Please join me as we pray our prayer of confession

Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

All: God, we are so attached to our possessions, we have trouble sharing them. We are so connected to our pleasures that we cannot feel the pain of those around us. We are so stuck on ourselves, we cannot see the problems of the world around us.

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: Most merciful God: loosen us from the grip of the world, so we may feel your healing touch. Sever us from our sin, so your Spirit might bind us to you. Reshape us, redeem us, renew us, so we may take up our crosses and follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: The God who calls us is the God who created us; the God who formed us is the God who forgives us.
This is the Good News - we are God's new creation.

Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are reshaped, renewed, and forgiven. 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: Holy God, you care for our needs with your compassionate presence and teachings.

Holy God, be with us and guide our seeking, and bless us with the understanding of Your word.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings for Today Philemon 1: 1 - 21

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker— ² also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home:

³ Grace and peace to you^[a] from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

⁴ I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. ⁷ Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

Paul's Plea for Onesimus

⁸ Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹ yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— ¹⁰ that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus,^[b] who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

¹² I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. ¹³ I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. ¹⁵ Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— ¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰ I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

A Refection on the Word

Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

*** Hymn of Response**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives

One: Discipleship importantly includes sharing of our financial resources in support of the ministry of the gospel. Let us share materially in meeting the obligations of this church community. 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**

One: Let us pray...

Many: Generous God, receive our offerings and magnify them to propel the ministry of this church. May the community and the world benefit from our generous giving. In gratitude, we pray with our contributions. 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

One: May the God of life be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: People of God, lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the One who reshapes them into grace.

One: People of God, give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: We praise the One who has shaped us for love and service.

One: With joy we praise you, Creating God. You stooped down and took the clay lying on earth's floor, shaping us in your image. But we wondered what it would be like to follow our own paths and detached ourselves from your side. We counted the cost of being your children, and found it to be too much for us. We pondered your words and found them useless for our lives. But you did not take your hands from us, but continue to recreate us, to reshape us, to redeem us. Giver of breath, shaper of words, all the living find voice to praise you, as we celebrate with the people of every time and place, singing to your glory:

Many: Holy, holy, holy are you, God who shapes us with hands of grace and hope.

Your wonder works of creation praise your name.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes, appealing to us on the basis of love.

Hosanna in the highest!

One: Holy are you, Redeeming God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Traveling with us, he points out the paths we are to walk.

When he could command us to do whatever he wants, he appeals to us to follow his example.

Whatever wrong we have done, whatever good we have failed to do,

Jesus Christ charges them to his account, that we might be counted as your beloved children.

So, as we come to the Table of grace and hope, we remember that mystery we call faith:

Many: Christ died, having counted the cost.

Christ was raised, the foundation of resurrection being set in place.

Christ will come, refreshing our hearts for all eternity.

One: Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon these your gifts of loaf and cup, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who follow in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every time and place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, 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.

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

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

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."

The Communion of the People

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: Spirit of the Living God, renew us with this bread and this cup which have been set aside for sacred us, even as you refresh our hearts. Fill us with all the goodness of the kingdom, that we may do good for Christ as we serve others. Amen.

*** Our Hymn of Departure**

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Guide My Feet

1. Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

2. Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

3. I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

4. Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

*** Charge and Benediction**

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: It is God who has formed us as a community of faith.

Many: Now, we will go to find and serve our sisters and brothers.

One: It is Jesus who has knit us together as partners in grace.

Many: Now, we will go to bear the burdens of those around us.

One: It is the Spirit who gives us the words we need.

Many: Now, we will go to speak for justice and hope for all.

One: It is the Lord who calls you to 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.

***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***

