

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 14, 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

One: Let us pray...

Many: Merciful God, You seek us out when we wander, and search for us when we are lost. Walk with us today, and guide our steps, as worship you and hope to know you better. Amen.

Announcements

Call to Worship

One: We are welcomed by the Lord, no matter who we are.

Many: We are welcomed by the Lord, no matter where we are on our journey.

One: If we are as lost as a sheep in the wilderness of life

Many: Our good shepherd will keep looking for us, no matter where we are on our journey.

One: If we go missing among the dark places of life.

Many: Our diligent savior will search carefully to find us, and rejoice when we are found.

***Hymn of Gathering**

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
mount of God's redeeming love.

2 Here I find my greatest treasure;
hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
bought me with his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Which of us has not hurt someone this week? Which of us has not spoken (or thought) ill of a sister or brother in Christ? Which of us has failed to do good when given the chance? Which of us? All of us and each of us! But Christ came to save people just like us, so I invite you to join me as we pray our prayer of confession...

Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

One: Let us pray...

All: Although we believe we are experts at faithfulness, Holy God, we must confess that we are unskilled workers at doing good for others. Too often, we turn a deaf ear to the cries of people we have judged to be fools. We easily scoff at those we believe have nothing to teach us or share with us. We turn a deaf ear to those whose opinion is different than our own.

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: God, how foolish we are! Forgive us, and restore us to your goodness. Then, send us forth to search for all who sit in the shadowed corners of our world, yearning for someone to come and find them, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, came to find us.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Our actions sometimes show we do not know God. Our words and lives show we do not understand God's hopes for us. But with utmost patience, God sets aside our foolishness, and fills us with mercy.

Many: **Mingled with faith and love, grace is poured into our sin-parched souls, giving us new life, restoring us as God's children. 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 Readings for Today Luke 15: 1 – 10

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

A Refection on the Word

By Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

*** Hymn of Response**

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling

**1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.**

Refrain:

Come home, come home;
you who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me?
[Refrain]

3 Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
passing from you and from me;
shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
coming for you and for me.
[Refrain]

4 O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.
[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 Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

Many: When we could not find our way, you came searching for us. So may our gifts be used to bring
hope to those cast aside by the world, peace to those whose lives are troubled, and grace to all who
are alone. This we pray in Jesus' 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 God's Great Love Is So Amazing** by Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Sung to the tune "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

**1 God's great love is so amazing! See — a shepherd with his flocks!
Ninety-nine are safely grazing; one is lost among the rocks.
That good shepherd goes and searches till he finds the one astray.
So God says to fill our churches with the ones who've lost their way.**

**2 God in love is always seeking! See — a woman with her broom!
For a single coin she's sweeping every corner of the room.
When it's found she calls each neighbor, telling friends from all around.
So God says to search and labor till God's precious ones are found.**

**3 God keeps waiting, searching, yearning! See — a father's heartfelt joy!
Thankful for his son's returning, he runs out to greet his boy.
To the angrier older brother, hear the father's patient call.
So God says to love each other, for in Christ, God loves us all.**

*** Charge and Benediction**

One: We have been found by our God,

Many: So now we will go to search for those forgotten by the world.

One: We have been welcomed by Jesus,

Many: So now we will go to embrace the ones people look down their noses at.

One: We have been gathered as a community by the Spirit,

Many: So now we will go to be a family to the people who long to draw near to hope.

One: We will 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!"

***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***