

# 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*

*January 11, 2026*

*The Baptism of Jesus*

[www.trinityuccwestville.org](http://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](http://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 Rev. Michael Anthony Howard**

One: Let us pray.

**Many: Holy One, breath of Creation,**

You stretched out the heavens and set the earth dancing with life.  
You whispered belovedness over Jesus rising from the Jordan, and your Spirit rested upon him like a gentle dove. Rest your Spirit upon us now. Stretch our hearts where they have grown tight.  
Soften the places that have been hardened by fear or disappointment.  
Wake the embers of joy that still glow beneath the ash. Remind us that we are your Beloved. Amen.

#### **Announcements**

#### **Call to Worship**

**by Rev. Michael Anthony Howard**

One: Come, you who are weary, you who have been bruised by life,  
you whose flame has flickered in the winds of the world.

**Many: We come, longing to be renewed.**

One: The Holy One who stretches out the heavens is stretching us now—  
stretching our hearts toward courage, our hands toward compassion,  
our lives toward gentle justice.

**Many: We open ourselves to be stretched into new life.**

One: A voice from heaven says to us, as it said to Jesus: You are my beloved.  
This Spirit rests upon us, too.

**Many: We are God's Beloved, called to bring gentle justice.**

One: Come, let us remember who we are.

**Many: Let us worship God with joy.**

**\*Hymn of Gathering**

1 Fairest Lord Jesus,  
ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God and man the Son,  
Thee will I cherish,  
Thee will I honor,  
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,  
fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer  
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

**Fairest Lord Jesus**

3 Fair is the sunshine,  
fairer still the moonlight,  
and all the twinkling starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heaven can boast.

4 Beautiful Savior!  
Lord of all the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine.

**Call to Confession**

One: We cannot be reminded enough that God claims us as beloved children even before we are perfect people.  
As we remember our baptisms, let us confess those foolish choices which keep us from jumping feet first  
into that river of grace, where God meets us in the waters of life.

**Prayer of Confession and Letting Go**

One: Let us pray...

**Many: We know we prefer to stand on the shore, gentle God, scared to run barefoot into the waters of  
faith. We take small sips of the living water of grace you offer but go on binges with the mixed  
drinks of anger and fear. We have trouble seeing some neighbors, much less strangers, our vision  
clouded with bias and bigotry.**

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: As we draw near to the waters of baptism, God of grace, have mercy on us. Whenever we forget  
who we are, send us to serve the vulnerable. Whenever we forget what we are, challenge us to be  
more gracious and just. Whenever we forget whose we are, wash us again in that forgiveness  
deeper than our shallow lives, and fill us with new life in Christ. Amen.**

**Words of Forgiveness and Assurance**

One: This is our good news, friends. The Spirit descends upon us, the heavens open, and God speaks – not with  
judgment, punishment, or condemnation, but with joy, grace, hope, love.

**Many: We are God's beloved children – forgiven, claimed, named, and baptized.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**By Rev. Thom Shuman**

\*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: Welcome each other. Welcome the stranger. Welcome all who come. As Christ welcomed everyone, no matter what their background, no matter what their social status; as Christ welcomed enemies and friends, outcasts and leaders, foreigners and neighbors, let us open our hearts and homes and lives. Let us get up as we are able, and be Christ to everyone we meet.

By Lisa Frenz

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: Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our heads and our hearts and our spirits to your word. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

#### Scripture Readings for Today

#### Isaiah 42:1-9

#### The Servant, a Light to the Nations

**42** Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
**2** He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street;  
**3** a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
    he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
**4** He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth,  
    and the coastlands wait for his teaching.  
**5** Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
    who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it  
    and spirit to those who walk in it:  
**6** I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,  
**7** to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
    from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
**8** I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.  
**9** See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

#### Matthew 3:13-17

#### The Baptism of Jesus

**13** Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. **14** John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” **15** But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented.

<sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

## A Refection on the Word

By Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

### \* Hymn of Response

**Down By the Jordan** By Rev. Carolyn Winfrey-Gillette  
Sung to the tune "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

1 Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,  
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:  
"God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live!  
Surely God's new day is rising!"

2 There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:  
"Are you God's Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?"  
"No!" John replied. "He who is mightier than I  
Judges and offers salvation."

3 Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,  
Taking your place among sinners, God's lost sons and daughters.  
Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove!  
Your work began in those waters.

4 Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit.  
Freed and forgiven, we're welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?  
This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"  
Let's take the good news and share it!

## Reaffirming our Baptismal Vows

One: Beloved Children of God, The Lord be with you

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Beloved of God, today we remember that we are a people formed in water and Spirit.  
We remember that Jesus stepped into the waters of the Jordan,  
not because he needed to be cleansed,  
but to show us what it means to be fully human—  
to say yes to God, yes to belovedness, yes to the work of gentle justice.  
Today we step into that yes again.

Let us pray: Eternal and gracious God we give you thanks. In countless ways you have revealed yourself in ages past, and have blessed us with signs of your grace.

**Many: We rejoice that you claimed us in our baptism and that by your grace we are born anew.**

One: By your holy spirit renew us that we may be empowered to do your will and continue, with God's grace to continue the ministry of the risen Jesus Christ.

**Many: Amen.**

At this time, as you are able, you are invited to come forward. Pastor David will anoint your forehead and say "you are a beloved child of God."

And you will respond, **"and I will make a new beginning."**

## Prayer of Recommitment

All: By your spirit, almighty God, grant us love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness towards all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, and self-control in all things. May it strengthen us for ministry in your name. Amen.

## Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives

One: Just as the waters of the earth are abundant and full of life, so are the blessings God ours out on us daily. Let us now joyfully offer our tithes, pledges, and offerings with the hope that they may enable others to feel immersed in God's love. You may drop your offering for today in the offering plate as they are brought forward. Your gifts are used in service to others through the ministries and mission of Trinity United Church of Christ. 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: As a river carries life to land, take our gifts and carry them into the world, God. There, may they set people free, open closed eyes and clenched fists, proclaim faith instead of fear, share peace instead of platitudes. This we pray in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. 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

1 Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

### Amazing Grace

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come:  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

5 When we've been there ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun

**\* Charge and Benediction**

One: The heavens have opened and we have heard God's voice.

Many: Let us go to speak up for all whom the world ignores.

One: We have stood in the waters of baptism gathered into the welcoming arms of Jesus.

Many: Let us go to embrace everyone who finds the doors of hope, justice, life slammed in their faces.

One: We have felt the touch of the Spirit resting upon us like a gentle dove.

Many: Let us go to be light in the shadows cast by the privileged and powerful, and bring peace to the broken places.

One: We will go out into the world in peace. Continue to 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: Go forth, knowing that the God who created you, the Christ who redeems you and the Spirit who empowers you is with you today and for ever more. Knowing this, may laughter and joy go with you every step of your journey.

Many: Amen.

Sing "A-Men!"