

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 25, 2026

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 Rev. Michael Anthony Howard

One: Let us pray...

Many: Holy One, your light dawns where our shadows are deepest. You are never far; your presence remains with us. Awaken us to the glimmers of your glory breaking into our world's weariness. Shine upon the paths we walk—so we can see the work to do that you set out before us. Amen.

Announcements

Call to Worship

By Rev. Michael Anthony Howard

One: Come, people of God—the dawn is breaking! A new day rises where sorrow had settled in.

Many: The dawn is breaking—and we rise with it.

One: Where burdens have bent us low, the Holy One draws near, steadyng our steps.

Many: The Holy One draws near—and we gather our courage.

One: Where yokes have weighed on shoulders and spirits, God is loosening what has held us down.

Many: What held us down is lifting—and we move toward freedom.

One: Come, all who yearn for justice; all who hope for healing; all who hunger for joy.

**Many: We come to the dawning way, we come to the hopeful day,
we come to the way God makes glorious.**

***Hymn of Gathering Come, Ye Thankful People Come Vs. 1 – 3**

1 Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

2 All the world is God's own field,
fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown
are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

4 Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: If we come to God with open hearts and honest words, we will not be pushed away, but wrapped in God's loving and forgiving embrace. I invite you to join me as we confess our lives to God, praying our prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

All: We admit God, that we do indeed try to tear Christ apart - a piece of him here to support our politics, a part of him to undergird our economic views, the rest of him to bolster our fears of others. We could leave immediately to follow him, but need to wait until we see where he might lead us. We want you to look upon us with favor always, but have no trouble turning our backs on those 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: Hear us God, as we speak of our failures! Have mercy on us, we appeal to you, have mercy! May your love become the core of our hearts, may your compassion become the words we speak, may your hope illuminate the ways in which we serve others, even as we seek to follow the One who calls us to new life, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: God is our help, so why should we be afraid? God keeps us safe, there is nothing to dread! This is good news for all of us.

Many: Sheltered in God's gracious heart of mercy and love, we raise shouts of joy: thanks be to God, 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

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: We are but single threads woven together to form a tapestry of many colors. Remembering this, let us greet one another as children of God by passing the peace of Christ.

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 ears to hear, our hearts to feel, and our minds to discern your word and your will O God. May it motivate us to bring good news and liberation to the poor, to the marginalized, and to all who are in need anywhere. Amen.

Scripture Readings for Today Isaiah 9:1-4

The Righteous Reign of the Coming King

9 But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,

and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news^l of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

A Refection on the Word

By Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

*** Hymn of Response 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!

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. Michael Anthony Howard

One: Let us pray...

Many: Bless the giving and the givers, Lord, that generosity may widen your way and strengthen the communities we touch. With gratitude for all you are doing in us and through us, we dedicate these gifts to the work of compassion you entrust to our care. 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

How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; [Refrain]

3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; [Refrain]

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!" [Refrain]

*** Charge and Benediction**

One: Let us take God's light into the world.

Many: We will go to join others in pilgrimage of trust.

One: Let us go to gather the burdens of others.

Many: We will take away their fears and offer them to Jesus, who helps everyone in every moment.

One: Let us go to live in the Spirit's presence.

Many: We will follow the Spirit into the peace which is offered to all of God's people.

One: Let us 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"

