

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

February 1, 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.

Our Opening Prayer

By Rev. Teña T. Nock

One: Let us pray

Many: Holy One, we welcome Your goodness into our sanctuary. May it manifest throughout this time of worship. May something be preached, prayed, or sung, that changes us for good. Amen

Announcements

Our Call to Worship

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: When we seek justice for the other, when we love kindness more than ever,

Many: we live as God asks us to live.

One: When we walk humbly through life, when we offer mercy to those who hurt us,

Many: we are the blessing God hopes we will be.

One: When we are willing to look foolish by following Jesus, when we choose humbleness rather than power,

Many: we reflect the One who is in our midst.

*Our Opening Hymn of Praise

1 O Master, let me walk with thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret, help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

O Master Let Me Walk with Thee

2 Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
And guide them in the homeward way.

3 Teach me thy patience; still with thee
In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong.

4 In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broad'ning way,
In peace that only thou canst give,
With thee, O Master, let me live.

The Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: If we want to truly live in God's presence, we must live as God's faithful people. Let us begin by confessing all the mistakes we have made, the wrongs we have done, the people we have hurt. Join me as we pray together, saying,

Our Prayer of Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray

Many: What have we done to you, dear God? We dishonor you every time we treat another with disrespect. We shatter your heart when we find it easier to break our word, then to take the risk to keep it. We repeat half-truths and outright lies in order to suit our slanderous desires.

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

Many: You are wise enough to forgive our foolishness;
you are strong enough to overcome our weakness;
you are loving enough to heal the hurt we cause to you and to others.
And so you give us new hope and new life in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: What has God done to us - shown mercy! What has God done for us - forgiven us!
This is the good news for us.

Many: We will not boast, for it is not our doing.
We will give thanks to God for such grace and hope. 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,”*

We Listen for God's Word

Our Prayer for Illumination

One: Let us pray

Many: O God, we thank you for Jesus' teachings to all who follow him. We thank you for the blessings of the Beatitudes, and for the wonderful surprises they bring us, about what it means for your church to live in your kingdom. Help us by your Spirit to hear your word in scripture, and to follow your way in our lives. Amen.

By Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Our Scripture Readings for Today

Micah 6:1-8

God Challenges Israel

6 Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

2 Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

3 “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

What God Requires

6 “With what shall I come before the LORD and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely^{1b} on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

A Refection on the Word

By Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

We Respond to God's Word

1 Blessed are the poor in spirit; all God's realm is surely theirs.
Those in mourning will find comfort as an answer to their prayers.
Meek ones whom this world despises will inherit everything.
God, your kingdom still surprises; may we seek the reign you bring.

2 Blessed, too, are those who hunger and who thirst for what is right.
They will not be prone to wander, for your will is their delight.
Those who show God's care and mercy will receive that mercy too.
God, in Christ you show us clearly of the joy we have in you.

3 Those who share the peace God gives them will find blessings as God's own.
Those oppressed for faithful living will call heaven's kingdom Home.
When the world's ways seem distressing and we feel life's painful sting,
God, remind us of the blessings of the wondrous life you bring.

Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives

One: We serve a Good God who has blessed us with good things to share for the good of the kingdom. Let us revel in that goodness now and give from our hearts as well as our hands. 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

One: 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 Give Back to God

By the UMC

One: Let us pray

Many: God of Justice and Mercy, you do not ask for thousands of offerings or rivers of oil, only that we live with love, humility, and a hunger for what is right. Accept these gifts we bring as signs of our desire to follow you. Use them and us to pour out kindness where the world is aching, to walk alongside the weary, and to bring your healing presence into troubled places. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

By Rev. Teña T. Nock

One: Come, all who hunger. Come all who thirst. Come no matter what's needed because everyone needs something and everyone needs someone. At this table, you are included and room is ever being made to include more. More love, more understanding, more food, more drink, more community, and more good and goodness.

Your invitation is eternal for this table belongs to God. We don't get to decide who we sit next to, but we do get to decide to enjoy whoever is seated. So come to the table, where strangers become friends, friends become family, and family keeps expanding. Come as you are and leave better than how you came.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

By Rev. Teña T. Nock

One: In the beginning, the earth was formed. It was the first table that all creations were invited to. This table has gone through several iterations and holds steady. Jesus was at this table at some point in history. He lived, he taught, he was put to death, and then he resurrected. In doing all these things, he taught us a new way to look at tables and how to set them inclusively. He showed us that we are included in the heart and mind of God always and he taught us how to include those we might be inclined to label as "other".

Many: For these reasons among many others, we give thanks for this meal.

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.

One: 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

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

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: Together we trust in this moment of transformation which is made possible by You, God.

Many: Give us the strength to continue on the journey and to set tables that are welcoming and ever expanding.

We Go to Love and Serve God

*Our Hymn of Parting

In the Bulb, There is a Flower

1. In the bulb, there is a flower

In the seed, an apple tree

In cocoons, a hidden promise

Butterflies will soon be free

In the cold and snow of winter

There's a spring that waits to be

Unrevealed until its season

Something God alone can see

2. There's a song in every silence

Seeking word and melody

There's a dawn in every darkness

Bringing hope to you and me

From the past will come the future

What it holds, a mystery

Unrevealed until its season

Something God alone can see

3. In our end is our beginning

In our time infinity

On our doubt there is believing

In our life, eternity

In our death, a resurrection

At the last, a victory

Unrevealed until its season,

Something God alone can see.

*Charge and Benediction

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: We have been nourished by God's grace and hope,

Many: and so we will go to those who hunger for justice, as well as to those who thirst for reconciliation.

One: We are called to follow the One who is weak and powerless,
Many: and so we will bring healing to the broken among us,
as well as comfort to those who grieve in every moment.

One: We learn what is right and good from the Holy Spirit,
Many: and so we will go as fools to be blessings to the wise,
as well as to do not what is easy, but what is difficult.

One: We are to 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: And so 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

