

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 22, 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 Dr. Sharon R. Fennema

One: Let us pray...

Many: In the wilderness and the wandering and the weariness, lead us, Holy Spirit.

In the hungering and the holding and the humbling, accompany us, Holy Spirit.

In the tempting and the testing and the turning, move us, Holy Spirit.

In the resisting and the refusing and the recognizing, guide us, Holy Spirit.

Ground in us, as we ground in you. Breathe with us, as we breathe with you.

Turn with us, as we turn toward you. As the new way for each of us emerges, we pray. Amen.

Magic Penny

Pg. 5

Announcements

Call to Worship

By Dr. Sharon R. Fennema

One: Then the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

Many: Come, beloveds, into the wilderness of our heartbreaking and troubled days.

One: In the midst of our hunger for comfort, provoked by lies of scarcity,

Many: this Lenten journey promises bread and abundance.

One: In the midst of our longing for safety, enticed by promises of security,

Many: this Lenten journey promises angels and costly solidarity.

One: In the midst of our clinging to power, lured by the ease of complicity,

Many: this Lenten journey promises prayer and turning around.

One: The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

Many: Come, beloveds, to worship, venturing deeper and deeper with Jesus, into the wilderness of our broken and beautiful world.

***Hymn of Gathering**

Sweet Hour of Prayer

1 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

**that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known.**

**In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!**

3 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

**thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.**

**And since he bids me seek his face,
believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!**

2 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

**the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
where God my Savior shows his face,
and gladly take my station there,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!**

Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Like a parent, God seeks to set boundaries for the children of God. And, like children, we are stubborn enough to want to do things our own way. So, we become easy prey for the evil one. But Jesus, our Sibling, shows us how to find the will, the strength, to resist and to know the mercy of God. Together, let us confess our sins, so God might fill us with hope and joy.

Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

Many: God of grace, we know that Lent is a hard time for us. In a culture which showcases success, you call us to sacrifice ourselves for others. In a world which promotes power, you invite us to deny ourselves. In a society which encourages us to 'feel good,' you point us to the struggles of siblings, the burdens others bear.

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: By your mercy, forgive us, O God. Remind us that as we journey with Jesus, we learn the steps of discipleship. As we listen to his call to obedience, may we learn how to say 'no' to all that tempts us. As we see his suffering, may we live out the good news which has come to us through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: By ourselves, we would be easily controlled by sin and temptation. But God has given us the free gift of grace, and so we are set free to live as disciples.

Many: **This is the gift which brings us hope; this is the gift which brings us joy; this is the gift which brings us life. 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.

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 let our light shine 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 Matthew 4:1-11

The Testing of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. **2** He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. **3** The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." **4** But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,'

and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, **9** and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." **10** Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

A Reflection on the Word

By Pastor Bob Rasmus

* Hymn of Response

Just As I Am

1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,

and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives

One: The season of Lent invites us to take stock of and deepen our spiritual practices. How might God be inviting you to deepen your spiritual practice of generosity in this season? Let us offer whatever gifts we have to resist the tempter's lies of scarcity and turn toward abundant life and flourishing for all. 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: May the privileged always share with the forgotten, may the powerful learn the grace of humility, and may our generosity reveal our gratitude for all the blessings we have been given so we can share them with others. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Please drop off any prayer requests in the basket located in the narthex, or in the offering plate.

If you announce your prayer during worship,
remember please only first names, and keep your prayers appropriate to our worship.

After Pastor Bob 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

Be Thou My Vision

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

3. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4. High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

* Charge and Benediction

By Dr. Sharon R. Fennema

One: In the midst of our hunger for comfort,

Many: may this Lenten journey bless us with bread and abundance.

One: In the midst of our longing for safety,

Many: may this Lenten journey bless us with angels and costly solidarity.

One: In the midst of our clinging to power, lured by the ease of complicity,

Many: may this Lenten journey bless us with prayer and turning around.

One: In the midst of life's distractions, 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: 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.

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*