

# 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*

*March 8, 2026*

[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 Dr. Sharon R. Fennema**

One: Let us pray...

Many: **Into the stream of those who have labored before us, Spirit, let us flow.**

**Into the river that rolls down with justice, Spirit, let us step.**

**Into the well that is deeper than our divisions, Spirit, let us draw near to You, Lord.**

**In this moment, in every moment, we pray:**

**give us this water, Jesus, so we will never be thirsty again. Amen.**

#### **Announcements**

#### **Call to Worship**

**By Rev. Thom Shuman**

One: We come, our souls thirsting for God, our spirits longing for love.

Many: We come to the One who supplies every need; we come to the One who gives us living water.

One: We come, with prayers in our hearts, and with words too painful to speak.

Many: We come to the One who listens to our hearts, who carries our suffering through eternity.

One: We come, with our brokenness and loss, with our hope to be made whole.

Many: We come to the One who knows all our secrets, who brings peace to all of us - and to each of us.

**\*Hymn of Gathering** **Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehova**

1 Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,  
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's Destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.

**Call to Confession**

**By Rev. Thom Shuman**

One: Walking the dog, reading a bedtime story, recycling newspapers - in every moment, in every place, God is there. Let us confess how often we do not see God in our lives, especially in how we live them.

**Prayer of Confession and Letting Go**

**By Rev. Thom Shuman**

One: Let us pray...

**All:** Eternal God, you know how often we travel down the rocky roads of doubt and fear. We beleaguer others with our worries; we hurl bitter words at those we love. We have chances to offer ourselves in service, but give only our contempt to those in need. We could share the living waters with the world, but want to store it in jars for our own safe-keeping.

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:** Giver of Grace, you turn towards us, to meet us wherever we are. You break open our rock-hard sin, so we might be made whole. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, our thirst for hope and joy is quenched. Amen.

## Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: God does not disappoint us. Our sins are forgiven, our lives are made whole, we are sent forth to serve.

Many: In Jesus Christ, living water breaks through the roof of our hearts, in such abundance that we don't have enough buckets to hold it all. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven and made clean 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: By God's grace we are washed and made clean. The walls that divided us have eroded away. Let us offer this Grace and peace to those around us as we get up in body or in spirit, and pass 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: Let your word pour into our hearts o Lord. May it change us for the better. Amen.

### Scripture Readings for Today

John 4:5-30; 27 -42

### The Woman at the Well

<sup>5</sup> So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called

Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

### **A Refection on the Word**

#### **\* Hymn of Response                      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.**

#### **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: We pray, Gracious God, that our gifts may provide nourishment to those who thirst for justice, strength to those who hunger for hope, a community to those living in loneliness. 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**

**Shall We Gather at the River?**

1 Shall we gather at the river,  
Where bright angel feet have trod;  
With its crystal tide forever  
Flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
The beautiful, the beautiful river;  
Gather with the saints at the river  
That flows by the throne of God.

2 On the margin of the river,  
Washing up its silver spray,  
We will walk and worship ever,  
All the happy golden day.

Refrain

3 Ere we reach the shining river,  
Lay we ev'ry burden down;  
Grace our spirits will deliver,  
And provide a robe and crown.

Refrain

**\* Charge and Benediction**

One: Let us go now, to meet all thirsting for God.

**Many: We will share the living water with everyone we meet.**

One: Let us go now, to listen as Jesus does with us.

**Many: We will hear the stories and hearts of all who are considered voiceless by our world.**

One: Let us go now, to bring the Spirit's wholeness to others.

**Many: We will bring peace and healing to the broken and lonely,  
even as they offer us hope and grace by their lives.**

One: Let us go now 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***

