

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

April 12, 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 the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

One: Let us pray...

Many: Gracious and Eternal God, you are the one who calls us together and the one who sends us out in the world. Remind us, as we gather, how good it is to dwell with you and one another. Stir our hearts to love boldly, freely, and joyfully. Let us praise you with our whole lives and magnify your name by our works. We bless and honor you, O Faithful One, from generation to generation and from community to community. Speak to our spirits and receive our worship. Amen.

Announcements

Call to Worship

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: The whole creation rejoices; the birds sing from every tree.

One: Alleluia! Christ is in our midst!

Many: Babies babble with sounds of joy; words cannot express our overflowing hearts.

One: Alleluia! Christ is our light forever!

Many: Breathing peace on us in these moments; surrounding us with grace and hope.

***Hymn of Gathering Christ the Lord is Risen Today**

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!
2. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once He doth all save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!
3. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Afraid that God will find out how faithless we are, we try to lock up our hearts so God cannot see our foolish lives and failures. Let us confess our sins to the One who offers us peace and healing, as we pray together our prayer of confession

Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

All: Hear the echoes of our locked hearts, Lord. We cross the borders into temptation and never seem to find our way back. We multiply the sorrows of others by our hurtful words and the harmful deeds we do. We see the ones you would give us to serve, but believe we do not have the abilities to care for them.

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: Have mercy on us, God whose Breath gives us life. Walk through the closed doors of our worries and doubts to stand in our midst, offering us that grace which can heal us, that hope which can enliven us, and that faith which enables us to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: It is God's great mercy through the resurrection of Jesus which gives us that hope which lives within us.

Many: Thanks be to God for this precious gift by which we are able to believe and rejoice in our inheritance. 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 all disciples of the risen Christ. As we are able, let us greet each other with a sign of God's peace.

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

Many: Dear God, as we hear your word, may we be transformed into a true community of believers, ready to go into the world to testify that Christ is alive and active in our lives today. Amen.

Scripture Reading for Today

John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

A Reflection on the Word

By Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

* Hymn of Response

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.

3 Breathe on me, breath of God
Till I am wholly thine
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine

2 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with yours,
to do and to endure.

4 Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
for all eternity.

Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives

One: All that we have belongs to God. As we celebrate our unity as a community of faith and focus our hearts on the risen Christ, we joyfully lay our possessions at the altar. Through the grace of God and the bounty of this church, we have the ability to share our gifts so that all may have what they need to live. We thank God for the opportunity to truly be in fellowship with one another and with the world through our offerings today. If you are joining us online, you can send your offering or pledge to Trinity United Church of Christ

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**

One: Let us pray...

Many: As we offer our gifts to you, Loving God, remove any doubts about how they might be used, as you offer food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, joy to the grieving, and peace to the broken. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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**

Because He Lives

1. God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive
He lived and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives.

2 How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and the joy he gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives.

Refrain

3 And then one day, I'll cross that river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then, as death gives way to vict'ry
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns.

Refrain

*** Charge and Benediction**

One: Go forth in the love of God.

Many: We will take this love into unlovely parts of our lives.

One: Go forth in the grace of Jesus Christ.

Many: We will look for him in the faces of every person we meet.

One: Go forth in the peace of the Spirit.

Many: We will share this hope with the brokenness all around us.

One: Go forth in the reassurance that God is with you. 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 "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*