

# 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*

May 3, 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.

#### Our Opening Prayer

by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

One: Let us pray...

**Many: Holy and Living God, build us into a spiritual house, a gathering of witnesses for the world and in the world to declare your goodness, to follow in your way, to do the work of your hands, voice, and heart. Renew our spirits as we worship you and bask in your presence. Fill us with your Spirit that we collectively proclaim ourselves as your people, called to the fullness of your glorious and radiant being. Amen.**

#### Announcements

#### Our Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 31

One: In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

**Many: Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.**

One: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me;

Many: take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

One: Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

Many: My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

**\*Our Opening Hymn of Praise**

**Fairest Lord Jesus**

1 Fairest Lord Jesus,  
ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God and man the Son,  
Thee will I cherish,  
Thee will I honor,  
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

3 Fair is the sunshine,  
fairer still the moonlight,  
and all the twinkling starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heaven can boast.

2 Fair are the meadows,  
fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer  
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

4 Beautiful Savior!  
Lord of all the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine.

**The Call to Confession**

**By Rev. Thom Shuman**

One: Considered too rough for their smooth plans, the builders cast out the Stone they needed. But God builds salvation on the One who is the foundation of all hope. Let us confess our sins to God and one another, trusting we will not be put to shame,

**Our Prayer of Confession**

**By Rev. Thom Shuman**

Many: Hear the brokenness of our lives, Precious God. We cover our ears so we cannot hear the cries of those in need, or you urging us to respond. We rush together to defend every issue that matters to us, but quickly disperse when you would call us to be your holy people. We shout as loud as we can to cheer on our sports teams, but can manage only whispers when it comes to sharing the good news with others.

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: Forgive us God, and do not hold our sins against us. We lay the garments of our foolishness at your feet, so you might clothe us in grace and hope. We would feed on the spiritual food which flows from your heart so we might be strong enough to follow Jesus as he leads us in the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

**Words of Forgiveness and Assurance**

**By Rev. Thom Shuman**

One: You are no longer alone - you are God's Beloved. You are not of this world, but residents of God's Kingdom. You, who once had no hope, have been filled with forgiveness.

Many: Each one of us, all of us, have received God's mercy in Christ. Forgiven, redeemed, made whole - we are a people made one in faith. Thanks be to God. 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**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**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 the one who has ears to hear, listen.

Many: **The Word of the Lord speaks to the living of our lives today.**

**The Word is our fortress and strength, providing shelter and foundation for daily living. Amen.**

### **Our Scripture Reading for Today**

**John 14:1-14**

**Jesus the Way to the Father**

14 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe<sup>1</sup> in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me<sup>14</sup> for anything, I will do it.

**A Reflection on the Word**

**By Rev. David Robberts-Mosser**

## **We Respond to God's Word**

**\*Our Hymn of Response**

**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]

**Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives**

One: Generous ones, you bear the image of the Generous God, who has provided for all needs and gives good gifts. Accept the invitation to share, sacrificially and from abundance, resources needed in this community and by our neighbors throughout the world for the glory of God.  
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**

**\*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**

One: Let us pray...

Many: We offer our gifts so that others may not feel alone, eat alone, live alone, be alone, but that they may be surrounded by your grace and love through us and the lives we offer to them.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**The Sacrament of Communion**

**Invitation to the Table**

One: Christ invites us here. This meal is what connects us to Jesus and to one another. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are invited to Christ's table of extravagant welcome

Many: **O let us taste and see the goodness of the God who calls us to the table and meets us in every feast!**

## Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: May the God of every way be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift your hearts to the One who is the Truth for God's own people.

**Many: We offer them to the One who warms them with love.**

One: Sing praises to God, who is our Life.

**Many: Glad songs are offered to the One who provides shelter for us.**

One: You made a way through chaos, Constructing God, the Word echoing on mountaintops and whispering in valleys; the Spirit teaching songs to the stars, and breathing life into those created in your image as your precious children.

Prophets came to remind us that you would not put us to shame, psalmists sang to us of your longing to cut the net of sin and death and set us free, but , together, we rushed into the open arms of temptation. Then you sent Jesus, so that in knowing and believing in him, we would know and believe in you. With those who have nothing and with those who give everything away, we lift our voices to you:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy are you, God who pulls us to safety.**

**All creation kneels down to worship you.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who shows us the Truth.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Even as we celebrate the Life which was his, as we claim the Truth that all are one with you, we take refuge in that mystery called faith:

**Many: Christ died, trusting in God's promises;**

**God raised him from the dead, promising the same for us;**

**Christ will come, fulfilling all the promises of God.**

One: And when the Way leads us home to you, when your Life gathers us with our sisters and brothers around the Table which is prepared by your Truth, we will sing glad songs of praise to you forever, God in Community, Holy in One.

**Many: Amen.**

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

One: 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

One: 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: Let us pray...

Many: **Gracious God, we thank you for this meal and for all of the ways you nourish us. Help us to grow so that we may nourish others. Sustain us as we press toward the goal of your call to serve all of your children in the name of our savior, Christ Jesus. Amen.**

## We Go to Love and Serve God in God's World

### \*Our Hymn of Parting

### Amazing Grace

1 Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come:  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

5 When we've been there ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**By Rev. Thom Shuman**

One: May the blessings of the One who is the Way be with you in the days to come.

**Many: May God guide our feet wherever we go.**

One: May the blessings of Jesus who is our Life be with you in the days to come.

**Many: May he lead us by the hand to those who are our sisters and brothers in need.**

One: May the blessings of the Spirit of Truth be with you in the days to come.

**Many: May we journey with the Spirit to that way which is everlasting.**

One: Take these blessings with you as you 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!"**

***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***

