

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

August 9, 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 Illustrated Ministry

One: Let us pray...

Many: God our teacher, who helps us to understand the world around us, Thank you for the privilege of education. You have blessed our communities with teachers who take new skills and concepts and pass them along to each new class of young people. We celebrate the beginning of this school year and ask for your blessings upon the children, the educators, and the families who support them all. We come to worship together, to lift up our young people and all those who care for them and teach them. Open our hearts to what you are saying to us today. Amen

Announcements

Blessing of the Backpacks

One: Let us pray...

Many: God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you. In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations.

There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring— of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become. Bless us and our backpacks as we remember that you are always with us each and every day. And for the grown-ups going back to school, God who is with us, be with them too. Amen

Call to Worship

by the Illustrated Ministry

One: Calling all children of the Living God: the gospel is good news for every age and every stage.

Many: **Let us worship together, the young and the old.**

One: The good news is proclaimed in God's words, and also with crayons, silly songs, snacks, and rest time.

Many: **Let us worship together, every generation.**

One: We come together with different abilities and disabilities, learning in a rainbow of ways and styles.

Many: **Let us worship together, with our family of faith.**

One: All are welcome in the arms of Christ who proclaimed, "Let the children come!"

Many: **Let us worship together, united in our eternal hope**

***Hymn of Gathering 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.

Call to Confession

by Rev. Thom Shuman

One: The deepest longing of our hearts is to be forgiven and embraced by our God. As we confess our sins, God speaks peace to us and makes us whole. Join me, as we pray together our prayer of confession

Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

by Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

All: In truth, God of silence and seas, we are more adept at making waves than calming storms. We find it easier to push people out of the boat, rather than make room for those who are different from us. And our lives are such a whirlwind of activity, that we do not notice your presence.

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 of patience. Grab hold of us to keep us from drowning in our oceans of temptations. Give us the words to speak of your hope to others. Fill our hearts with the love of Jesus Christ, which is nearer to us than we dare to imagine. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

by Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Immediately, immediately! Your sins are forgiven, your life is restored, and grace becomes your guide through this life.

Many: Thanks be to God! We are not left alone, but take heart in the forgiving love of Jesus. 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 in this boat together, so let us rise 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

by Rev. Nancy Townley

One: Let us pray...

Many: Caring God, you do not ask us for too many leaps of faith, but for small steps that help us stay with you every day. Open our hearts up to your word today. Help us see how the familiar themes of fear, and trust intersect with our lives and faith journey. May they reassure us of your amazing faithfulness in us, and provide a closer relationship with you and your son, our savior Jesus. Amen.

Scripture Readings for Today Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

A Refection on the Word

by Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

*** Hymn of Response Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult**

1 Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his voice invites me,
saying "Christian, follow me!"

2 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying "Christian, love me more."

3 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

4 Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,
Savior, help us hear your call;
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love you best of all!

Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives

One: The Holy One gives gifts freely and abundantly so that all will be well and whole. God provides and empowers us to participate in providing for one another. There is enough for all. Let us join in the Creator's holy, wondrous, and abundant generosity in sharing the gifts we have claimed.
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**

One: Let us pray...

Many: Giver of all gifts, refine these offerings and our hearts so that they may bear fruit. Bless each of us with the joy of gift giving and help us to know the good that our generosity lends to the world in your Holy and Precious Name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Please drop off any prayer requests in the basket located on the table, 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 Jesus Loves Me**

**1 Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.**

Refrain:

**Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.**

**2 Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me." *Refrain***

**3 Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live. *Refrain***

*** Charge and Benediction**

One: We will go into the world as God's people,
Many: telling of God's hopes for all.

One: We will go to serve the world as followers of Jesus,
Many: showing with our lives that all are part of the kingdom.

One: We will go to share the Spirit,
Many: to bring peace where there is war, to share love where there is hate.

One: We will go out and continue to 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***