

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

September 6, 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.

Our Opening Prayer

One: Let us pray...

Many: On this weekend where we celebrate those who have labored for justice in the workplace, we give you thanks O Lord for this day of rest. May our worship and our prayers be pleasing to you O Lord. May you bless our time together. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Our Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 119: 33 - 40

One: Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

Many: Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

One: Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

Many: Turn my heart to your decrees and not to selfish gain.

One: Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; be gracious to me according to your word.
Many: See, I have longed for your teachings; in your righteousness be gracious to me.

***The Opening Hymn of Praise The Church's One Foundation**

1 The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.

3. 'Mid toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forever more;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

4 Yet she on earth hath union
With God the three in one
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly
On high may dwell with thee

The Call to Confession

by Rev. Thom Shuman

One: In worship and at work, in life and in loss, now and in every moment, Christ is among us: loving us, teaching us, and hoping to lead us. But we focus on those needs, on those desires that keep us from recognizing him. Let us confess all that we have done against God and others, as we pray our prayer of confession,

Prayer of Confession

by Rev. Thom Shuman

Many: All you ask of us is to love one another, God, and you are more than willing to teach us how. Yet we find this simple request so hard to carry out, this easy lesson so difficult to learn.

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, Merciful God, and unclasp our hands from our grudges. With Christ in our midst, we can become the people your dream about: loving, merciful, gentle, and compassionate people of God. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

One: we have gathered as God's people: broken, we are made whole; alone, we are welcomed into a family; forgiven, we are sent to serve.

Many: Fed, forgiven, restored, loved. This Table is our constant reminder of God's presence in our lives, of God's grace which makes us new in every moment. 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

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: 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 us pray...

Many: Open our minds with the reading of your word. May it stir new directions in our hearts to take, and push our minds to think. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Our Scripture Reading for Today

Romans 13:8-14

Love for One Another

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

An Urgent Appeal

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A Refection on the Word

by Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

We Respond to God's Word

*Our Hymn of Response Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread together on our knees.

Let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.

[Refrain]

3 Let us praise God together on our knees.

Let us praise God together on our knees.

[Refrain]

Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives

by Rev. Ed Middleton

One: The witness of our sacred texts and generations of prophetic leaders is clear: when we have enough - and more than enough - to meet our needs, our call is to share until all others have their needs met. When this vision of thriving humanity is achieved, we all thrive. Let this truth settle upon us as a deeply held desire to love one another as God has loved us. If you are worshipping with us online, and want to support Trinity UCC, you can mail your offering 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**

by Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

Many: May our gifts go forth into our world, so that where people hunger, they may be fed; where there is war, peace might be welcomed; where families are broken, they made be made whole. Then others will be as blessed as we have been by your love, grace, and compassion. In Jesus' name, we offer our gifts and this prayer of gratitude. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

One: Christ invites us here. This meal is what connects us to that river of living water and the tree of life that never lacks food for bellies or shade for peaceful rest. 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

One: May God our Teacher be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Now is the moment to offer your hearts to God.

Many: **Now, we turn our hearts to your grace.**

One: Join in songs of thanks and praise to our God.

Many: **We join with all who are here and throughout the world in praise.**

One: We praise you, Holy God:

Shaper of the Bread of life, Poured of the Cup of salvation. All that was light and wonder and hope was offered to those crafted in your image, but we wandered through the shadows of sin, following the teachings of death.

You sought to bring us back to you by sending prophets with your gracious words, but we could not hear you above sin's siren songs. Taking on human form yourself, you came to live among us, so we might see your face-to-face and know your forgiveness firsthand.

With our sisters and brothers at our side,
with those before us and those behind us,
we sing the songs of the gathered faithful:

Many: Holy, holy, holy are you, Teacher of your children. All creation sings the praises learned from you:
Glory to you forever and ever,
Hosanna in the highest!

One: God, you take pleasure in your people and so in love, you became human; in hope, you came to us; in joy, you gave yourself to us through your Child, Jesus our Brother. Clothed in light, he came to lead us out of the shadows. Filled with your wisdom, he came to teach us your ways. One with you forever, he came to gather us into your family. Humble enough to take on our death, he carries us into your kingdom. As we come to this Table which you have prepared for us, we remember the faith which was his:

Many: Christ died, facing death one-on-one.
Christ was raised, bringing new life for all.
Christ will come, when the time is right.

One: Bless these gifts of the Table, and bless those gathered for this meal.
As the bread of hope heals our brokenness, may we go forth to be reconciled to those we have harmed.
As the cup of grace quenches our thirst for hope, may we reach out to those whom the world has forgotten.
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.

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)

One: 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

***Our Hymn of Parting We Are One in the Spirit**

1.) We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2.) We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
[Refrain]

3.) We Will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.
[Refrain]

4 All praise to the Father, from whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus, whose love excludes none
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one
[Refrain]

***Charge and Benediction**

One: Go now to the people who are overwhelmed by despair.

Many: We will take the hope which has been given to us and share it with all.

One: Go now to those who are at odds with neighbors.

Many: We will offer the peace and reconciliation which God has poured into our lives.

One: Go now to those who are the most vulnerable in our world.

Many: We will bring the healing, the grace, the love of our God.

One: 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: 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!"