

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 13, 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

One: Let us pray...
Many: **You are our healer and our comforter Lord, bringing peace where we would do violence;
offering hope to all we choose to despise; remembering everyone we have forgotten.
God in Community, Holy in One, our Forgiveness, our Justice, our Healing, hear us as we lift our
prayer to You this morning. Open our hearts to listen to Your still speaking voice guide our lives.
In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

Announcements

Call to Worship

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Disciples and doubters, faithful and feckless,
Many: **we are God's children, and He welcomes us all.**

One: Followers and those who lag behind, open-hearted and close-minded,
Many: we are the Lord's, who is always patient with us.

One: Reconcilers and rabble-rousers, foolish and fearless,
Many: we are the Spirit's, who encourages us in every moment.

***Hymn of Gathering Crown Him with Many Crowns**

1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

3 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
who rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

2 Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified;
all hail redeemer hail
for thou hast died for me
praise and glory shall not fail
Throughout eternity.

4 Crown him the Lord of heav'n,
one with the Father known
One with the Spirit thro' Him giv'n
From yonder glorious throne
To thee be endless praise
For thou for us hast died
Be thou, O Lord, thro' endless days
Adored and magnified

Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: We do not have to beg God to forgive us, but simply confess our foolish words, our mistaken acts, our
grudging hearts. Please join me as we pray together our prayer of confession...

Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

One: Let us pray...

All: We could have mercy Lord, but we judge others by those standards we cannot even meet. We
could welcome all around us as sisters and brothers, but hold them at contempt's length away from
us. We could have patience with family and friends, but tap our feet and drum our fingers until
they do what we want.

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: In your forgiveness, Tender God, you wipe the board clean of all our poor accounting. You don't
deal off the bottom of the deck to us, but turn up the ace of grace for us. You gather up all our
foolishness and hurl it beyond the edge of the universe, so the healing you intend for us through
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, will take place. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Here is the good news. God does not hold a grudge against us. God lets go of anger to welcome us as
sisters and brothers of Jesus.

Many: We will not be afraid, but will open our hearts and lives to God's compassionate grace.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! 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: Now is the time to share Christ's love and forgiveness with one another. Open your hearts to let the Christ in you greet the Christ in another with signs of peace and reconciliation.

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 Matthew J. Packer

One: Let us pray...

Many: As we listen to your word, Lord, so may we respond, moved by your spirit. Transform our thinking and our doing, O God. May our actions reflect your mercy, and may our lives speak of your generous love. Amen

Scripture Readings for Today Romans 14:1-12

Do Not Judge Another

14 Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,
"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each one of us will be held accountable

A Refection on the Word

by Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

*** Hymn of Response Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak**

1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak

In living echoes of your tone.

As you have sought, so let me seek

Your erring children, lost and lone.

2 Oh, lead me, Lord, that I may lead
The wand'ring and the wav'ring feet.
Oh, feed me, Lord, that I may feed
Your hungry ones with manna sweet.

3 Oh, teach me, Lord, that I may teach
The precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.

4 Oh, fill me with your fullness, Lord,
Until my very hearts o'erflows
In kindling thought and glowing word,
Your love to tell, your praise to show.

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 the UMC

One: Let us pray...

Many: May the gifts we bring today reflect our deep gratitude for your mercy. Let them support ministries of reconciliation and acts of healing, justice, and welcome. Teach us to lead not with judgment, but with generosity, recognizing that what we have, we hold by your mercy. Bless these offerings and bless us as stewards of your kingdom, always seeking to build a world where grace is not rare but abundant. 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 Blest be the Tie that Bind**

1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

3 We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

2 Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

4 When we are called to part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

*** Charge and Benediction**

One: Whether we believe or whether we struggle, we are God's.

Many: Let us go out to welcome the doubters and disciples around us.

One: Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Many: Let us go to embrace all who have been abandoned by the world.

One: Whether we are brave or quake at the knees, we are the Spirit's.

Many: Let us go to encourage our sisters and brothers who struggle.

One: Let us 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.

***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***

