

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

November 3, 2024

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

Thoughts Before Worship

By Nancy 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 Prayer

By Nancy Townley

One: Let us pray...

Many: Lord, we gather here this day in praise and thanksgiving for all the wonderful things you have done for us. Help us to be faithful disciples in all that we think, do and say, that your great love may be revealed and offer healing to all people. Amen.

Announcements

Call to Worship

By Nancy Townley

One: God is calling you today.

Many: Help us to hear God's call in our lives.

One: God needs your gifts and graces to help others.

Many: May we use the blessings which God has given us to benefit others.

One: Come, let us worship and celebrate God's love for us.

Many: Let us show our faithfulness in our words and actions.

Opening Hymn of Praise

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ was born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: The world teaches us many ways to love, but all are based on selfish desires and needs. God teaches us how to love: completely, uniquely, unconditionally. Let us confess our difficulty to be as loving as God teaches us, as we pray together our prayer of confession...

Prayer of Confession

By Nancy Townley

One: Let us pray...

All: How often, O Lord, have we believed that the greatest commandment is our love for ourselves solely. We have not heard the cries of those in need; we have turned our backs on opportunities to serve you by serving others. Many times we have thought only of our own wants and desires and ignored the needs of 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

All: Forgive us Lord, and help us to truly understand the commandments to love you with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. Let us care for our neighbors both far and near. Bring us back to your loving light. For we ask these things in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Nancy Townley

One: In the midst of our darkness and ignorance, the bright light of God's love shines through, healing our anguished souls.

Many: Let us rejoice, for God's love and forgiveness are given to us this day. Thanks be to our living and loving and forgiving 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

By Mary Scifres

One: As the church, we gather together in the spirit of Ruth and Naomi. Where you go, I will go. Where you dwell, I will dwell. Your God will be my God, and your people will be my people. We are bound as one body in love of God, neighbor, and self. Let us share this message of unity as we exchange signs of peace and love. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

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

By Mary Scifres

One: As you hear the word of the Lord, Love God with all your heart and mind and soul and strength.

Many: **We love as God loves us!**

One: Remember to love your neighbors as yourself, with kindness and care.

Many: **We love as God loves us!**

One: And always, love yourself with gentleness, with mercy and with grace.

Many: **We love as God loves us!**

Our Scripture Reading for Today

Mark 12:28-34

The First Commandment

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³² Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; ³³ and 'to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

A Refection on the Word

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

One: As the people of God, we are called to be justice for the oppressed, food for the hungry, freedom for the imprisoned, and sight for the blind. Let us remember those in need as we share gifts for the church's mission. 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 Give Back to God

One: Let us pray...

Many: God of justice and love, transform these offerings, that they may be gifts of justice and love for a world in need of hope and help. Let love flow through these offerings, that they may become gifts of love for the world.

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

One: Christ invites us here to his open table remembering that 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: My beloved sisters and brothers, may the Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: My beloved brothers and sisters, lift up your hearts.

Many: **Our hearts are lifted high to God.**

One: Beloved children of God, let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: Thanksgiving is in our hearts, and praise is on our lips.

One: We will sing praises to you all life long, O Lord our God, maker of the earth, the heavens, the seas, and all that dwell in them. You made us in your image so we might be your people and worship you forever. Therefore, we join our voices, with the saints of every time and of every place, singing our praises to your heart:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy are you, Lord God of our souls.
Heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them glorify your name forever.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One whose help is in you.
Hosanna in the highest!**

One: We praise you, Holy God, and bless your Son, Jesus Christ, our Help, our Hope, our Lord. He opened the eyes of the blind, so we might behold your grace; he loosed the bonds of the captive, so we might follow in freedom; he watched over strangers, so we might become brothers and sisters; he lifted up those who had fallen, so we might walk the streets of the Kingdom; he gave his heart to those ignored by the world, so the widow and orphan might find their heart's home in you; he endured death's embrace, so we might be welcomed into eternal life with you. His life, his words, his death, his resurrection are mysteries we may not understand completely, but which we will proclaim with faith:

**Many: Christ died, loving us more than himself;
Christ rose, loving God with all that he was;
Christ will come again, loving all God's children, so we might be neighbors forever.**

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 by a friend, 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."

Sharing the Elements

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

How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

1 How beautiful, our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain;
our purple mountains as they rise above the fruitful plain.
America! America! God's gracious gifts abound,
and more and more we're grateful for life's bounty all around.

2 Indigenous and immigrant, our daughters and our sons:
O may we never rest content till all are truly one.
America! America! God grant that we may be
a sisterhood and brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

3 How beautiful, sincere lament, the wisdom born of tears,
the courage called for to repent the bloodshed through the years.
America! America! God grant that we may be a
nation blessed with none oppressed, true land of liberty.

4 How beautiful, two continents, and islands in the sea
that dream of peace, nonviolence, all people living free.
Americas! Americas! God grant that we may be
a hemisphere where people here all live in harmony.

Charge and Benediction

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Our hearts filled with God's love,

Many: we will go to share it with those around us who know only rejection and fear.

One: Our souls filled with the grace of Jesus,

Many: we will carry it into neighborhoods where hate threatens to tear people apart.

One: Our minds filled with the wisdom of the Spirit,

Many: we will have the strength to call out bigotry, to denounce the mongers of anger.

One: Our bodies have been nourished by the Word, so 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

