

# 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*

*January 12, 2025*

*The Baptism of Jesus*

[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

### 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.

### Opening with Prayer

By Nancy Townley

One: Let us pray...

**Many: Lord of Hope and Light, in the midst of Darkness you offered light to people who lived in fear.**

**Today that light comes to us as we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. Open our hearts this day and remind us that you have marked us as people of hope and light. Prepare us to serve you by serving your world. Amen.**

### Announcements

### Call to Worship

By Ruth Duck

One: Sisters and brothers, today we recall: Jesus came to the waters of baptism

**Many: In baptism, our Creator claims us, and frees us from the power of hatred and death**

One: In baptism we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity recalling

**Many: "There is no longer Jew nor Greek; there is no longer slave nor free; there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Jesus Christ."**

One: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for the ministry and makes us signs of divine love. It is the mark of acceptance into the church, and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**Many: Therefore, on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates**

**All: Let us praise and worship our loving, living, and giving God this morning, and every morning!**

## Hymn of Gathering

## Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gather at the river,  
Where bright angel feet have trod;  
With its crystal tide forever  
Flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
The beautiful, the beautiful river;  
Gather with the saints at the river  
That flows by the throne of God.

2 On the margin of the river,  
Washing up its silver spray,  
We will walk and worship ever,  
All the happy golden day.

Refrain

3 Ere we reach the shining river,  
Lay we ev'ry burden down;  
Grace our spirits will deliver,  
And provide a robe and crown.

Refrain

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver  
With the melody of peace.

Refrain

## Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Broken? God promises to make us whole. Lost? God promises to come and find us, gather us up, and bring us home. Confused about tomorrow? God promises our future is grounded in love. Let us confess that, though we have heard the promises over and over, we have trouble believing them, as we pray together our prayer of confession

## Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

One: Let us pray...

**All: Creator of the universe, we stand amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit.**

Please take a few moments of silence for personal reflection.

One: Let us continue...

**All: Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world. Amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Dr. Renee Jackson

One: God truly shows no partiality. In every nation, anyone who reverences God and does what is right is acceptable to God. Just as the prophets testified in the scriptures, everyone who believes in God receives forgiveness of sins through God's name.

**Many: Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift of love! 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: As we gather at the river, let us remember our sisters and brothers gathered with us. Let us greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.

**Many: And also with 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,"

## **Listening for God's Still Speaking Voice**

**Prayer for Illumination**

One: Let us pray...

**Many: Creator God, you have made us in your image, and we are precious in your sight. Open our eyes as we stand at the river ready to share in your baptism. Enlighten our minds and let us hear the story with fresh ear and open hearts. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings for Today**

**Matthew 3:13-17**

**The Baptism of Jesus**

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

**A Reflection on the Word**

**\* Hymn of Response**

**Down By the Jordan** written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette  
Sung to the Tune "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

1) Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,  
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:  
"God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live!  
Surely God's new day is rising!"

2) There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:  
"Are you God's Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?"  
"No!" John replied. "He who is mightier than I  
Judges and offers salvation."

3) Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,  
Taking your place among sinners, God's lost sons and daughters.  
Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove!  
Your work began in those waters.

4) Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit.  
Freed and forgiven, we're welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?  
This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"  
Let's take the good news and share it!

#### Reaffirming our Baptismal Vows

One: Beloved Children of God, The Lord be with you

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Let us pray: Eternal and gracious God we give you thanks. In countless ways you have revealed yourself in ages past, and have blessed us with signs of your grace. We rejoice that you claimed us in our baptism and that by your grace we are born anew. By your holy spirit renew us that we may be empowered to do your will and continue, with God's grace to continue the ministry of the risen Jesus Christ.

Many: **Amen.**

At this time, as you are able, you are invited to come forward. Pastor David will anoint your forehead and say "you are a beloved child of God."

And you will respond, "**and I will make a new beginning.**"

#### Prayer of Recommitment

All: **By your spirit, almighty God, grant us love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness towards all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, and self-control in all things. May it strengthen us for ministry in your name. Amen.**

#### Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives

One: Just as the waters of the earth are abundant and full of life, so are the blessings God ours out on us daily. Let us now joyfully offer our tithes, pledges, and offerings with the hope that they may enable others to feel immersed in God's love. You may drop your offering for today in the offering plate as they are brought forward. Your gifts are used in service to others through the ministries and mission of Trinity United Church of Christ. 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 UCC, 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 Can Give Back to God

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

Many: **We offer our gifts in recognition that we are baptized people, transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. So, we will hold nothing back but will share our lives, our hearts, our energies, as well as our efforts, in ministry to the world around us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

#### Prayers of the People

Please drop off any prayer requests in the basket located in the narthex.

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**

**#343 Blue Hymnal**

**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**

**One:** Baptized, we will go to share God's love with others.

**Many:** **We will welcome those the world rejects as our sisters and brothers.**

**One:** Baptized, we will become the grace of our Lord Jesus.

**Many:** **We will share the waters of life with everyone we meet.**

**One:** Baptized, we will become the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

**Many:** **We will be a community of justice, not judgment;  
we will be a household of hope, not an exclusive club for just a few.**

**One:** Baptized Believers, 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***