

# 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*

*March 3, 2025*

[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**

*\*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](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 C. Townley**

One: Let us pray...

**Many: Lord, it seems so long ago that we heard your words at Jesus' baptism. You reminded us that he is your beloved Son with whom you are well pleased. Again today we hear your words that we are to listen to him, to pay attention. Open our hearts this day, Lord, to hear the words of Jesus, to follow in his footsteps, and to serve You. For we ask this in Christ's Name. Amen.**

#### **Announcements**

#### **Call to Worship**

**By Nancy C. Townley**

One: It is easy to stand here in the valley of our comfort.

**Many: We know what to expect and what is expected of us.**

One: But Christ calls us to the mountain top to receive a new vision.

**Many: We are not sure we are ready for that.**

One: Place your hope and trust in Christ, for He is your guide.

Many: Let us open our hearts to Christ, ready for the vision he places before us.

## 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 child,  
Thou in me dwelling, and I meek and mild.

3. Riches I heed not, nor one'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: Over and over we are told how simple life with God can be: trust, do good to others, take delight in the wonders God provides for us. But we simply have trouble living such a life. Let us confess the struggles we have, as we bring our prayers to God by praying our prayer for forgiveness

## Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

All: In this season of light Lord, we find ourselves wandering the shadows of the world. In this time when we focus on Jesus' ministry of healing, we hold tight to all those emotions – hatred, fear, worry – which continue to damage us. In these days when we are invited to listen to Jesus' teachings, we confess it is easier to hear the seductive words of sin.

Please take a few moments of silence for personal reflection.

One: Let us continue...

All: Forgive us God of new life, for trusting in promises which are short-lived, rather than in your Word which endures forever. You have sent Jesus before us so that, as we follow him, we might travel from that far country of fear and doubt to that better country of resurrection life.

## Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Take delight in the good news, dear friends. Salvation is from our God, who restores us to new life.

Many: God chooses to be gracious; God longs to give us our heart's desires; God provides healing and hope to all. 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

By Shelley Cunningham

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. In the love of Christ, welcome those around you today.

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 Shelley Cunningham

One: Let us pray...

**Many: Lord, it is good to be here—to hear your word, to share your story. Help us see your Son for who he really is. Help us listen to him, receive his forgiveness, and walk in his light. Amen.**

### Scripture Readings for Today

#### Luke 9:28-36

#### The Transfiguration

28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. 29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. 30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. 31 They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. 32 Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. 33 As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)

34 While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35 A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." 36 When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

### A Refection on the Word

#### \* Hymn of Response I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above:  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true.  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

#### Refrain:

I love to tell the story,  
'twill be my theme in glory,  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story, more wonderful it seems  
Than all the golden visions of all the golden dreams  
I love to tell the story, I tell it now to you  
Because I want to share it, because I know its true.

[Refrain]

3 I love to tell the story. 'Tis pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy word.

[Refrain]

4 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

[Refrain]

#### Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives

By Shelley Cunningham

One: In days of old, God was seen as far from the people. But we know Christ, and in him we know God.  
When we share what we have out of love, our hearts grow closer to God, and we shine with Christ's glory.  
If you are able, please consider giving to the work and ministry  
You may drop your offering for today in the basket as the usher brings it forward.  
Let us offer our gifts to God today.  
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 Shelley Cunningham

One: Let us pray...

Many: Generous God, it is through your mercy that we have this ministry—the ministry of our talents and treasure, the ministry of our passion and purpose. Strengthen our hearts for your service, and accept the grateful offerings we lay before you. Amen.

### The Sacrament of Communion

#### Invitation to the Table

By Rev. Thom Shuman

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 the God of mountaintops be with you!

**Many: And also with you!**

One: People of God, lift up your hearts to the One who calls to you.

**Many: We open our hearts to the One who invites us to listen.**

One: Beloved of God, offer praise to the One who is with you in this moment.

**Many: Our voices unite in thanking our God who loves us.**

One: Created in your image, God, we had the audacity to demand our way, tempted by sin and death who came to us masked as life and joy. You did not turn your face away, sending the prophets into all those ordinary places we lived to call us back to you. Though they spoke boldly of your hope, we did not listen to a single word. So you sent Jesus, your glory, to become flesh and blood so we might be reshaped as your beloved children. With those in every time and place, with those gathered here, at this moment, we sing of our joy to you:

**Many: Holy, holy, Holy! God who listens to our cries!**

**All creation trembles with hope and joy.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes with words of life.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Many: Holy are you, Wonders of wonders, and your Beloved reigns in peace. He set aside his glory to load us down with the riches of your grace and peace.

He silenced our silly complaints, so we might hang on to every word of hope, of joy.

He went to the cross, ripping the mask off death, so we could see the face of an empty threat.

As we celebrate your naming him your Chosen,

as we prepare to listen to him with our lives,

we speak of that mystery we call faith:

**Many: Christ died, to pull aside the curtain of death;**

**Christ was raised, to reveal the promise of new life;**

**Christ will come, to show us the face of God.**

One: Your love has never retired, Eternal God, but your Spirit pours it out upon the gifts of the Table and those gathered around it. This bread, though broken, will feed us so we might be able to bear the brokenness of those around us, believe in all those doubted by the world.

The cup, containing faith, hope, and love, will send us into the world, to serve in the belief that justice has no future; to endure until peace becomes the reality rather than the fantasy of a few.

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, 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)*

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, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\* Our Hymn of Departure Joy the World**

1) Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2) Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3) He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love, And wonders, and wonders of his love.

**\* Charge and Benediction**

**By Rev. Thom Shuman**

One: We leave, our hearts filled with God's love.

Many: We will go to offer hope to everyone we will meet.

One: We leave, following Jesus into the world.

**Many: We will serve alongside him in the brokenness of our neighbors and our communities.**

One: We leave, having heard the whispers of the Spirit.

**Many: We will speak justice to those who would hoard it only for themselves.**

One: We leave to go out peacefully into the world. We will continue to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our mind, and with all our strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves.

**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!*

*You are invited to come to our Ash Wednesday service on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm*

*Remember, no matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here at Trinity UCC*