

# 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*

May 11, 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

One: Let us pray...

Many: Holy One, we come together this day celebrating the role that mothers and other women have played in our lives. We thank you for the present love and the memories of these women. Open our hearts continually to your love through others. Keep us mindful of those for whom this is a difficult day. Help us to reach out to them. Jesus reminded his disciples that they always have a place in his heart and that there is a special place for them in God's realm. Amen.

#### Announcements

#### Call to Worship

By Rev. Thom Shuman and Nancy Townley

One: Come to worship, people of God, with praises on your lips.

Many: We glorify the One who holds our hands when we slip.

**Many:** Where the doors to grace are thrown open so all may enter.

**Many: Lord, be with us this day and place your hand of healing in our lives.**

Many: Let that love and grace be poured out for all God's people!

**1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

**3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]**

By Rev. Thom Shuman

With such good news, we can dare to bring our prayers to the One who will not cast aside our words or our hearts. Please join me as we pray together our prayer of confession as printed in the bulletin

One: Let us pray...

**All:** Patient and forgiving God, we come to you this day. For many there is a celebration of Mother's Day and all that our mothers have given to us and taught us; but for some, these memories are too painful, of those who are estranged, those who were afflicted, those who were denied.

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:** Remind us God, that your blessings are poured out in many ways, through many people. Give us the confident faith that reaches beyond our own lives to help others. Forgive us when we sink into our own selfishness and pettiness. For it is in those times that we turn our back on you.

Bring us back to you, to the awareness of your eternal love and overflowing grace.  
In Jesus Christ's Name, we pray. Amen.

### **Words of Forgiveness and Assurance**

**By Rev. Thom Shuman**

One: Despite everything we do, God still loves us. This grace is why we can dare to hope.

Many: We will witness to this hope in every word we speak to every person we meet.

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: Because Jesus Christ is in us, and we in him, his peace is a powerful gift that we may share with others. Pass the blessing of this peace to your brothers and sisters in Christ and to all the children of God.

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 Rebecca Gaudino**

One: O God, in you we live and move and have our being.

Many: **May we live out this profound truth, mindful of the beauty, the hope, and the calling of living in you. Amen.**

### **Scripture Readings for Today**

**Acts 9:36-43**

<sup>36</sup> In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. <sup>37</sup> About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. <sup>38</sup> Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

<sup>39</sup> Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

<sup>40</sup> Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

### **A Refection on the Word**

**\* Hymn of Response**

**Since the Lord is My Salvation  
Sung to the tune "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

**1 Since the Lord is my salvation, Is there anyone to fear?  
As a citizen of heaven why should I feel worry here?  
In a world that's lost and broken and where sin and death abound,  
We rejoice for God has spoken: we are safe, on solid ground.**

**2 God will hide me in the shelter when the days of trouble come.  
Though a war may rise against me, God's own tent will be my home.  
I will trust what God has given, I will trust God's word to me:  
I'm a citizen of heaven and it's what I'll always be.**

**3 You, O Lord, are my salvation; make me strong to live for you.  
May I care for your creation, love the stranger, speak what's true.  
May I share what you have given; may I see each person's worth.  
As a citizen of heaven, make me useful here on earth.**

**Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives**

**One:** We are invited to give an accounting of the hope that sustains us, the love and presence of God that upholds all. Out of this sustaining hope, let us give our gifts today for those who also need this hope. Today, 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**

**One:** Let us pray...

**Many:** Giver of all gifts, we are grateful for your every blessing and for your presence through all of life—in our joys and fears, and in our hopes and dreads. We pray for those who do not know the consolation of your presence in their lives, asking that you reveal yourself to them through the gifts we have given and through the lives we live. Reveal yourself, O God, that all your children may find their true home and salvation in you. 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                      Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

1. Precious Lord, take my hand  
Lead me on, let me stand  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

2. When my way grows drear  
Precious Lord linger near  
When my life is almost gone  
Hear my cry, hear my call  
Hold my hand lest I fall  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

3. When the darkness appears  
And the night draws near  
And the day is past and gone  
At the river I stand  
Guide my feet, hold my hand  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

**\* Charge and Benediction**

**By Rev. Thom Shuman**

One: Go from this place, speaking of what God has done.

Many: We will remind everyone that, despite everything, God loves us.

One: Go from this place, singing of what God is doing.

Many: We will rejoice that God has not left us orphaned, but makes us one with everyone around us.

One: Go from this place, imagining what God will do.

Many: We will witness to that hope which seems to distant, yet is as close to us as our hearts.

One: Go from this place and out into the world in peace. Remember to 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*