

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

October 26, 2025

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

By Rev. Michelle L. Torigian,

One: Let us pray...

Many: Holy One, from time to time, we notice our souls are heavy from injustices. From the ways our community members are treated to the lack of compassion towards folks in faraway places, we attempt to embrace hope and often feel defeated. Yet you continue to be the bearer of dreams, God of Love. May we feel your Spirit's peace even when struggles accumulate. May we be baptized every day by your glimmers of hope even as we journey through a world filled with ashes. Amen.

Magic Penny by Malvina Reynolds

Love is something if you give it away give it away, give it away
Love is something if you give it away you end up having more

It's just like a magic penny hold it tight and you won't have any
Lend it, spend it and you'll have so many they'll roll all over the floor, for

Love is something if you give it away give it away, give it away
Love is something if you give it away you end up having more

Money's dandy and we like to use it but love is better if you don't refuse it
It's a treasure and you'll never lose it unless you lock up your door, for

Love is something if you give it away give it away, give it away
Love is something if you give it away you end up having more

So let's go dancing till the break of day and if there's a piper, we can pay
For love is something if you give it away you end up having more

Oh, love is something if you give it away give it away, give it away
Love is something if you give it away you end up having more

Announcements

Call to Worship

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: We have gathered in God's holy presence, the One who etches grace on our hearts.

Many: This is the place where God will transform us into disciples.

One: We glorify our God, who yearns for justice, not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.

Many: This is the place where God will write compassion on our souls.

One: We give thanks to God for unceasing grace; we remember God's persistence in saving us.

Many: This is the place where God will breathe the Word into our lives.

***Hymn of Gathering**

Sweet Hour of Prayer

1 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

3 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face,
believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

2 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
where God my Savior shows his face,
and gladly take my station there,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Seeking to follow Jesus, we often wander down the wrong roads. Impatient with God's schedule, we rush off to do things our way. Let us confess our foolishness, that we might receive God's hope for our lives.

Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

By Rev. Michelle L. Torigian

One: Let us pray...

All: Beloved God of All, we often feel deserted by Divine Justice and Peace, especially after absorbing the news each day. We allow ourselves to fully walk away from spreading Good News of your love and grace after feeling the lack of mercy in our world. We would rather be silent in places of comfort instead of shining your light in our pain-present reality.

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: Open our souls to your forgiveness and healing God. Embolden us to be persistent in our quest to do justice and love kindness. May we follow your light when the shadows attempt to swallow our resolve. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Michelle L. Torigian

One: Our souls continue to open to the healing, hope, and forgiveness of God.

Many: Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. May we embrace the glow of God's grace as we seek ways to care for our neighbors. 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: 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,"

Listening for God's Still Speaking Voice

Prayer for Illumination

One: Let us pray...

Many: Many: Open our hearts to the reading of your word, o Lord. May it reach and teach us to do your will and your work in our world today. Amen.

Scripture Readings for Today

Luke 18:1-8

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ²He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'"

⁴"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

A Refection on the Word

By Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

* Hymn of Response Lord, Speak to Me

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: God our Creator looks for us to celebrate hope, peace, and love through the ways we give from our spirits. May we find our hearts become full of light as we share our treasures, talents, and time with our communities. 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 United Methodist Church

One: Let us pray...

Many: Persistent and just God, you do not turn away when your people cry out. Receive these gifts as acts of our faith—faith that keeps moving, faith that keeps hoping, faith that keeps working for justice, even when the world says it's too late or too little. Make us a people who do not lose heart.

Shape our prayers into action and our generosity into grace, until your kingdom comes—on earth, as it is in heaven. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. 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

Standing in the Need of Prayer

1 Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O God,
standin' in the need of prayer;
not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O God,
standin' in the need of prayer. [Refrain]

Refrain:

It's me, it's me, O God,
standin' in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O God,
standin' in the need of prayer.

Not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O God,
standin' in the need of prayer;
not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O God,
standin' in the need of prayer. [Refrain]

3 Not my father, nor my mother, but it's me, O God,
standin' in the need of prayer;
not my father, nor my mother, but it's me, O God,
standin' in the need of prayer. [Refrain]

4 Not the stranger, nor my neighbor, but it's me, O God,
standin' in the need of prayer.
not the stranger, nor my neighbor, but it's me, O God,
standin' in the need of prayer. [Refrain]

*** Charge and Benediction**

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Here in this place, God transforms us into disciples,

Many: so we may share the grace etched upon our hearts.

One: Here with these people, compassion is written on our hearts,

Many: so we may join Jesus in bringing justice to all.

One: Now, in these moments, the Spirit is breathed into us,

Many: so we can be as persistent as God in bringing hope to the world.

One: So 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***

