

# 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*

*February 2, 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 Townley**

One: Let us pray

**Many: Powerful God, from the very beginning you blessed creation. You have loved and shielded your people through all joys and trials of life. We come to you this day, rejoicing in the many blessings you have given to us. We open our hearts again to hear your word for us and to gather strength and joy for service in your world. Be with us and bless us again, we pray. Amen.**

#### **Announcements**

##### **Call to Worship**

**By Rev. Thom Shuman**

One: With powerful words and dramatic gestures, with a quiet conversation and a gentle touch,

**Many: we respond to God's call to offer healing and hope to our world.**

One: With courage to face the injustices around us, with the willingness to go into the brokenness,

**Many: we fulfill the call of Jesus to engage in faithful obedience.**

One: With the patience of a teacher of six-year-olds, with the gentleness of a nurse helping a patient,  
Many: we become the Spirit's refuge for all who live in worry and fear.

### Hymn of Gathering

### Love Divine All Loves Excelling

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down;  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find that promised rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning, Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, almighty to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

4. Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee:  
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love and praise!

### Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Arrogance, envy, harsh words, empty hands, pleasure in doing what we know is wrong – these are what we often use to fill our lives. Let us confess in faith, trusting in the hope that God's love restores us and makes us whole. Please join me, praying,

### Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

All: Lord God, we do not know how to speak words of hope, because we listen to the purveyors of fear. We do not know how to be loving because our role models are ridicule and anger. We do not know how to be faithful to you, because at an early age, we learned to trust the promises of all the false prophets who entice us with their simple thoughts.

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: But you know how to forgive God, so we pray you would pour out your mercy upon us. May faith abide in us, so we may serve others even as you have served us; may hope abide in us, so we may surround the broken with your compassion and grace; may love abide in us, not only in these moments of brokenness, but in every moment of our life with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who abides in us.

### Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: The good news is that, in our God, we find that safe place for our lives. In God's forgiveness, we are offered the healing we need.

Many: In God's acceptance, we discover the love in which we may abide in every moment of our lives. Thanks be to 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 Lisa Frenz**

**One:** As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, then let us be reconciled to each other.  
The peace of Christ be with you all.

**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: Be with us this day, O Lord. Guide our hearts and guard our steps as we gather to listen to your Holy words, and celebrate your love for us. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings for Today**

**1 Corinthians 13**

**13** If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. **4** Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5** It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. **8** Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10** but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. **11** When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. **12** For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. **13** And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**A Reflection on the Word**

**\* 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 God has so richly blessed us, in our gratitude let us return a portion of these blessings back to God, 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 Rev. Thom Shuman**

One: Let us pray...

Many: **We do not need to speak in tongues, but to offer words of encouragement. We do not have to be know-it-alls, but those who work to life the burdens off those around us. We do not need to give everything, but we will join our gifts with those of others to reach out, in love, to those who have nothing. This we pray in Jesus' name. 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 love be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Do not be afraid to offer your hearts to God.

Many: **We do so, knowing they will be filled with God's love.**

One: Always and forever, let us praise our God.

Many: **Here, now, every day, everywhere, we will offer our songs to the One who abides.**

One: Empowered with your words, prophets came to remind us of what would happen, but because we loved sin and death more, and we gained nothing from their advice. So you gave us the priceless treasure of your heart who, filled with your love, handed over his body so we might gain everything. With those who worry they cannot do what you ask, with those who believe your word is fulfilled, we join our voices in singing your praises:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy are you, God of abiding faith.  
All creation sings of its hope in you.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the One who came as your love embodied.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Jesus showed us love in so many ways. He never blew his own horn or wished he was someone else; he never bullied the vulnerable, didn't whine, and let go of every grudge. He didn't look the other way when we were foolish, and encouraged everyone to own up to their mistakes. He picked up all of our burdens, he trusted everyone the world discounts, he looked beyond all our fears, as well as his own, taking on everything sin and death had to offer him in order that everyone might experience your resurrection love. We may not have prophetic powers, we may not know as much as we think we do, but we can speak of that mystery of faith:

**Many: God's Word came, offering his life in faith on the cross.  
God's Word comes to offer resurrection hope to all.  
God's Word will come, bringing love for each one of God's children.**

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, Christ Jesus. Amen.**

## \* Our Hymn of Departure

**1** Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.

**2** Before our Father's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.

## Blest Be the Tie That Binds

**3** We share our mutual woes,  
our mutual burdens bear,  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.

**4** When we are called to part,  
it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart,  
and hope to meet again.

## \* Charge and Benediction

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: God touches our mouths,

**Many: so we may go to share the good news.**

One: Jesus touches our hands,

**Many: so we may serve all in need of life and hope.**

One: The Spirit touches our hearts,

**Many: so we may be a haven for those who are longing for acceptance and love.**

One: 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***