

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 16, 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. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

Many: **God of our wonder, we are blessed when we feast on your Word: that Word which embraces us; that Word which teaches us; that Word which transfigures us; that Word which grounds us. Give us your Word this, and every, day. Amen.**

Announcements

Call to Worship

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Blessed are those who trust - in God!

Many: **We come in trust, to be grounded in God's love.**

One: Blessed are those who hope - in God!

Many: **We come in hope, trusting in the One who gives us life.**

One: Blessed are those who delight - in God's Word!

Many: We come to hear God speak, hoping for healing and joy.

***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 son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

3. Riches I heed not, nor man'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: Now, if what we hear from the world is true, we would have no need to come before God. But in fact, the witness of scripture, and of the faithful, is true. God is to be trusted with every secret of our hearts, as well as offered our brokenness. Join me as we pray to the One who waits to forgive us.

Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

All: God of many blessings, we confess that we have more and more to choose from at the market, and so, we forget those whose only choice is hunger. Our sense that we are your favorites causes us to look down upon those we are convinced are not. We are so consumed with saving enough for the future, we overlook those who have so little this day.

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: Forgive us, God, for thinking we are the center of your world. Pour your living water into us, so we might send down roots deep into your heart, and so become those people who are blessings to others, as we have received the gift of new life from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Blessed are you: for God forgives you and restores you to new life. Rejoice in this day and dance for joy!

Many: Thanks be to God! Our faith is true, and our hope is grounded in the promises of the One we can trust not only on this day, but in every day to come. 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: 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 Luke 6:17-26 Blessings and Woes

¹⁷ He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸ who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, ¹⁹ and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. ²⁰ Looking at his disciples, he said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

²³ "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

A Refection on the Word read by Kathleen Marriage

*** Hymn of Response**

Pg. 5

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

1 Lord, I want to be a Christian

in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

2 Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

3 Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

4 Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

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: You pour out your abundance on us, Loving God, as we can alleviate the sufferings of others, turn their woes into blessings, and their emptiness into overflowing grace and life. Take the gifts we offer and use them in the work of your new life which is in our midst. In Jesus' name, 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 Kathleen reads the petition, she 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 Pg. 6 Guide My Feet

1. Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

2. Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

3. I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

4. Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

* Charge and Benediction

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Grounded in God's love, we are sent out
Many: to share abundance with those who have so little.

One: Blessed with Jesus' hope, we go forth
Many: to fill the emptiness of those longing for justice.

One: Blessed with the Spirit's delight, we dance into the world
Many: to take the hands of our sisters and brother, and gather at the edge of living waters for a picnic.

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!