

# 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 23, 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 Rev. Susan A. Blain**

One: Let us pray...

**Many: Holy One, you are deep within our world, calling us to join you in creating abundant life for all. Open our hearts to recognize you. Free us to trust your call and follow; Enable us to repent, and forgive, and join in your work to make "all things new". In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

#### **Announcements**

#### **Call to Worship**

**By Rev. Thom Shuman**

One: We come, those who seek to trust in God.

**Many: We commit ourselves to do as Jesus would do for those around us.**

One: We come, delighting in all the wonders God provides for us.

**Many: We would not worry, but open ourselves to God's heart.**

One: We come, waiting patiently for God to speak.

Many: We will be still, listening for God's words of hope, of peace.

**\* Hymn of Gathering            Everyone Is Welcomed Freely**  
**Sung to the tune "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

**1 Everyone is welcomed freely; everyone can come and pray.**  
**There is room for all God's people in the house of God today.**  
**We confess with pain and sorrow times we've closed the door to grace,**  
**Now we stand here as a witness: All are welcome in this place!**

**2 Christ, you turned the tables over when the leaders strived for gain,**  
**When they crowded out outsiders, seeking wealth and causing pain.**  
**When we tolerate divisions — walls we build by greed or pride —**  
**God, remind us that your mercy welcomes everyone inside.**

**3 Everyone is now invited; turning from them is a sin.**  
**Refugees, you are our brothers! Wounded sisters, come on in!**  
**All you rich who bow in serving: Greet and welcome in the poor!**  
**No one waits who longs for welcome; In God's house, there's room and more.**

**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

**Prayer of Confession and Letting Go**

**By Rev. Susan A. Blaine and Rev. Thom Shuman**

One: Let us pray...

**All: Holy One, your call is deceptively simple: "Do to others as you would have them do to you"**  
**And yet we cling to self-serving ways which separate us from your beloved creation:**  
**You call us to turn our lives around, to risk repentance and learn forgiveness, to work with patience**  
**and diligence to prepare the way for your Reign, but we get discouraged and give up too soon.**

Please take a few moments of silence for personal reflection.

One: Let us continue...

**All: Forgive us, Resurrecting God, 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. Amen.**

**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**

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: Lord, open our ears to hear, our minds to discern, and our hearts to take in and dwell upon your word today. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading for Today**

**Luke 6:27-38**

#### **Love for Enemies**

27 "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

#### **Judging Others**

37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

### **A Reflection on the Word**

#### **\* Hymn of Response**

#### **Blest Be the Tie that Binds**

**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.

**3** When we asunder part,  
it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart,  
and hope to meet again

## 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  
You may drop your offering for today in the basket out in the Narthex.  
Your gifts are used in service to others through the ministries and mission of Trinity United Church of Christ. 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

One: Let us pray...

Many: **God who alone is holy, we offer our gifts, our lives, our compassion, our service to others, and to your creation. Bless all that we offer, so that we might be blessings of hope, peace, and grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

Please drop off any prayer requests in the basket located in the narthex.  
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 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

**1 What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!**

2 Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge--  
Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

**\* Charge and Benediction**

**By Rev. Thom Shuman**

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

**Many: We will go to offer the wonders of hilarity and 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 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 leave 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***

