

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

March 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

One: Let us pray...

Many: Lord, we come to you this morning with so many concerns and issues that demand our attention. Our lives are burdened; our spirits are tired. Guide our lives and our steps as we walk this Lenten journey, inward and outward. Help us to discern what you would have us do, that others may be healed. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Call to Worship

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Today, God comes to us, to gather us in worship:

Many: to wait in silence for the Word, to sit at the Table of grace.

One: Tomorrow, the Word of God comes, calling us to go forth to serve:

Many: to bring hope to those who have none, to love all tossed aside by indifference.

One: The next day, and the next day, the Holy Spirit will come:

Many: so we might discover the gift of peace, and offer it to our broken world.

Hymn of Gathering

Softly and Tenderly

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

Come home, come home;
you who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me?
[Refrain]

3 Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
passing from you and from me;
shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
coming for you and for me.
[Refrain]

4 O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.
[Refrain]

Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Join me in imitating all who have gone before us, who trusted that if they spoke of their misdeeds and hollow hearts, God would not only hear them, but forgive them. Let us pray together our prayer of confession

Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

All: Offered a feast at grace's table, God, we choose to gorge ourselves on the empty calories of greed. Invited to live in your house, we move into death's fear-infested boarding house. Though you promise to be with us, we toss you aside, chasing after those who will abandon us at the first chance.

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 will not let the foxes of foolishness devour us, God, but will gather us under the shelter of your love. You do so in order to give us that peace which heals us, that wonder which surprises us,

and that faith which enables us to let go of the present to walk into the covenant of grace made possible through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: God does not abandon us. Like a border collie, God gathers us up, leading us to that shelter of love and life.

Many: Today, tomorrow, and the next day, God's grace rests upon us and gives us hope and mercy. 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: Let us greet one another with words of hope—words that come from the wellspring of love flowing within us because of our encounter with the living Christ. May the peace of Christ be with you.

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: **May reading and preaching of your word challenge our thoughts, move our spirits and stir our souls today, and every day God. Amen.**

Scripture Readings for Today Philippians 3:14-4:1

¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Following Paul's Example

¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained. ¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Closing Appeal for Steadfastness and Unity

4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

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 Even when I hear the warning, "Find a safer, easier way,"
I'll be faithful in the morning and at noon and close of day.
As a citizen of heaven, I have nothing I should fear;
For in Christ, I am forgiven, and I'm called to service here.**

**4 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: 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: As you have blessed us beyond all expectation and need, we would join in imitating you, by
offering gifts which will bring hope, healing, and help to those who struggle in this life. 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 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**

#327 Blue Hymnal

The Old Rugged Cross

**1 On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.**

[Refrain]

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.**

**2 O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary.**

[Refrain]

**3 In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me.**

[Refrain]

**4 To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share.**

[Refrain]

*** Charge and Benediction**

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Today, tomorrow, and the next day, go with God:
Many: we will take the Word of grace into our world.

One: Today, tomorrow, and the next days, go with Jesus:
Many: we will shelter those who have nowhere else to go.

One: Today, tomorrow, and all the days to come, go with the Spirit:
Many: we will gather the forsaken into our hearts.

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.

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