

# 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 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 Nancy Townley

One: Let us pray...

**Many: Open our eyes, our ears, our hearts and spirits this morning, Lord, that we may be healed of our faithlessness, freed from our fears and anxieties, and placed on the pathways that lead to peace and service to you. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

#### **Announcements**

#### **Call to Worship**

By Nancy Townley

One: Wrap yourselves in the healing love of God!

**Many: We seek God's presence in our lives.**

One: Know that God continually surrounds us with patience and persistence.

**Many: Even though we have not produced the "fruits" of hope that God seeks, yet God forgives and heals our weakness.**

One: Rejoice! Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

Many: We will turn again to the Lord, to serve and seek God's presence, and guidance in our lives.

### Hymn of Gathering

#210 Blue Hymnal

Praise to the Lord

**1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Praise Him in glad adoration.**

**2 Praise to the Lord, Who over all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?**

**3 Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
If with His love He befriend thee.**

**4 Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before Him  
Let the "Amen" sound from his people again  
Gladly forever adore Him.**

### Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Do you think that because you have spoken hurtfully, or failed to help, or left God behind as you travel through each day, that God forgets you? God's love is as constant as the sun; God's forgiveness is as sure as the stars in the night sky. Let us join together, as we pray our prayer of confession

### Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

One: Let us pray...

**All: It all seems too much sometimes, God. We don't always get it right when it comes to helping others. The world around us is crumbling, and we focus our attention on helping ourselves. Our nation is in turmoil, yet we keep our attention on social media, and our favorite shows.**

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: Have mercy on us, and pour your heart into our grace-parched souls. As you have been with us in every moment, guide our steps as we go to be with all around us. May we listen to the needs and hearts of others, even as you lean down to listen to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

### Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: In every moment, God seeks what is best for us, continually offering us peace, hope, and forgiveness.

**Many: We will bless God in every moment, rejoicing with the One who fills us with steadfast love. 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 or a friend we see our living and loving God. Let us get up and greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

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 the reading and teaching of your word, break our lives wide open today, Lord, so that we may be your good and faithful servants doing your will and work in the world around us. Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading for Today**

**Luke 13:1-9**

### **Repent or Perish**

**13** Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish." <sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'"

<sup>8</sup> "Sir," the man replied, "leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down."

### **A Refection on the Word**

**\* Hymn of Response**

**#676 Blue Hymnal O Jesus I Have Promised Vs. 1, 3 & 4**

**1 O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve Thee to the end;  
be Thou forever near me,  
my Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
if Thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if Thou wilt be my Guide.**

3 O let me hear Thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control!  
O speak, and make me listen,  
Thou Guardian of my soul!

4 O Jesus, Thou hast promised  
to all who follow Thee  
that where Thou art in glory  
there shall Thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend!

#### **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:** Having been blessed by you, Loving God, we will not waste our gifts but offer them back to you, so the parched throats might be soothed by your grace, the hungry feed on your bounty, and the stranger welcomed as family who have been away for too long. **This we pray in Jesus' name, 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 #682 Blue Hymnal Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehova

1 Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,  
Hold me with Thy pow'ful hand.  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's Destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.

\* Charge and Benediction

One: God sends us out to empty our gifts for others.

Many: Letting us charge whatever we need to grace's account.

One: Jesus sends us out to find those who are thirsty and hungry.

Many: Giving us the water for parched children,  
filling our arms with bags of groceries for the hungry.

One: The Spirit sends us out to search for those who long for community.

Many: Taking us by the hand when we grow weary,  
so we might continue to welcome the stranger.

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.