

# 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*

April 6, 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 Prayer

By Nancy Townley

One: Let us pray...

Many: **We come into your presence, O Lord, with so many burdens and concerns on our hearts. Help us to be open to your words of healing and restoration. Bring us closer to you. Enable us to discern your will for us that we may serve you more faithfully by serving others in need. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

#### Announcements

#### Call to Worship

By Nancy Townley

One: Spring is about to break forth!

Many: **In all the land, new life is happening!**

One: Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word, O God.

Many: **Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!**

One: Come and let us worship with great joy!

Many: Let us drop the things of the past which weighed us down!

One: Like the spring, God is about to do something new in our lives!

Many: We will let God's will become strong in our lives

### Opening Hymn of Praise

1 Fairest Lord Jesus,  
ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God and man the Son,  
Thee will I cherish,  
Thee will I honor,  
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

### Fairest Lord Jesus

3 Fair is the sunshine,  
fairer still the moonlight,  
and all the twinkling starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
than all the angels heaven can boast.

2 Fair are the meadows,  
fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer  
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

4 Beautiful Savior!  
Lord of all the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine.

### Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: As we offer our prayers of confession, remember that God chooses to forget about our past, forgiving us so we may embrace the new life and new hope offered to us in grace. I invite you to join me, as we pray together our prayer of confession

### Prayer of Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

All: Like Judas, God of new things, we like to complain about your generous ways, rather than living in your grace. The poor are always with us, we believe, which justifies our ignoring them. We are so enamored with our achievements that we are not willing to throw them away in order to follow Jesus.

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

All: Forgive us, Restoring God, and help us to notice the kingdom springing forth in our midst. By your grace, may our fears turn to faith, our seeds of grief produce a bumper crop of joy, and our tears turn into torrents of tenderness as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to Jerusalem. Amen.

### Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Making a way through all the foolishness and mistakes of our lives, God leads us into new life, where we are restored to grace, to hope, and to peace.

Many: Do we notice what God has done for us, what God is doing in us? This is good news for everyone. 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,"*

## **We Listen for God's Word**

### **Our 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.**

### **Our Scripture Reading for Today**

**John 12:1-11**

**Mary Anoints Jesus**

**12** Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. **2** There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. **3** Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them<sup>[a]</sup> with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. **4** But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, **5** "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" **6** (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) **7** Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it<sup>[a]</sup> so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. **8** You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

**By Rev. David Robberts-Mosser**

## **We Respond to God's Word**

### **Our 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 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 United Church of Christ, 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 Give Back to God**

**By The UMC**

One: Let us pray...

Many: Loving God, source of all joy, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude. As Mary poured out her love for Jesus with costly perfume, so we pour out our gifts before you, seeking to honor you with all that we have. During this reflective Lenten period, may our offerings remind us of the abundance you've poured into our lives. Help us to give extravagantly, not out of duty, but from hearts filled with joy and gratitude. Bless these gifts and use them to bring your hope to the world. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

**The Sacrament of Communion**

**Invitation to the Table**

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**

**By Rev. Thom Shuman**

One: May the God of all new things be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Let us offer our hearts to the One who restores us to new life.

Many: **May we empty them of all that holds us back, so God may fill the emptiness with grace.**

One: May our hearts overflow with praise to God.

Many: **May joy and laughter resound in our words and lives.**

One: You sent prophets to us, Gracious God, who encouraged us to let go of the past and to return to your side, but we didn't care about their words, thinking such a life to be too costly.

So you sent Jesus to us, setting aside your grieving heart so we might be restored to you.

With those who long to know you,  
with those who run to be with you,  
we offer our songs of thanksgiving:

Many: **Holy, holy, holy are you, God of new things.**

**All creation honors you with praise and joy.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes to take hold of us.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Though you are holy, God of restoration, you were willing to set aside all we had done, so that Jesus might anoint us with new life. He could have clung to his glory, but set it aside to become one of us;

he could have maintained all power, but became weak and foolish for us;  
he could have been surrounded by your love, but walked into the forest of our fears,  
to make a way out for us;  
he could have avoided pain and suffering, but went into sin's cold embrace, to bring back death's captives,  
his tears sowing the seeds of hope which brought forth a bouquet of grace.  
As we long to want to know Jesus more,  
as we seek to be restored to life by you,  
we speak of that mystery we call faith:

**Many: Christ lost his life so we might find ours;  
Christ was raised, his resurrection life springing forth in us;  
Christ will come, that we might gain eternity with God.**

One: We pray that you would anoint this Table and its gifts of the bread and cup with your Spirit of life and love, which are offered to the people you love. When we take the bread which has been broken and eat of it, we forget about our past and embrace your kingdom where we share in the sufferings of our sisters and brothers everywhere. When we drink from the cup, the fragrance of your grace fills us to go and serve your people: the poor who do not always need to be, the lonely who can be offered a family, the grieving who can be cradled in love.  
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."

## Sharing the Elements

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.**

## We Go to Love and Serve God in God's World

### Our Hymn of Parting

1 The Church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
she is his new creation  
by water and the Word.  
From heav'n he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,  
yet one o'er all the earth;  
her charter of salvation:  
one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses,  
with ev'ry grace endued.

### The Church's One Foundation

3. 'Mid toil and tribulation  
And tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation  
Of peace forever more;  
Till with the vision glorious  
Her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church victorious  
Shall be the Church at rest.

4 Yet she on earth hath union  
With God the three in one  
And mystic sweet communion  
With those whose rest is won  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we  
Like them, the meek and lowly  
On high may dwell with thee

## Charge and Benediction

One: And now, God sends us out into our communities,

**Many: not to cling to a faded past, but to share all the new things God is doing.**

One: And now, Jesus calls us to notice those around us,

**Many: to shower them with hope,  
to feed them from our deep pantries,  
to welcome them as family.**

One: And now, the Spirit anoints us with grace,

**Many: to make a way through the injustices around us  
so we might walk with our sisters and brothers  
into the kingdom springing forth in our midst.**

One: And now, 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*

