



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 20, 2025

Easter Sunday

www.trinityuccwestville.org

Gathering and Preparing to Worship

**Denotes to please stand in body or in spirit*

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.

One: In the quiet of an early morning trip to the tomb, where the rock has been rolled away, and emptiness has been replaced with hope.

Christ is Risen!

Many: Christ is Risen, indeed!

***Opening Hymn Christ the Lord is Risen Today**

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!
2. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once He doth all save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!
3. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Welcoming and Announcements

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

Adapted from a Prayer by Rev. Abi

One: Out of the darkness of grief and despair comes a new day dawning in our lives bearing a message of hope. Because Christ is risen.

Many: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: In the muddle of the morning when we give thanks and break bread, we hear the Creator's voice whisper a reminder that we are each created in God's image, and are loved beyond measure. In this moment, we know our compassionate Lord is with us now and always, because Christ is risen.

Many: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: When we run to the tomb to see for ourselves. And in the quiet emptiness we are reassured that death has been overcome by the lamb of God and we know it is true. Christ is risen.

Many: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: Today we ask that this resurrection wipe away the tears from our eyes; bring hope to the hopeless, set the prisoners free, feed those who hunger, and bring healing and wholeness to those who need it. Because Christ is Risen!

Many: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: We yearn for the hope found in the resurrection, so that it may bring renewal of our lives. May it help to restore our broken relationships, and deepen our relationship with God. May it strengthen our relationships with our neighbors, and empower us to bring the good news of Jesus' resurrection to others who are on life's margins. We do this without fear from the fallout of what others may say because Christ is risen.

Many: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: Thanks be to our living and loving God.

Many: Alleluia and Amen!

*** Hymn of Transition Because He Lives**

1. God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive
He lived and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives.

2 How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and the joy he gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives.

3 And then one day, I'll cross that river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then, as death gives way to vict'ry
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns.

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives

Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: It is hard to step out of the shadows of these times, to try to embrace the light which is being cast upon us. We have spent so much time searching, hoping, longing for things to change, and in the longing, the hoping, and the searching, we forgot so many people, we ignored so much pain, and we turned away from grief and loss, afraid it would embrace us. Yet on this day, we are reminded that we are still Easter people, we will be Easter people again, and we are always Easter people! Let us speak of uncertain and unfounded fears which have tried to wipe away resurrection hope, as we pray together our prayer of confession,

Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

By Rev. Thom Shuman

All: Whether we can gather together today, or feel we need to stay home; whether we continue to huddle in the shadows and take tentative steps into the light, on this day, we come to you, God who removes our fears. Some days, we have kept the door to hope shut so tight, we are afraid to open it. We yearn to go back to the way things used to be, that we are hesitant to trust in the future you hold out to us.

Please take a few moments of silence for personal reflection.

All: Lord, you come to us, to open the gates of hope, so we might walk in the gardens of life; you come, to open the gates of grace, so we might plant peace in the wilderness of the world; you come, to open the gates of resurrection, so we might know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: This is the day of resurrection and new life. This is the day God offers us steadfast hope and love which will never end.

Many: We will sing and dance on this day! We are still, now and always Easter people! We will rejoice and give thanks to the God who, through Jesus Christ, saves us. 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: Whether here or worshipping online; whether joy filled or just getting by; the peace of Christ reminds us that we are not alone. That nothing separates us from the love of God for all of God's children.

As we pass the peace of Christ among each other, please be considerate of those gathered. If you wish to flash the sign of God's peace to avoid contact; fist bump to gently pass the peace; or are a hugger, please pay attention to those you are passing the peace of Christ with, and respect their choice if they choose to avoid contact.

If you are worshipping with us online, you are invited to 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: Help us, through the power of your Holy Spirit, grow deeper, wider, and fuller in our knowledge and understanding of your words and your ways. Help us, through the bestowal of your divine Wisdom, bring others closer to you and to your Son, Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen

Luke 24:1-12

The Resurrection of Jesus

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

A Refection on the Word

*** Hymn of Response**

In the Garden

**1 I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.**

Refrain:

**And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.**

**2 He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing. [Refrain]**

3 I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling. [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, or as the Ushers pass the baskets
around. 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

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**

One: Let us pray...

**Many: Mighty God of Resurrection power: We so desperately need the "Alleluia!" this morning! As we
give back to you this day, may we do so as those convinced that light will always wash away
darkness, and life will always defeat death! In the name of our risen Savior, we pray. Amen.**

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

One: This is not the table of Trinity United Church of Christ,
but the open and welcoming table of the one who turned nobody away, Jesus Christ.
So, whether you join us regularly, are here for the first time, or fall somewhere in between, remember that
no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here to Christ's table of extravagant Grace.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Thom Shuman

One: May our God of resurrection be with you!

Many: And also with you!

One: This is the day to offer yourselves to God.

Many: We open our hearts to the One who fills them with grace.

One: Join in the glad songs of all creation this day.

Many: Our voices praise the One who opens wide the gates of life.

One: We gather with those who see and believe, with those who stand and question, and with those somewhere
in between, as we lift our Easter songs to you:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy are you, God who has made this day! All creation celebrates your constant love.
Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Blessed is the One who is revealed on this morning.

Many: Hosanna in the highest!

One: As we stand before the empty tomb, celebrating the great news of this day, we would have that faith which is a mystery:

**Many: Christ died, so sin could not hold on to us;
Christ was raised, so death could not hold on to him;
Christ will come again, to hold us in steadfast love and hope.**

One: On this Easter morning, pour out your Spirit upon this ordinary bread that it might offer life, and on the cup that it might overflow with grace, and on your people gathered, people with great faith, and those who struggle with it; people who understand the mystery, and those who question; people who have tried to follow Jesus, and those who have failed. With the broken bread, you transform us into new people who will rejoice by welcoming the stranger, listening to the ignored, and offering hope to those who grieve. With the cup of grace, you nourish us so that we may delight in your people by learning from those whose stories have never been told, holding the hands of those whose only companion is loneliness, walking with children who know the forgotten trails to joy.

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be true communion with you. By your Spirit make us one with Christ that we may be one with all who share this feast. Give us courage to speak his truth, to seek his justice, and to love all, as Christ loves each of us gathered. Let us now offer up prayers for those who are grieving, sick, struggling, or despondent

If you missed dropping off any prayer requests on your way into the sanctuary,
please drop off them off in the basket on your way out.

If you are worshipping with us online, please type in, post and share any prayer requests.

We will try and get to every prayer posted during worship.

Please only first names, and keep your prayers brief and appropriate to our worship.

If we don't get to your request, we will lift up your requests after worship.

After Pastor David reads the prayer petition he will say "Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer..."

We ask these things, both spoken and unspoken, in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray,
saying...

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."

(If you are worshipping with us via livestream, please take what you are using for the bread of life and hold it up)

One: The body of Christ, broken for you, take and eat.

One: 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."

(If you are worshipping with us livestream, please take what you are using for the cup of salvation and hold it up)

One: The cup of Salvation, poured out for you, take and drink

Prayer After Communion

One: Let us pray,

All: 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, we ask this in the name of our risen savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*** Our Hymn of Departure Christ Arose**

1 Low in the grave he lay, Je-sus my Sav-ior,
wait-ing the com-ing day, Je-sus my Lord!

Refrain:

Up from the grave he a-rose *(He a-rose);*
with a might-y tri-umph o'er his foes *(He a-rose);*
he a-rose a vic-tor from the dark do-main,
and he lives for-ev-er, with his saints to reign.
He a-rose! *(He a-rose)* He a-rose! *(He a-rose)*
Hal-le-lu-jah! Christ a-rose!

2 Vain-ly they watch his bed, Je-sus my Sav-ior,
vain-ly they seal the dead, Je-sus my Lord!

Refrain

3 Death can-not keep its prey, Je-sus my Sav-ior;
he tore the bars away, Je-sus my Lord!

Refrain

*** Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Our long journey through the darkness is over!

Many: We have run towards the light of Jesus' resurrection!

One: The long night of sorrows is fading away

Many: A new day and a new life awaits us thanks to the Son rising.

One: No more do we need to fear!

Many: Death will not have the last word

One: No more will we feel that we are alone and lost!

Many: Jesus lives in our hearts and our spirits!

One: Jesus calls us to be a source of hope and joy for others!

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.

Christ is Risen

Many: Christ is Risen indeed. Alleluia and Amen!

Sing "Amen!"