

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

July 12, 2026

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.

Our Opening Prayer

By Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay

One: Let us pray...

Many: God who gathers us together, we delight to be in community with You and with one another. Let Your word be proclaimed in truth. Let us burst forth in songs that reflect the depths of our spirits.
May our prayers be formed in Your name and granted by Your wisdom. Amen.

Announcements

Our Call to Worship

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Come to our God, all who hunger for life:

Many: for it is God who nourishes us at the Table of Grace

One: Come to our God, all who are worn out by life:

Many: for it is God who provides the rest we need.

One: Come to our God, all who are weighed down:
Many: for it is our God who carries our burdens with us.

***The Opening Hymn of Praise Come, Ye Thankful People Come**

1 Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

2 All the world is God's own field,
fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown
are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

4 Even so, Lord, quickly come,
bring thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

The Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: We know our foolishness, our hurtful words, the rejection we offer to others. And we think God wants nothing to do with us. But in Jesus, God holds our hands and will never let go, as we journey together through life into grace and forgiveness. Let us pray together our prayer of confession

Prayer of Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

Many: We are so skilled at being in control, at taking charge, God, that we are not very good at resting. We think we have to be constantly busy, so we have no time for you. We are trained to be extremely productive, and so create our harried, stress-filled lives.

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

Many: But just when we think we are lost, Jesus comes along and says, 'let me show you what I have learned.' And, by your grace, Forgiving God, we find our way home, no longer burdened by our

foolishness, no longer distracted by the trolls of life, no longer alone as we walk with the One who came to rescue us from ourselves, Jesus our beloved brother. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: God promises us life, grace, forgiveness, and hope. And God never goes back on any promises. This, my friends, is our good news.

Many: Thanks be to God, who never gives up on us, but whose love is always wrapped around 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: 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 the one who has ears to hear, listen.

Many: The Word of the Lord speaks to the living of our lives today.

The Word is our fortress and strength, providing shelter and foundation for daily living. Amen.

Our Scripture Reading for Today

Matthew 13:1-23

The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. **2** Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. **3** And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. **4** And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. **5** Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. **6** But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away.

7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. **8** Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. **9** If you have ears, hear!"

The Parable of the Sower Explained

18 "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. **19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. **20** As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, **21** yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.^[a] **22** As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this^[a] age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. **23** But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

A Refection on the Word

By Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

We Respond to God's Word

***Our Hymn of Response Christ Taught Us Of a Farmer By Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Sung to the tune "The Church's One Foundation"**

**1 Christ taught us of a farmer who went out sowing seeds.
A few had trouble growing among the rocks and weeds,
Yet others grew till harvest in soil that was so good.
O God, you sow the gospel: The seed is your own word.**

**2 You sowed your word of love here so many years ago.
Your message found a welcome; your word began to grow.
By grace, this church was built here by saints who followed you.
The seed took root and flourished: we hear and follow, too.**

**3 We thank you for each member who lives in loving ways:
For those who seek to serve you without expecting praise,
For hearts and songs uplifted, for work and sacrifice.
The seed you planted grows here: we grow in Jesus Christ.**

**4 In times of joy we praise you, in struggling times we search,
And always we are learning to be your faithful church.
Your Spirit gives us vision — and hearts and lives made new.
Your harvest is for sharing: sent out, we work for you.**

Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives

One: When we share our material resources, we proclaim our trust in God's provision, abundance, and community. Let us give in order to support the ministry of Trinity United Church of Christ in hope and faith. If you are worshipping with us online, you can continue to support Trinity by mailing your offering 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 Give Back to God**

One: Let us pray

Many: Generous God, receive these gifts and magnify them to bless our community and world. May these offerings reflect our gratitude for your beloved community and trust in your kingdom. 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: The Lord be with you.

Many: and also with you.

One: People of God, lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to the One who invites us to rest in his arms.

One: People of God, give thanks to the One who offers you rest.

Many: We bring our thanksgiving to God, who sings to us of peace.

One: With hearts filled with joy, we bring our praise to you, O God.

On the first morning of creation, you whispered of peace, and the cacophony of chaos was stilled.

You walked softly through the grasses of the earth and all creation sang of your goodness.

Created to find our peace with you, our fretful desire to be in control led us into a nomadic existence of rebellion against you.

Prophets spoke and angels sang to invite us home, but our stubborn pride only grew stronger.

When the burden of our sin became too great for your heart, you sent Jesus to carry it for us.

With those who have found their rest in you,
with those who long for their burdens to be lifted,
we join in singing your praise:

Many: Holy, holy, holy are you, God of the weary.

All creation celebrates your name in all generations.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who yokes himself to us.

Hosanna in the highest!

One: Holy are you, O God and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord and Savior.

He saw us weighed down with the burdens of sin and death,

he picked up his cross, carried it to Calvary, where he died to give us life.

As we remember his life and his rest in you,

as we celebrate the good news of lightened burdens,

we speak of that mystery we call faith:

Many: Christ came, that we may have life;

Christ died, so that the burden of death might be lifted from us;

Christ was raised to new life, so grace might be revealed to every generation;

Christ will return, to yoke us to God through all eternity.

One: Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon these your gifts of loaf and cup, that the bread we break and the

cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. 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

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

The Communion of the People

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 You Are the Salt of the Earth O People**

**1. You Are Salt For The Earth, Oh People,
Salt For The City Of God!
Share The Flavor Of Life, Oh People:
Life In The City Of God!**

Refrain

**Bring Forth The Reign Of Mercy,
Bring Forth The Reign Of Peace.
Bring Forth The Reign Of Justice,
Bring Forth The City Of God!**

**2. You Are A Light On The Hill, Oh People,
Light For The City Of God!
Shine So Holy And Bright, Oh People:
Shine For The Kingdom Of God!**

Refrain

**3. You Are A Seed Of The Word, Oh People,
Bring Forth The Reign Of God!
Seeds Of Mercy And Seeds Of Justice,
Grow In The Kingdom Of God!**

Refrain

**4. We Are The Bless'd And A Pilgrim People,
Bound For The Reign Of God!
Love Our Journey And Love Our Homeland:
Love Is The City Of God!**

Refrain

***Charge and Benediction**

One: We leave with the presence of the Holy,
Many: so we may show others the way to grace and hope.

One: We leave with Jesus, who draws living water for us,
Many: so we can share it in the heat of summer, and in the bitterness of winter.

One: We leave with the Spirit, who teaches us how to listen,
Many: so we may hear the cries of the lonely and the voices of all who are ignored.

One: We leave to go out into the world in peace. Continue to 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.

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***