

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

August 2, 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

One: Let us pray...

Many: We call upon you God, because you care and are attentive to our cries of concern and shouts of joy. We come to pray, sing, and ask for help, O God. We also come to receive clarity and discernment, to receive and give testimony of your persistent love, and to receive and affirm the beauty of your path. Hold us securely by your Holy Spirit and never let us go. Amen.

Announcements

Our Call to Worship

One: All who are thirsty, come!

Many: God is the fountain for our lives.

One: All who are hungry, come!

Many: Jesus feeds us with goodness and grace.

One: Rich and poor, young and old, neighbor and guest, come!

Many: The Holy Spirit gathers everyone around the Table.

***The Opening Hymn of Praise**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

2 We are Thine, do Thou befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray.

3 Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.

4 Early let us seek Thy favor,
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
With Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

The Call to Confession

One: The Lord is not mean-spirited or vengeful. God is gracious and merciful, always willing to listen to Our prayers, and to hear our hearts. Let us join our voices in praying our prayer of confession...

Prayer of Confession

One: Holy One, we strive to be your people and reflect your goodness in the world. Yet, the way of wickedness is not far from us, and we have not passed every test.

Many: Fortify us in your word and drench us with your compassion so that we may find the courage to repent and repair. Help us acknowledge the harm we have allowed and the pain we have caused.

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: Empower us God, to make things right with our neighbors and with ourselves.

Many: Let your grace and mercy liberate us to be agents of reconciliation and restoration in our families, communities, and world. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

One: Blessed children of God, receive God's transformative and liberating grace. Be made new in Christ, and make a new way in mending broken relationships and forging new ones.

Many: We will let the love of God be our guide with the assurance that the One who is gracious and merciful, is good to all, and abundant in compassion to everyone. 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 14:13-21

Feeding the Five Thousand

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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: 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: Thank you God for the opportunity to share in your abundant and renewing work. Use these gifts for the kingdom. Sow wisdom and discernment as we support the ministry of this church in your name. 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

One: May the God of the open table be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift your hungry hearts to our God.

Many: We offer them to the One who feeds us with grace.

One: God gives us all we need in every moment.

Many: Our mouths will sing God's praise in these moments.

One: With great love and unceasing hope, you sent the prophets to us, but we sent them away for the hour was too early to follow you. Then, in overwhelming compassion, you sent Jesus to us. With those who have been fed by your love, with those who drink deeply of your joy, we lift our songs of thanksgiving to you:

**Many: Holy, holy, holy are you, God of gracious love.
All creation rejoices in you.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One filled with great compassion.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Many: You are gracious and merciful, Holy God, and Jesus Christ is your heart made flesh. He, who had everything, came to fill those who had nothing. He, who lived in glory, came to the deserted places of our hearts to love us. He, who is over all, came to submit to death's power, being cut off from you, until you raised him to new life. We need not go away empty, but are fed at the Table, where we speak the truth in Christ:

**Many: Christ died, the witness to obedience;
God raised Christ, the witness to the resurrection;
Christ will come, the witness to the promises to us.**

One: Here at this Table, God of abundance, you feed us with that grace and peace which is offered at no cost to us. The Holy Spirit blesses the bread, breaks it, and gives it to us so we might have strength. The Holy Spirit blesses the cup, pours it, and gives it to us to give us hope. 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."

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, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

***Our Hymn of Parting How Great Thou Art**

1 O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; [Refrain]

3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; [Refrain]

**4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!" [Refrain]**

***Charge and Benediction**

One: Go now, to find the thirsty.

Many: We will show them where the living water flows.

One: Go now, to find the hungry.

Many: We will share from our abundance to feed them.

One: Go now, to find the stranger.

Many: We will embrace them as sister and brother.

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.

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***

