

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 23, 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.

Opening with Prayer

One: Let us pray...

Many: Lord, we gather together in many different ways to worship you. Guide each of us today and by your transforming love help us to become Your church. Keep our hearts and minds open so when we leave, we are ready to serve you, for we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen

Announcements

Call to Worship

By Nancy Townley

One: You have called us to this place, O Lord.

Many: Each one of us is unique, with differing gifts and talents.

One: God has blessed each and every one of us.

Many: We want to serve God.

One: Yet each talent represented here is valuable in God's realm.

Many: Lord, help us find ways in which to use our talents for healing and hope.

One: Each talent, each skill can be used for peace and justice

Many: Lord, help us be part of ministries that promote hope and peace.

One: Come, let us praise the Lord who has called us together

Many: Let us open our hearts and spirits to God's word for us.

Guide us, O God, to discern what you would have us do.

***Hymn of Gathering Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah**

**1 Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy pow'rful 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.**

Call to Confession

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: We are so much like Peter. Jesus tells us what it will take to follow him, and we want to argue. Jesus shows us the way to the Kingdom and we look for another path. Let us put down all that keeps us from following Jesus, as we confess our lives to God, praying our prayer of confession.

Prayer of Confession and Letting Go

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: Let us pray...

All: We confess our struggle to be transformed into disciples, God. The desires of the world would shape us into people you would not recognize. The demands of our society pull us away from your heart. Our culture values the rich, the powerful, the successful, but you are on the side of the weak, the poor, the outcast, and the oppressed.

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: Forgive us, Merciful God, for looking for you in all the wrong places. Reawaken us with your voice that calls us to service; revive our weary hearts with your vision of creation; refresh our fatigued spirits that we might boldly proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and go forth to serve your people, in Christ's name. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness and Assurance

By Rev. Thom Shuman

One: It is so easy to think like the world, that money will give us happiness, that power will earn us grace.

But Paul reminds us that if we think like Christ, and live for others, we will find true freedom.

Many: Not only our minds, but may God transform our hearts and spirits into the likeness of Christ, so we may be faithful disciples. 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 goes to everyone whose heart needs peace, and to every place where there is no peace.

So with this in mind, children of our living and loving Lord. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with 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,"

Listening for God's Still Speaking Voice

Prayer for Illumination

By Rev. Dr. Joanne Carson Brown

One: Let us pray...

Many: Gracious God, open our ears to hear your words of challenge, open our eyes to see your words of blessing, open our hearts to receive the spirit of your wisdom moving in our midst. Amen

Scripture Reading for Today Exodus 1:8-2:10

The Israelites Are Oppressed

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?" ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh

commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

Birth and Youth of Moses

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. **2** The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. **3** When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. **4** His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. **6** When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. **7** Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" **8** Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. **9** Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. **10** When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

a. 2.10 In Heb *Moses* resembles the word for *drew*

A Refection on the Word

By Rev. David Robberts-Mosser

*** Hymn of Response Blest Be the Tie that Binds**

1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

3 We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

2 Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

4 When we are called to part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

Offering of Our Gifts and Our Lives

One: We come together from many places, each seeking to be faithful disciples of Jesus, and to respond to God through our tithes, gifts, and offerings. As God has so richly blessed us, on our gratitude let us return a portion of these blessings to God, asking that these gifts may be used in service to others through the ministries and mission of this church. 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: Generous God who always gives to each one of us the best, we thank you for this opportunity to share from our abundance. Bless these gifts, offered through the ministries and mission of this church. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms**

**1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Refrain:

**Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**2 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]**

**3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]**

*** Charge and Benediction**

One: Go out as God's people,

Many: We go out willing to do God's work in the world.

One: Go out as Christ's disciples,

Many: We go out ready to serve wherever we have the chance.

One: Go out as the Holy Spirit's hopes,

Many: We go out eager to proclaim peace to all.

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***

