

Prayerful  
Living

# Trinity United Church of Christ

Deerfield, Illinois

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

A wholeheartedly inclusive Christian community  
called by a challenging and progressive faith  
to live lives of love and justice

## Virtual Worship

To Dial In by Phone Only 1 (312) 626-6799 - MTG ID 874 9506 6741

## Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87495066741?pwd=NjdvYnNycy80SWpldVJQZmQ4UDd0QT09>

**Participant ID** (Not required. None provided) **“Otherwise just press #”**  
Meeting Password: **760760**

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

### FALL WORSHIP SERIES

With Music

*Be Still and Know*

### I DREAM OF A WORLD

Steven Curtis Chapman  
Arr. Lloyd Larson

With Meditation

*“The future does not exist except in our imagination. However, what is in our imagination shapes the actions we take today. How do we ensure that we are not being reactive - beholden to the imagination and strategies of others and/or doing things ‘just the way we’ve done it before.’  
How can we expand and imagine beyond what we know?”*

*Cameron Trimble*

\*Please stand in body or spirit

**INVOKING THE SPIRIT  
CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds

*Prayer for Gaza City*

(Posted on September 16, 2025)

by Maren Tirabassi

**Holy One, we grieve for Gaza City,  
and our hearts are sick,  
We cry out for the cries of God's children  
in the midst of bombardment  
and the ground offensive.  
Another summer of war is past,  
and the harvest is all starvation and terror.**

**God, your heart breaks for the brokenness  
of your daughters and sons in Gaza,  
for there is no balm in this new Gilead,  
and the people of the world  
weep a fountain of tears,  
day and night, watching from far away,  
the slaying of your precious children.  
amen**

*(when I have no words, Jeremiah has them, Jeremiah 8)*

\*HYMN

*There Is a Balm in Gilead #553*

(see insert)

\*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

## WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

We share “happenings” in the community and lift up concerns for prayer.

### CHILDREN’S MOMENT

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD FOR OUR LIVES

Reading from the Letters

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Reading from the Gospels

Luke 16:1-13

Sermon

A Place We All Can Call Home

Rev. Edmonds

Hymn of Response

*Come, Let Us Dream*

(see insert)

Choir & Congregation

## PRAYERS *When Grief Wears the Mask of Rage*

(adapted) Cameron Trimble

Holy One,

You who hear the cries behind our clenched fists,  
who see the tears we refuse to let fall—  
meet us in our fury.

Not to scold it. Not to silence it. But to soften it.  
To show us the mourning waiting beneath.

We are a people hurting in different ways,  
but hurting all the same.

**We do not know how to find each other across the trenches  
of our grief.**

**Help us remember that we were never meant to mourn alone.  
That compassion does not require agreement.  
That healing can begin with a single shared breath.**

**Make us brave enough to grieve together.  
And in doing so, may we find our way back to love.**

**Amen.**

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*The Solid Rock*

William B. Bradbury  
Arr Joel Raney

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "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.*

\*HYMN

*Dear God, Embracing Humankind #502*

(see insert)

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*I Dream of a World*

Mark A. Miller

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## WELCOME!

We welcome again guest vocalist, **Debby Shellard**. While her first love is musical theater, she is retired from teaching drama and speech at Attea Middle School in Glenview, IL, and many years as Children's Choir Director at Glenview Community Church. Debby is also relatively new to the grandparent's club as Henry celebrated his first birthday this month!

We're glad you've chosen to worship with Trinity today. If you're new, please introduce yourself, we'd love to get acquainted. We hope you find this a welcoming community for people of all ages and stages of life.

If you have any questions about the church, feel free to ask Pastor Dale!

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## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

### Pastor

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds, M.Div.

847-722-6756

PastorDale@trinitydeerfield.org

### Acting Minister of Music

Rev. Dr. Pamela J. Keckler

### Guest Vocalist

Debby Shellard

### Acting Office Manager

Heather Hughes

### Lay Officers

Council President

Treasurer

Church Email

Church Office Telephone

Church Office Hours

Church Website

Scott Peterson

Karen Kerschke

tuccdf@gmail.com

847-945-5050

Tue.–Wed. 9-12

trinitydeerfield.org

September 21, 2025

1 Timothy 2:1-7

## Prayerful Living

I recently discovered there's a monastery just over the mountain from my home in Vermont. Founded in 1960 by a Carthusian monk, the monastery prides itself on being very private. Throughout the years, only once was a newspaper reporter invited inside its holy of holies.

Perhaps this guarded solitude is what helps the monks true to their motto, "the cross is steady while the world keeps turning."

While closed to the public, the monastery does have a website. You can imagine my husband's reaction when he found me reading the "how to join us" page. Lucky for him, I did not have any of the qualifications. That hasn't stopped me, though, from desiring a cloistered life.

The world just seems so volatile these days. It doesn't take much for my faith to waver, and many times I feel my cross is unsteady in this turning and churning world. I need more quiet moments amid the chaos. I need a stronger prayer life.

What I need the most, however, is to find a way to live a monastic life while still being plugged into the world. Is that even possible?

According to author, Kathleen Norris, it is.

Norris wrote at length about the power of capturing "monk moments" as you go about your day. She explains that it isn't necessary to turn your back on the world to have deep communion with God. Monk moments are those moments of grace, epiphanies, and peace that are happening all the time. We just need to be open to them.

In fact, I am having a monk moment right now as I write this reflection in a crowded airport en route to preach for a friend in Miami.

At first glance, this setting is anything but conducive to writing. The air is thick with the stress of many flight delays. The chatter is loud as people call loved ones with new estimated arrival times and gate changes blare over airport speakers.

And yet, this is my holy ground. There is nothing that is stopping me from talking to God. I can pray. Right here, right now. I can pray for the family that just walked right by me. I can pray for the woman sitting across from me worrying about her flight connection. I can pray for the loved ones I hold in my heart as well as the strangers filling the seats here at the airline gate.

After all, being a praying people is what God desires from us. And as the Apostle Paul reminds his young disciple, Timothy, our thanksgivings to God should be made for all people in all places. I don't need to run away to a monastery to pray. I can — and am — having a monk moment right now. What about you?

*All-knowing and ever-listening God, fill our days with beautiful monk moments — moments where amid the noise and chaos of the world, we find peace and solace in your presence. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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*Jer. 8:18–22; 46:11; Acts 10:34–43**African-American spiritual; alt.*

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.

*Last time, end*

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,  
 2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend,  
 3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

*to Refrain*

But then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain.  
 who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev-er fail to lend.  
 you can tell the love of Je-sus, who died to save us all.

*This is one of the most moving of the African-American spirituals because it illustrates the way in which the enslaved tried to encourage those who were feeling especially weighed down by the burden of their captivity.*

Tune: BALM IN GILEAD Irr. with refrain  
*African-American spiritual*

# Come, Let Us Dream

D G C Am G

1. Come, let us dream God's dream a - gain. Come, one and  
 2. The lame shall walk, the blind shall see, the doors swing  
 3. When ha - tred ends and war shall cease, so all may  
 4. But know the cost of claim - ing sight of God's new  
 5. Proph - ets are scorned in their own lands and mar - tyrs

3 Em C G A D G D

all, let us as - cend the moun - tain - top where those of  
 wide, all pri - soners free, the low - ly raised, the proud brought  
 dwell in deep - est peace, then be as - sured the time is  
 day, of wrongs made right, for some have paid the high - est  
 slain by righ - teous hands; though dream - ers die, the dream will

6 G C G Dsus D7 G

old saw God's new day on earth un - fold.  
 low. This is God's dream: let jus - tice flow.  
 near when per - fect love casts out all fear.  
 price, their lives for us, a sac - ri - fice.  
 live, for we have yet our lives to give.

**Congregation: Unison**

WORDS: John Middleton  
 MUSIC: English folk melody; harm. by Dean McIntyre

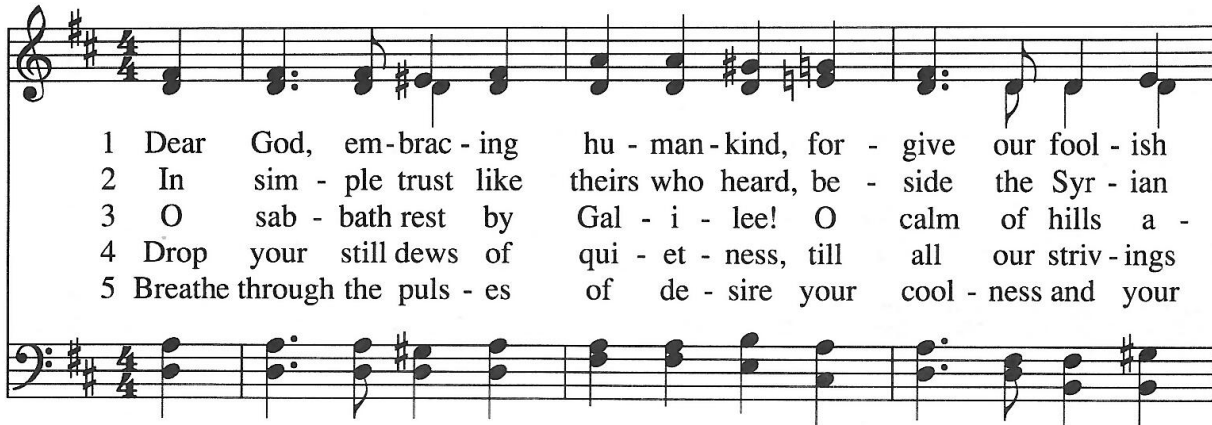
O W A L Y W A L Y  
 L M

## Dear God, Embracing Humankind

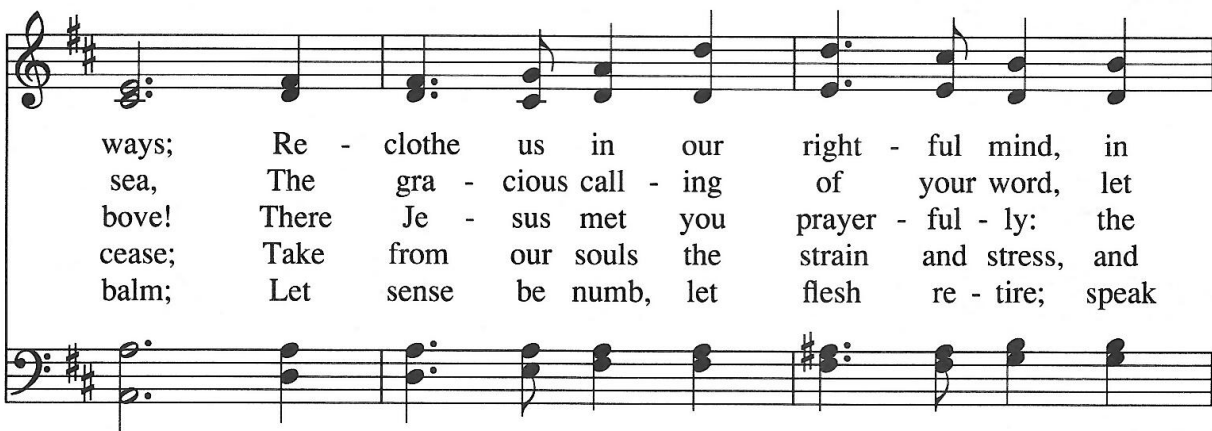
502

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; alt.

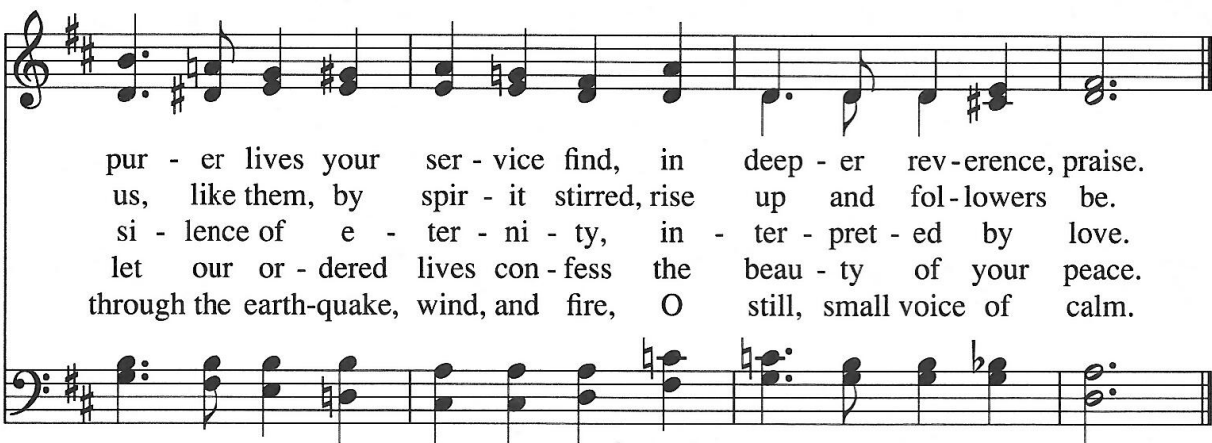
Mark 1:16–20; Matt. 14:22–23; 1 Kings 19:11–12



1 Dear God, em-brac - ing hu - man - kind, for - give our fool - ish  
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian  
 3 O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a -  
 4 Drop your still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings  
 5 Breathe through the puls - es of de - sire your cool - ness and your



ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in  
 sea, The gra - cious call - ing of your word, let  
 bove! There Je - sus met you prayer - ful - ly: the  
 cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, and  
 balm; Let sense be numb, let flesh re - tire; speak



pur - er lives your ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.  
 us, like them, by spir - it stirred, rise up and fol - lowers be.  
 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love.  
 let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of your peace.  
 through the earth-quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

*In his poem "The Brewing of Soma," New England poet John Greenleaf Whittier compares frenzied ecstasies of a sect of Hindu priests to the noisy Christian revivals he found so offensive. This hymn of quiet worship is from the final stanzas.*

Tune: REST 8.6.8.8.6.  
 Frederick C. Maker, 1887  
 Alternate tune: REPTON  
 (repeating last phrase)

## **Prayer Concerns**

Jim Litchfield, who is having back surgery

David Bunce and Steve Schoonmaker, two friends of Lucy Dorenfeld who are both struggling with cancer

Dorothy Collins

Carol Wells, upon the death of her husband Fred

The Family of Adrienne Mazura, friend of Lucy, who succumbed to breast cancer

Peter & Barbie Reynolds, friends of Lucy Dorenfeld who were captured by the Taliban in Afghanistan

Bill and Roseann Stenzel

Sarah Hughes as she recovers

Levi Chisholm, continuing slow & steady recovery from drowning accident

Don Inman

Mary Ferrante

Skip Hahn

Nancy Rose, Barbara Struthers' sister

Irene Santos and Family on the sudden passing of her brother

Carmen Ruiz & Fernando Rodriguez, Barbara Struthers' daughter-in-law's parents in Puerto Rico

The People of Ukraine and Leaders of all nations

For youth who feel alienated or without hope

For all whose lives are torn by disasters of human making

For those suffering devastation in the Middle East

**\*Please let Heather know when there should be changes to the prayer list. We don't want to remove anyone prematurely or omit anyone that should be held in all of our hearts.**