



BOLD

BLESSING

Trinity United Church of Christ

Deerfield, Illinois

2nd Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

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

LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

With Music

Steal Away

With Meditation

“Anyone who gets to the end of their life with the exact same beliefs and opinions they had at the beginning is doing it wrong. Because if we don’t change and evolve over our lifetime, then I have to wonder if we’re paying attention to the invitation of the Holy Spirit that is your life.”

Sarah Bessey

Field Notes for the Wilderness: Practices for an Evolving Faith

*Please stand in body or spirit

FINDING OUR WAY

Traditional Spiritual

Arr Llyod Larson

INVOKING THE SPIRIT

CALL TO WORSHIP
Waymaker

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds

CONFESSION (adapted) Cameron Trimble and Fran Pratt

God of shifting ground and steady mercy,
You know the speed of this age.
You see how quickly events change and how deeply they press upon us.
Form in us the kind of strength that does not depend on control.
Teach us endurance without harshness, courage without panic,
and clarity without contempt.

When anxiety rises, steady our breath.
When the culture accelerates, anchor our judgment.
When fear tempts us to exaggerate or withdraw, return us to presence.
Make our lives places of coherence in a time of confusion.
Make our communities a refuge where trust can grow again.

God, in this season we set our eyes toward You.
We turn our hearts in Your direction.
We acknowledge our great need for you, and our great hunger.
Give us food from Your hand, oh God.

We set aside the expectation that our hunger might be satisfied by anything but Your Spirit.
Nourish our souls, oh God.
We rely upon Your promise of provision,
That the hunger for right living and a just world will be filled.

*AFFIRMATION

*HYMN

Jesus, Lover of My Soul (#546)

(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

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Reading from the Gospel

John 3:1-17

Sermon

Thru Internal Confusion

Rev. Edmonds

CALL TO COMMUNION

Just As I Am (#207)

(see insert)

COMMUNION PRAYER

(adapted from) Steve Garnaas-Holmes

I am not self-made.

I am your creation, God.

I am not the product of my accomplishments.

My life flows from your Spirit.

**I am not the way I have always been.
I am being changed.**

**My failures and mistakes don't cling to me.
I am forgiven. I can begin anew.**

**I'm not all-wise. I don't have seniority.
I am a beginner.**

**I don't need to accomplish any more
than a newborn infant.
I delight you simply by being.**

**I am not afraid of threat or danger.
You are giving me life in this moment,
and this moment, and this,
born again... and again... and again...**

CONSECRATION

MUSICAL REFLECTION AS WE PARTAKE

(an offering plate is available by the door in the Narthex or you may mail your gift)

Just As I Am

William B. Bradbury
Arr Faye Lopez

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND 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

God Loved the World (#208)

(see insert)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I Hear Thy Welcome Voice

by Lewis Hartsough
Arr Marianne Kim

WELCOME...

We're glad you've chosen to worship with Trinity during this season of Lent. If you're new, please introduce yourself, we'd love to get acquainted. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask Pastor Dale!

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds, M.Div.

847-722-6756

PastorDale@trinitydeerfield.org

Minister of Music

Rev. Dr. Pamela J. Keckler

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

Prayer Concerns

Condolences to the extended family of Skip Hahn

Paula Blanchard, cousin of Jean Harris, who has had a recurrence of brain cancer

Walter Eduardo Jimenez and all those now living in fear...

Joyce Black, friend of Marge Magnani

Prayers of celebration for Peter & Barbie Reynolds, friends of Lucy Dorenfeld who were released by the Taliban in Afghanistan and are now living in England

Jim Litchfield in his extended recovery from back surgery

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

Carol Wells in her season of grief

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

Bill and Roseann Stenzel

Sarah Hughes as she recovers

Levi Chisholm, continuing slow & steady recovery from drowning accident

Don Inman

Mary Ferrante

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.**

Bold Blessing

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. — John 3:16

Twenty-seven words. That's all John uses to tell us about this life of faith. It's short, sweet and powerful. So much so that German Reformer Martin Luther labeled the 27 words "the heart of the Bible, the Gospel in miniature."

But could it really be that simple?

I asked that question once when I found myself singing a Vacation Bible School song about John 3:16 in front of 20 sugared-up children. As I belted out the biblical truth about God loving the world — complete with the choral refrain "he is the truth, the way, the life" — I wondered what those words would mean someday to the little voices that joined me off key.

Would remembering God's limitless love for them be the very thing that would save them? And how many would go beyond the way-too commercialized Gospel soundbite of John 3:16 to grapple alongside Nicodemus, the educated Pharisee who was told by Jesus that "no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above?"

While it would be wonderful for 27 words to be the Gospel in miniature, we know there's more to this life of faith. There are dark nights of the soul as well as glorious epiphanies.

Through it all, we question God's love more often than we like to admit, and we find it down right frightening to surrender to the Spirit. As Jesus explained to Nicodemus it is the second birth of the Spirit, not flesh, that will help us see a bit better the reign of God. But the Spirit, Jesus says, will blow where it chooses.

And that is okay. Really. Read my words again. It is okay to allow the Spirit to blow you in the God direction. Go to the unknown and unwelcomed places knowing that as you are guided by the Spirit. God's bold blessing is forever with you. That is the blessing of a love so strong and steadfast that no harm will ever come to you.

Now that's the song I wish I belted out for those children at Vacation Bible School — a song of being born in the Spirit and of living unafraid of life's twisting and changing paths, for there's always an abundance of God's redemptive love for them — and for you.

Loving and merciful God, on this second Sunday in Lent may we feel the Spirit winds whipping in our lives, leading us to be born again into new creations that are awakened to the never-ending God opportunities. 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.)



Waymaker

Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu

You are here, moving in our midst. I worship You, I worship You.

You are here, working in this place. I worship You, I worship You.

You are – Waymaker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the Darkness

My God, that is who you are. (2x)

You are here, touching every heart. I worship You, I worship You.

You are here, healing every heart, I worship you. I worship You.

You are here, turning lives around, I worship You. I worship You.

You are here, mending every heart, I worship You, I worship You.

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.

1 Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to your bos - om fly,
 2 Oth - er ref - uge have I none; in your hands, my des - ti - ny;
 3 Plen-teous grace in you is found, grace to cov - er all my sin;

While the near - er wa - ters roll, while the tem - pest still is high;
 Leave, O leave me not a - lone, still sup - port and com - fort me.
 Let the heal - ing streams a - bound, make and keep me pure with - in.

Hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
 All my trust on you is stayed, all my help from you I bring;
 Fount of life, your love im - part, fill my cup a - bun - dant - ly;

Safe in - to the ha - ven guide, O re - ceive my soul at last!
 Cov - er my de - fense - less head with the shad - ow of your wing.
 Spring up now with - in my heart, rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

Charles Wesley wrote this hymn soon after his 1738 conversion and titled it "In Temptation." Once considered so intimate that it was omitted from many eighteenth-century hymnals, it is presently found in many languages in collections around the world.

Tune: MARTYN 7.7.7.7.D.
 Simeon B. Marsh, 1834
 Alternate tune: ABERYSTWYTH

Just as I Am

Charlotte Elliott, 1836; alt.

John 6:37; Eph. 2:14

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
3 Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,
4 Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, And that you called in -
con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise
ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be yours, and

vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

This text appeared in Charlotte Elliott's Invalid's Hymn Book, published in England in 1836. Disabled at age thirty, she continued a career of writing and editing. This hymn has been translated into many languages.

Tune: WOODWORTH L.M.
William B. Bradbury, 1849

God Loved the World

John 3:16-17

Heiliges Lippen und Herzens Opfer, Stettin, 1778
Transl. August Crull, 1845; alt.

1 God loved the world, and lov - ing gave
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith,
3 If you are sick, if death is near,
4 Be of good cheer, for God in Christ

a won - drous gift, the lost to save,
who was made flesh and suf - fered death;
this truth your trou - bled heart can cheer;
for - gives the flock, by sin en - ticed,

That all who would in Christ be - lieve
All who con - fide in Christ a - lone
Christ Je - sus saves us all from death;
And jus - ti - fied by Je - sus' blood,

should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
that is the firm - est ground of faith.
your bap - tism grants the high - est good.

Edward Miller, a skilled flutist in G. F. Handel's orchestra,
adapted Rockingham from the tune Tunbridge. Miller named it
for the Marquis of Rockingham, a patron and friend, and prime
minister of Great Britain.

Tune: ROCKINGHAM L.M.
Anon.
Adapt. Edward Miller, 1790