

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a bright yellow flower with many petals and a dense center of stamens. The hand is positioned in the upper left, with fingers gently gripping the flower. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue. On the far left, there is a vertical green gradient bar. The title 'Soul Investment' is written in a white, textured, hand-painted font across the lower middle of the image.

Soul Investment

Trinity United Church of Christ

Deerfield, Illinois

8th Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 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

SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES

PARTNERS IN BELIEVING

With Music

One Bread, One Body

Words and Music John B. Foley

Piano Setting by Joel Raney

With Meditation

“...domination can’t fill the space where meaning belongs. No amount of cruelty can offer connection. No victory can take the place of belonging. The soul doesn’t vanish when ignored. It waits. Quietly, persistently. Beneath the noise and the headlines, it waits. And it whispers: ‘You are more than this.’”
– Rev. Cameron Trimble

*Please stand in body or spirit

INVOKING THE SPIRIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds
(adapted) 2013 UCC Writers Group on *Luke*

**We gather here,
to reflect on a
hectic week now past;
We have witnessed those struggling to keep up, to hang on;
those who are losing in the race to have more.**

All around us the noises of culture continually urge
the competition to get more;
amass all you can;
**A culture which only seems to value only those who strive to
break the records for accumulating!
Increase your bottom line;
it's then, and only then, will you be secure!**

May we seek to discern your quieter, yet persistent voice;
You say again,
“Your lives and times are in my hands!
Satisfy yourselves on what is eternal, on what I freely offer.”

**Lord, as we gather in your name today,
May we become desperately thirsty for you...
Hungering for the holy, the enduring, for God.
Riches only you can provide.**

*HYMN

Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts #329

(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 Psalms

Psalms 107:1-9, 43

Reading from the Gospels

Luke 12:13-21

Sermon

Let It Go
(Frozen)

Rev. Edmonds

CALL TO COMMUNION

Give Me a Clean Heart #188

(see insert)

THE INVITATION

As we gather, we remember...

Holy One, this is the Sacrament we share,
because others passed it on – spiritually *and* physically to us.

**We pray that your Spirit of life and love, of tenderness and power,
rest upon this sacrament and on daily bread;**

**on this chalice and the simplest cardboard cup of coffee, so that they
may feed our inmost needs and pour forth a grace that can change the
world.**

Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Amen.

REMEMBRANCE

CONSECRATION *(Responsive)*

The bread on your table is blessed and broken.
As long as it is open to all, it is holy.

Sharing love, we will never be hungry.

The cup on your table is blessed and shared,
like the overflowing of tears and joy.

Drinking deeply, we will never thirst.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Let It Go (Frozen)

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

WELCOME!

We're glad you've chosen to worship with Trinity this summer. 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 the Pastor!

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

Acting Office Manager

Heather Hughes

Lay Officers

Council President

Treasurer

Church Email

Church Office Telephone

Church Office Hours

Church Website

Scott Peterson

Karen Kerschke

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847-945-5050

Tue.–Wed. 9-12

trinitydeerfield.org

Prayer Concerns

For all those devastated by recent floods in the southwest

Centennial Christian Church, St. Louis, collapsed in a tornado, one member killed

Union Avenue Christian Church, St. Louis, major tornado damage disrupting
community food and service ministries

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.**

August 3, 2025

Luke 12:13-21

Soul Investment

There was a field I always enjoyed driving by. In the summer it was filled with wildflowers dancing in the wind. Come autumn the flowers would wither but the tall grass danced on, inviting leaves as its dance partner, both moving with the changing wind.

I drove by the field the other day and discovered it had been trampled by a sea of concrete storage units. My heart broke. How did we come to live in a world where such buildings are needed?

Sadly, more beautiful fields are in danger of extinction as the self-storage market in the United States is projected to reach \$44 billion in 2033. And just last year, storage space consumed an estimated 2,099,000,000 of square feet.

Jesus once told a story about the dangers of accumulating material possessions. He warned how “stuff” can easily become gods, demanding more of our time, energy and money in acquiring and caring for them.

He then spoke about a rich fool in need of more storage for his worldly goods. So, the rich fool tore down his existing barns and built bigger ones, all along feeling a sense of worth and security. What he didn’t realize was that security was fleeting as death would come like a thief in the night. What good then would the bigger barns be?

The other day I passed an old farmhouse with a huge dumpster on the front lawn — this has become today’s obit in my rural community, alerting neighbors that an elderly resident has died. Relatives would soon be tossing treasures into it like worthless trash.

I often wonder what would happen to my things. News reports have been telling me for years now that the younger generation doesn’t want our “antiques.” This has fueled a trend, which emerged from Sweden, known as “death cleaning” — where the living control what goes into the foreboding dumpster.

While it might sound a bit morbid, the act of purging while still alive can be a spiritual act, leading us to decide, while we have time, what we really need to hold on to.

I am by no means rich, but still a bit foolish. But then I see a dumpster in front of a home and reality hits hard: We really can’t take our stuff with us.

My prayer is for the day to come when bigger barns are no longer built so that the real treasures in life, the wildflowers in the field, can dance again. Will you join me in this prayer?

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



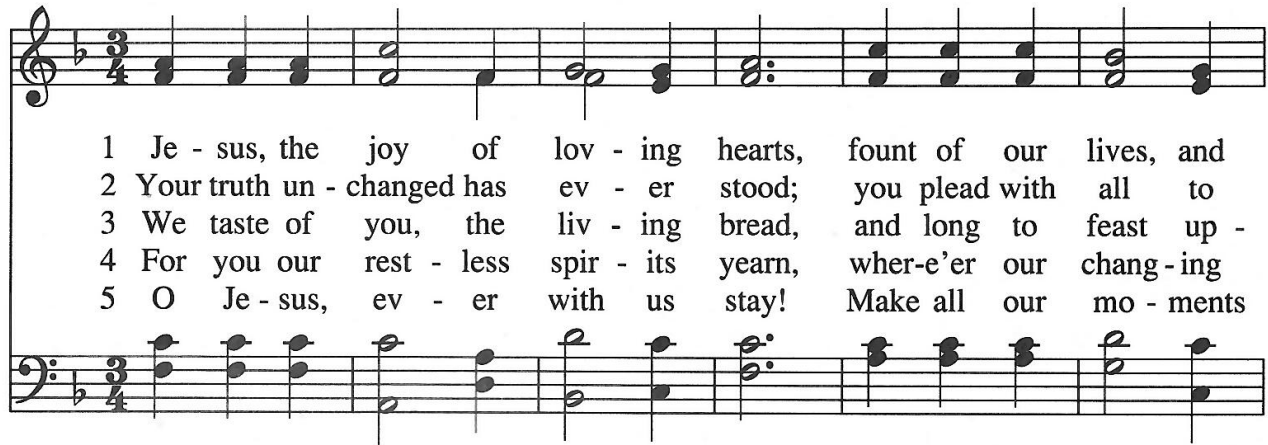
8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts

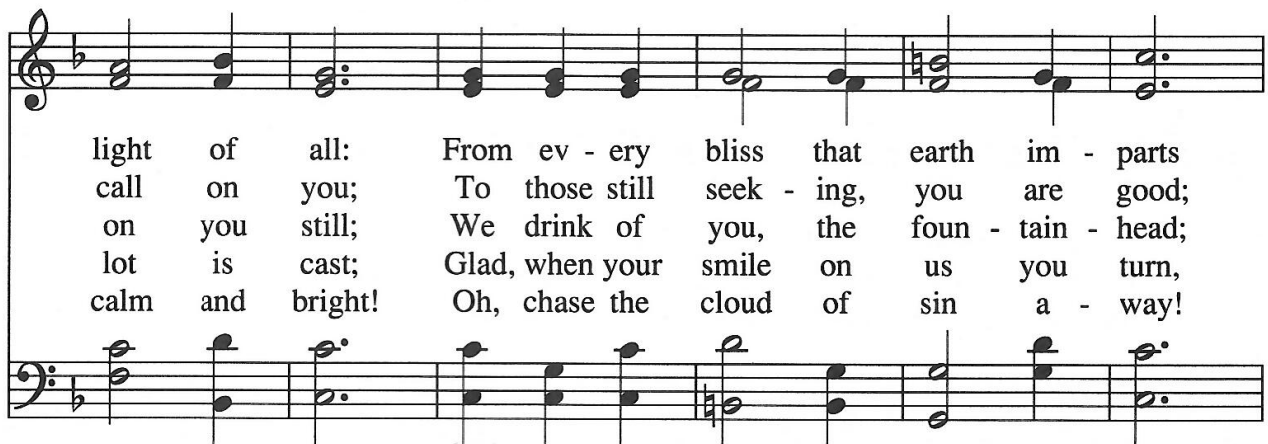
329

Attrib. to Bernard of Clairvaux, c. 1150
Transl. Ray Palmer, 1858; alt.

John 6:52-58; Heb. 13:8



1 Je - sus, the joy of lov - ing hearts, fount of our lives, and
2 Your truth un - changed has ev - er stood; you plead with all to
3 We taste of you, the liv - ing bread, and long to feast up -
4 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher-e'er our chang - ing
5 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our mo - ments



light of all: From ev - ery bliss that earth im - parts
call on you; To those still seek - ing, you are good;
on you still; We drink of you, the foun - tain - head;
lot is cast; Glad, when your smile on us you turn,
calm and bright! Oh, chase the cloud of sin a - way!



we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
to those who find you, life is new.
our thirst - y souls from you we fill.
blessed, when by faith we hold you fast.
Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Bernard, founder of the monastery at Clairvaux, was respected by popes and royalty alike. From the forty-two-verse Latin poem, American Congregational minister Ray Palmer freely translated selected verses to create this version.

Tune: HESPERUS L.M.
(QUEBEC)
Henry W. Baker, 1854

Give Me a Clean Heart

Ps. 51:1-12

Margaret J. Douroux, 1970; alt.

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.

God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.

For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless - ings.

Give me a clean heart and I'll fol-low you.

Margaret J. Douroux, the daughter of a Baptist minister, is known especially for this gospel song, which was recorded by singer James Cleveland. Among her other popular songs found in church hymnals is "God Is Not Dead."

Tune: DOUROUX 10.12.10.10.
Margaret J. Douroux, 1970
Arr. Albert Denis Tessier, 1987