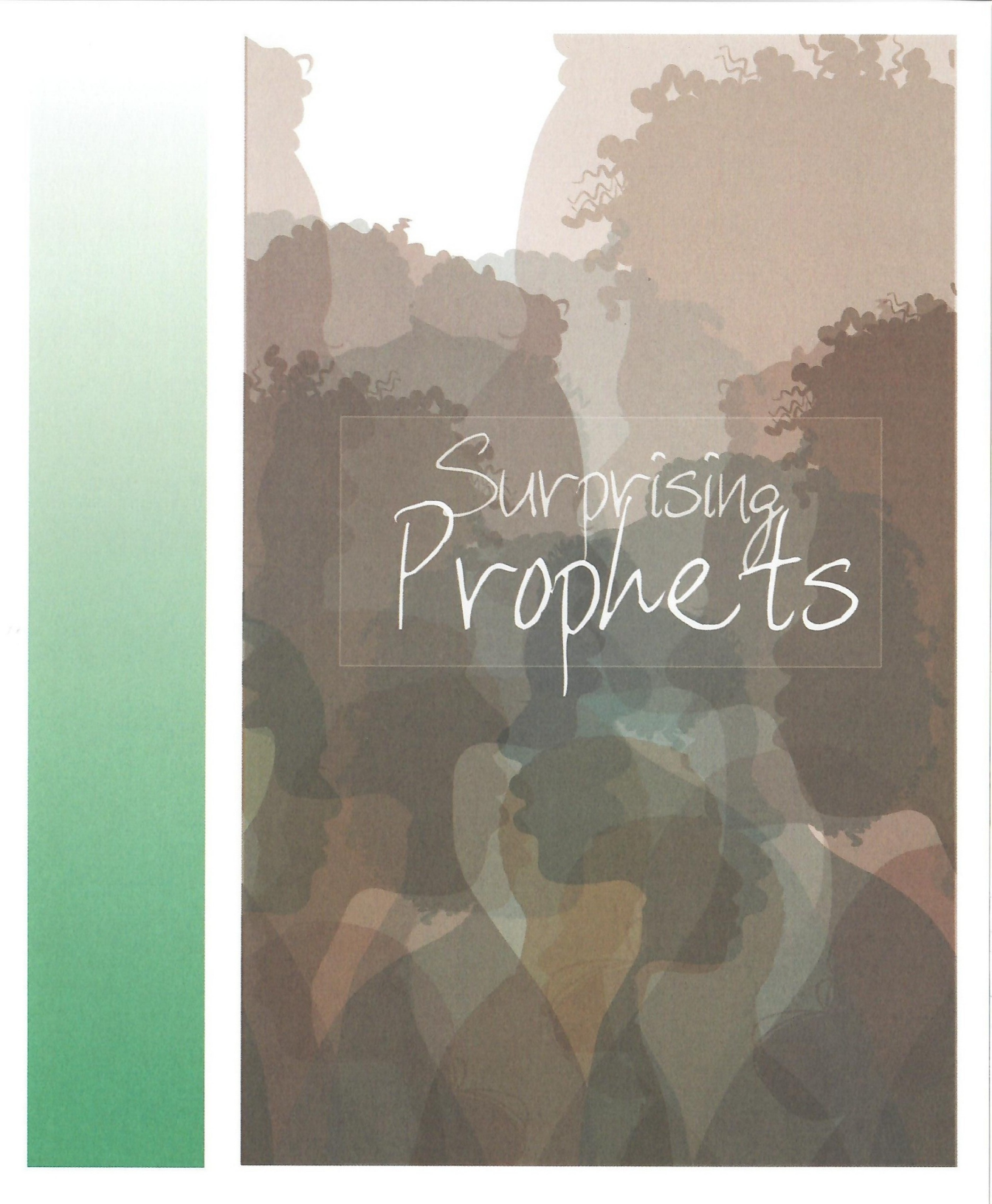




Surprising Prophets

Trinity United Church of Christ

Deerfield, Illinois

4th Sunday after Pentecost

July 6, 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

Taste and See

James E. Moore, Jr.

Arr. Marianne Kim

*Ps 34:8 “O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in God.”*

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

Litany for Gathering and Sending

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds

(adapted) Fran Pratt

Jesus, You came into the world to restore us
to our rightful place as children of God.

We do not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to you.

You are the light of the world.

**After your resurrection you ascended into heaven,
leaving us instruction to go and make disciples...**

To share the Good News with all creation...

To show compassion for the poor and needy...

To be the salt of the earth, and the light of the world.

**We celebrate your resurrection,
your ascension, and your place at the right hand of God.**

We await your return, and rely upon the Holy Spirit, our helper.

**We are your church, your body on earth,
a city on a hill that cannot be hidden.**

We live in the light of Christ.

Amen

*HYMN

Gather Us In

(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

Galatians 6:1-16

Reading from the Gospels

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sermon

Circle of Life
(Lion King)

Rev. Edmonds

CALL TO COMMUNION

I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

(see insert)

THE INVITATION

Sent

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
therefore ask the overseer of the harvest
to send out laborers into the harvest.*

—Luke 10.2

Friend, you weren’t merely born, you were sent.
You’re not just living a life; you’re on a mission.
Your purpose is not so small as to avoid death
or even enjoy life, but to embody resurrection.

**To offer healing and peace. To seed the world with love.
To be, in words and deeds, a proclamation—
living proof—that the Reign of God is here.**

All the love you've received has prepared you for this.
All the wisdom you've been given goes with you.
You are surrounded, supported, cheered, aided
by millions, unseen yet connected, and present.

**We are not-so-secret agents, infiltrating the Kingdom of Fear
on behalf of the Realm of Grace.**

You are sent, guided, and protected by the Spirit of Love.
Be not afraid. I am with you. Go.

CONSECRATION

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

Circle of Life (Lion King)

(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

tuccdf@gmail.com

847-945-5050

Tue.–Wed. 9-12

trinitydeerfield.org

Prayer Concerns

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.**

July 6, 2025

2 Kings 5:1-14

Surprising Prophets

Do you know someone who is an overthinker, complicating life with their if's, and's or but's? Perhaps you know someone who can take the easiest tasks and turn them into trying ordeals. Do I even dare ask if you could be that person?

If so, you are not alone. Many people overthink, which ultimately leads to unnecessary worry. I'll admit that I'm one of those people who does both — overthinks and overcomplicates. I'm not sure why I do that? Maybe because it's hard to let ourselves truly believe that faith in God can move the mountains that we create out of life's mole hill. And maybe, just maybe, we can't allow ourselves to believe in a mountain-moving God because that belief requires us to give up the façade that we're in control.

Let me introduce you to Naaman, an overthinker standing in the need of more faith — and healing. The celebrated army commander of the King of Syria, whose name in Hebrew translates into “pleasant and beautiful,” is anything but. He is suffering from a skin infliction, most likely leprosy, which carries with it the societal stigma of being unclean.

But when Naaman hears that Elisha, the prophet of Israel, can heal him, he seeks him out. The visit doesn't go well. Naaman becomes furious with the seemingly dismissive way the prophet speaks to him. How dare this lowly servant of God tell a prominent army commander to simply jump into the Jordan River and bathe. Not only does Naaman have more impressive rivers back home, but healing leprosy cannot be as easy as washing.

Naaman turns to leave in a huff, but his servants convince him to listen to the prophet's surprising remedy. One even makes the very convincing point that if the instructions were complicated, would Naaman be quick to follow through? Perhaps it's time for Naaman to check his ego and stop overthinking the mysterious ways that God works.

He gives in, washes himself as instructed by Elisha, and voila — his skin is healed.

More times than not, we are like Naaman, seeking healing and answers to life's questions but then not trusting the surprising ways God leads us to healing.

What if we decided to finally trust God this day? What if we stopped making things harder for ourselves by overthinking and overcomplicating life? Could wholeness and restoration be as simple as crying out to God, “I believe, now help my unbelief.” We won't know until we try.

Healing God, we stand before You today in need of Your gentle touch. Restore us to wholeness. Increase our faith and help us to stop overthinking and overcomplicating the life You have blessed us with. 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.)



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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

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Marty Haugen



1. Here in this place, — new light is stream-ing, now is the
 2. We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will
 4. Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some



1. dark - ness, van - ished a - way, See, in this space, our
 2. old who yearn for your face, We have been sung through -
 3. take the bread of new birth, Here you shall call your
 4. heav - en, light years a - way, but here in this place, the



1. fears and our dream-ings, brought here to you in the light of this
 2. out all of his - t'ry, called to be light to the whole hu - man
 3. sons and your daugh-ters, call us a - new to be salt for the
 4. new light is shin - ing, now is the King-dom now is the



1. day. — Gath-er us in the lost and for - sa - ken, Gath-er us
 2. race. — Gath-er us in the rich and the haugh-ty, Gath-er us
 3. earth. — Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, Give us to
 4. day. — Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, Gath-er us



1. in the blind and the lame; Call to us now, and we shall a -
 2. in the proud and the strong; Give us a heart so meek and so
 3. eat the bread that is you; Nour-ish us well, and teach us to
 4. in and make us your own; Gath - er us in all peo - ples to -



1. wa - ken, we shall a - rise at the sound of our name. —
 2. low - ly, give us the cour-age to en - ter the song. —
 3. fash - ion, lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true. —
 4. geth - er, fire — of love in our flesh and our bone. —

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me 574

1 I'm gon-na live so (I'm gon-na live so) God can use me (God can

use me) an - y time (an - y time) and an - y - where. (an - y -

where.) I'm gon-na live so (I'm gon-na live so) God can use me

an - y time (an - y time) and an - y - where. (an - y - where.)

2 I'm gonna work...

3 I'm gonna pray...

4 I'm gonna sing...

CIRCLE OF LIFE (*The Lion King*)

Sung by Elton John

[Verse 1]

From the day we arrive on the planet
And blinking, step into the sun
There's more to see than can ever be seen
More to do than can ever be done
Some say, "Eat or be eaten"
Some say, "Live and let live"
But all are agreed as they join the stampede
You should never take more than you give

[Chorus]

In the circle of life
It's the wheel of fortune
It's the leap of faith
It's the band of hope
'Til we find our place
On the path unwinding
In the circle
The circle of life

[Verse 2]

Some of us fall by the wayside
And some of us soar to the stars
And some of us sail through our troubles
And some have to live with the scars
There's far too much to take in here
More to find than can ever be found
But the sun rollin' high through the sapphire sky
Keeps great and small on the endless round

[Chorus]

In the circle of life
It's the wheel of fortune
It's the leap of faith

It's the band of hope
'Til we find our place
On the path unwinding, yeah
In the circle
The circle of life

It's the wheel of fortune, yeah
It's the leap of faith
It's the band of hope
'Til we find our place
On the path unwinding, yeah
In the circle
The circle of life

[Outro]
On the path unwinding, yeah
In the circle
The circle of life

About

Elton John sang a pop version (with alternative lyrics) of the song with the London Community Gospel Choir, which was included in the film's soundtrack and made into a music video.

Released on

May 31, 1994

Circle of Life Interpolations

[Circle of Life by Carmen Twillie & Lebo M](#)