



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

January 14, 2024

We welcome all who are visiting with us today.

It is good to have you in worship with us. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Phil this morning and let us know if there is any way we might be of service to you or your family.

Silent Reflection: "God requires us in all our actions to look to his calling... in every thing the call of the Lord is the foundation and beginning of right action."

~ John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1536)

ANNOUNCEMENTS RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God is calling. Do you not hear.

You are being called by name, for a purpose.

ALL: God, you have searched us and know us.

You discern our thoughts from far away.

ONE: Do not confuse the siren calls of the world for God's call.

Do not confuse the values of this world for God's values.

ALL: You know, O God, when we sit and when we stand.

You know when we lie down and where we go.

ONE: Your words and your deeds are known to God.

You were known to God before you were born.

ALL: Your knowledge of us is more than we can understand.

Your thoughts embrace us amid all you have created.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

JESUS MAFA. The first two disciples, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O God, our lives are an open book to you. Help us to recognize in ourselves what you have seen there. Remove the distortions that keep us from acknowledging our sin. Awaken in us a sorrow over the wrong we have done and the good we have neglected. Create in us an earnest desire to change. O God, we are in touch with the pain we have caused and the pain within us. Because of your love and care, we can face and overcome the sins we here confess. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Prayer for the children (*unison*):

We send blessings upon our children for all God's love,
all Christ's friendship and all the caring of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Song Response

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us power,
send us grace.

SCRIPTURE:

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

John 1:43-51

HYMN*God of Our Life*

409

Words © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal (Admin. Augsburg Fortress) Music Arr. © 1990 Hope Publishing Company

SERMON**HYMN***Borning Cry*

680

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INVITATION TO OFFERING**GIVE THANKS:**

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," Let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

We have heard you calling us, loving God, in the cries of your children—cries for bread, for justice, for relief. We have seen you beckoning to us amid the corporate greed and social distortions of our day. We have felt the pain of sisters and brothers caught up in damaging relationships that violate your holy temple within them. We want to help, and we believe your church can be Christ's healing presence for them. Show us the way to be messengers of your gentle judgment and powerful good news. May our offerings be used for the transformation of church and society, individuals and groups. Amen.

PRAYERS OF OUR CHURCH/SILENT PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER**PRAYER RESPONSE****Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus**

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face; and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.

*** HYMN***Here I Am, Lord*

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Patti Woods
Liturgist	Don Yann
Accompanist	Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Don Koenig, Cindy Roll, Roy Roll, and Margie Foxworthy's son Sean and stepson Dustin

St. Jacob: Sandy Autry, Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Carolyn Masterson, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, and Carol Zweck

IL South Conference: Each week the churches of the Illinois South Conference are asked to pray for congregations and their pastors and other ministries of the UCC. This week we are asked to pray for:

Church & Pastors

-Plum Hill St. John's UCC, Rev. Don Jones

-Red Bud St. Peter UCC, Pastor Cory (Geraldine) Hartz

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Jean Carmean, Shiloh, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Debbie Zobrist, Jan. 14

Gene Gansmann, Jan. 16

Sharon Koenig, Jan. 16

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, January 7, 2023

St. John's – 11 St. Jacob – 36

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor's office hours: Tuesday through Thursday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(Mondays by appointment)

Secretary's office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

St. Jacob Phone: 618-644-2142 / St. Jacob E-mail: stjucc@hometel.com

Website: stjacobucc.org

Pastor Phil Barbier: Phone: 314-312-2347 / E-mail: pastor@hometel.com

ST. JACOB 2023 ENVELOPE BOOKLETS/GIVING STATEMENTS

The St. Jacob 2023 Envelope Booklets and Giving Statements are available for you to pick up on the table in the Narthx.

ON-LINE GIVING OPTION

An on-line giving option has been added to St. Jacob's web site. There are two ways to access the on-line giving option on our web site (<https://stjacobucc.org/>), the first is the "DONATE" button located on the top-right corner of the "Home Page," and the second is by clicking on "RESOURCES" and then "DONATE." In you have any issues using the on-line giving option, please contact the church office at (618) 644-2142.

ST. JACOB UCC

207 W. Main Street



DONATE



SNOW SHOVELING

Winter weather is here. Please volunteer to shovel the church sidewalks. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthx at St. Jacob. Thank you!

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY: Strawberry Festival planning meeting, following worship, St. Jacob

MONDAY: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

JANUARY 21: St. John's Annual meeting, noon, with lunch

JANUARY 28: St. Jacob Annual meeting, following worship (pot-luck lunch)

ST. JOHN'S & ST. JACOB ANNUAL MEETINGS

St. John's: Annual meeting will be held at noon, Jan. 21 with lunch.

St. Jacob: Annual meeting will be held following worship Jan. 28, followed by pot-luck lunch. The deadline to get reports into the church office is noon, Jan. 23.

FIRST LESSON: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Now the boy Samuel was serving the Lord under Eli. The Lord's word was rare at that time, and visions weren't widely known. One day Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. God's lamp hadn't gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the Lord's temple, where God's chest was.

The Lord called to Samuel. "I'm here," he said.

Samuel hurried to Eli and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go lie down." So he did.

Again the Lord called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call, my son," Eli replied. "Go and lie down."

(Now Samuel didn't yet know the Lord, and the Lord's word hadn't yet been revealed to him.)

A third time the Lord called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

Then Eli realized that it was the Lord who was calling the boy. So Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down where he'd been.

Then the Lord came and stood there, calling just as before, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel said, "Speak. Your servant is listening."

The Lord said to Samuel, "I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of all who hear it tingle! On that day, I will bring to pass against Eli everything I said about his household—every last bit of it! I told him that I would punish his family forever because of the wrongdoing he knew about—how his sons were cursing God, but he wouldn't stop them. Because of that I swore about Eli's household that his family's wrongdoing will never be reconciled by sacrifice or by offering."

Samuel lay there until morning, then opened the doors of the Lord's house. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel, saying: "Samuel, my son!"

"I'm here," Samuel said.

"What did he say to you?" Eli asked. "Don't hide anything from me. May God deal harshly with you and worse still if you hide from me a single word from everything he said to you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.

(continued from inside)

“He is the Lord,” Eli said. “He will do as he pleases.”

So Samuel grew up, and the Lord was with him, not allowing any of his words to fail. All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was trustworthy as the Lord’s prophet.

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Lord, you have examined me. You know me.

You know when I sit down and when I stand up. Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.

You study my traveling and resting. You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.

There isn’t a word on my tongue, Lord, that you don’t already know completely.

You surround me—front and back. You put your hand on me.

That kind of knowledge is too much for me; it’s so high above me that I can’t reach it.

You are the one who created my innermost parts; you knit me together while I was still in my mother’s womb.

I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart. Your works are wonderful—I know that very well.

My bones weren’t hidden from you when I was being put together in a secret place, when I was being woven together in the deep parts of the earth.

Your eyes saw my embryo, and on your scroll every day was written that was being formed for me, before any one of them had yet happened.

God, your plans are incomprehensible to me! Their total number is countless!

If I tried to count them—they outnumber grains of sand! If I came to the very end—I’d still be with you.

GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus wanted to go into Galilee, and he found Philip. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter.

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law and the Prophets: Jesus, Joseph’s son, from Nazareth.”

Nathanael responded, “Can anything from Nazareth be good?”

Philip said, “Come and see.”

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, “Here is a genuine Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

Nathanael asked him, “How do you know me?”

Jesus answered, “Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree.”

Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are God’s Son. You are the king of Israel.”

Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these! I assure you that you will see heaven open and God’s angels going up to heaven and down to earth on the Human One.”