



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

January 28, 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: “People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care” ~ Theodore Roosevelt

ANNOUNCEMENTS RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Great are the works of God, and greatly to be praised.
God's righteousness endures forever.

ALL: We come together as a congregation of believers.
We give thanks to God with whole hearts.

ONE: God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.
At all times, God is mindful of the covenant.

ALL: The works of God's hands are established among us.
We can count on God's righteousness and faithfulness.

ONE: Awe before God is the beginning of wisdom.
All who approach God in fear have good understanding.

ALL: Holy and awesome is God's name.
We call on God to empower our worship.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Faithful God, we have claimed to have more knowledge than we really possess. We have presumed to judge others on the basis of our limited understanding. We have grasped for freedom without taking full responsibility for our actions. Our witness is weak, and is directed primarily toward those with whom we prefer to associate. By our actions, some of our sisters and brothers are excluded, some are misled, and some are unjustly accused. If we have violated another's conscience, if we have caused someone to fall, we are deeply sorry. For failing to do all Christ expects of the church, we repent and seek forgiveness. 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:

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

HYMN

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

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SERMON

HYMN *Be Thou My Vision*

Music Arr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

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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*)

By giving away some of the wealth we cherish so much, we keep ourselves focused on who you are, gracious God, and on what you expect of us. As the body of Christ, we seek to be a healing force in our world. May the offerings we present be used in ways that encourage healthful behaviors among us in the church, within our community, and as far as our influence can reach. Receive us and our gifts, we pray in Jesus' name. 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** *Heal Me, Hands of Jesus*

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Patti Woods
Liturgist	Donna Lowe
Accompanist	Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Sandy Autry, Laura Barber, 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

-Staunton St. Paul UCC
-Stone Church St. Peter's UCC

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Jerry Bennett, Highland, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Lynn Shirley, Feb. 1
Barabara Baer, Feb. 2
Ashley Ahrens, Feb. 3

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, January 21, 2024

St. John's – 11 St. Jacob – 27

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

BLESSING BOX LOCATED AT ST. JACOB UCC

The "Blessing Box" (located on the east side of St. Jacob UCC) can use donations of non-perishable food, hygiene products, and other items for those in need. Anyone can donate -- items are anonymously given and received. Please consider blessing our neighbors in need, and if you are in need, please feel free to stop by.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

With the inflation these past few months, use of local food pantries has been high, and donations have been low. To help our communities we have a donation tub/box for food pantry donations in the sanctuary at St. John's and St. Jacob.

Items for St. John's (For Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries): Canned goods including: vegetables, fruit, beans, soups, stews, pasta, chili, sloppy Joe, beef, sausage, chicken, salmon, and tuna. Boxed goods including pasta & noodles, rice, mashed potatoes, cereal, oatmeal, stuffing, and mac & cheese. Other pantry staples including flour, sugar, peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce, BBQ sauce, ramen, cake mix, Jello, and pudding. Nonfood items including trash bags, storage bags, paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, & toiletries.

Items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited): Pop-tarts, oatmeal, cheese cracker sandwiches, beef jerky, fruit cups, Vienna sausages, ketchup, mustard, broth, cooked ham, pasta sauce, jelly, pancake mix, & syrup

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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.



VOLUNTEER LITURGISTS AT ST. JACOB

We are looking for volunteers willing to read scripture, no long-term commitment, just one Sunday at a time. Everyone from the congregation is invited to take part in helping lead worship. There is a sign-up sheet located on the table in the Narthx.

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!

HIGHLAND MEALS ON WHEELS

Highland Meals on Wheels provides hot, nutritious noon meals prepared by St. Joseph's Hospital dietary department to qualified residents of Highland, St. Jacob, Marine, Grantfork, Pierron, St. Rose, Pocahontas and New Douglas, Monday through Friday, including all major holidays.

If you, or someone you know is in need of their services, or if you would like to volunteer to deliver meals, contact Meals on Wheels at 618-954-0356.

Also, if you would like to provide financial support, mail your donation to Meals on Wheels, 12603 State Rte. 143, Ste. G-303, Highland, IL 62249.

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 111

Praise the Lord! I thank the Lord with all my heart in the company of those who do right, in the congregation.
 The works of the Lord are magnificent; they are treasured by all who desire them.
 God's deeds are majestic and glorious. God's righteousness stands forever.
 God is famous for his wondrous works. The Lord is full of mercy and compassion.
 God gives food to those who honor him. God remembers his covenant forever.
 God proclaimed his powerful deeds to his people and gave them what had belonged to other nations.
 God's handiwork is honesty and justice; all God's rules are trustworthy –
 they are established always and forever: they are fulfilled with truth and right doing.
 God sent redemption for his people; God commanded that his covenant last forever.
 Holy and awesome is God's name!
 Fear of the Lord is where wisdom begins; sure knowledge is for all who keep God's laws.
 God's praise lasts forever!

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning meat that has been sacrificed to a false god: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes people arrogant, but love builds people up. If anyone thinks they know something, they don't yet know as much as they should know. But if someone loves God, then they are known by God.

So concerning the actual food involved in these sacrifices to false gods, we know that a false god isn't anything in this world, and that there is no God except for the one God. Granted, there are so-called "gods," in heaven and on the earth, as there are many gods and many lords. However, for us believers,

There is one God the Father. All things come from him, and we belong to him.
 And there is one Lord Jesus Christ. All things exist through him, and we live through him.

But not everybody knows this. Some are eating this food as though it really is food sacrificed to a real idol, because they were used to idol worship until now. Their conscience is weak because it has been damaged. Food won't bring us close to God. We're not missing out if we don't eat, and we don't have any advantage if we do eat. But watch out or else this freedom of yours might be a problem for those who are weak. Suppose someone sees you (the person who has knowledge) eating in an idol's temple. Won't the person with a weak conscience be encouraged to eat the meat sacrificed to false gods? The weak brother or sister for whom Christ died is destroyed by your knowledge. You sin against Christ if you sin against your brothers and sisters and hurt their weak consciences this way. This is why, if food causes the downfall of my brother or sister, I won't eat meat ever again, or else I may cause my brother or sister to fall.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and started teaching. The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts. Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God."

"Silence!" Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. "Come out of him!" The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out.

Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, "What's this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!" Right away the news about him spread throughout the entire region of Galilee.