



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

February 25, 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: "Exposure to the harsh realities and fierce beauties of a world not aimed at my comfort has a way of cutting through the self-absorption of my life. The uncontrolled mystery of nature puts the ego in check and invites the soul back (in more than one way) to the ground of its being." ~ **Belden C. Lane**, *Backpacking with the Saints: Wilderness Hiking as Spiritual Practice*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Welcome to the time of covenant renewal.

The God of our salvation greets us here.

**ALL: We are reminded of God's promises to us;
We remember the promises we have made.**

ONE: Sense the Spirit descending on us now.

Hear God's welcoming voice.

ALL: Surely God is with us.

We can hear God calling our names.

ONE: See the rainbow in the sky.

Wonder at God's steadfast love.

ALL: All creation proclaims the wonders of God.

We come together to learn what God wants to teach us.

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Moyers, Mike. Reminder, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville,

TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/act-image-link.pl?RC=57154>. Original source: Mike Moyers, <https://www.mikemoyersfineart.com/>

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Have mercy on your church, O God, for we forget the covenant into which you call us. We muddle along in our self-serving schemes rather than waiting on your word. We follow the path of least resistance without seeking your higher way. We forget our baptism into a faith community built on trust and forgiveness. We turn from the vision of heaven to the treacherous hell of competing egos. O God, we turn to you to lead us to a new day. According to your steadfast love, forgive us, we pray. 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:

Genesis 9:8-17

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

HYMN *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

254

1996, 2010 Hope Publishing Company

SERMON

HYMN *Hope of the World*

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Words: 1954, Renewed 1982 The Hymn Society; Music: 1963 Abingdon Press

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*)

Thank you, God, for the signs and wonders that reveal your presence. Thank you for the covenant fulfilled in Jesus Christ. We want to do our part to share your love with the world. Use our offerings and our lives to bring realization of your reign among us. Extend your realm by re-creating the church as a true representation of Jesus Christ. May we be humble, teachable, and faithful as we seek to lead others into covenant community. 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** *O Love, How Deep, How Broad*

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person Audrey Yann
Liturgist Don Yann
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

-Addieville Zion UCC Rev. William Groennert

-Alhambra Salem UCC Rev. Jeremy Wood & Pastor John Mindrup

Retired Pastor

Rev. Michael Krewson, Edwardsville, IL

LAST WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Judy Bolton, Feb. 19
Rachel Yann Mueller, Feb. 20
Tavey Duncan, Feb. 22
Bruce Frank, Feb. 24
Zach Lowe, Feb. 24

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Justin Huelsmann, Feb. 26
Margie Foxworthy, March 1
Sara King, March 2

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, February 18, 2024

St. John's – no service St. Jacob – no service

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

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY: Lenten Study Series, 7 p.m., St. Jacob, Heritage Hall

MARCH 3: First Sunday of the month communion

MARCH 3: Holy Sunday fellowship: St. John's (following worship)
& St. Jacob (before worship – starting at 9:30 a.m.)

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL RAFFLE DONATIONS NEEDED

We are currently in need of additional donations to use for prizes for our Strawberry Festival raffle. To donate, or for more information contact the church office at 618-644-2142; e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com; or call DiAnn Rufer at 618-973-2213.

ST. JACOB 2024 ENVELOPE BOOKLETS

There are still 14 St. Jacob 2024 Envelope Booklets available to be picked-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.

MARINE UCC FRIED CHICKEN DINNER MARCH 3

Marine UCC Chicken Dinner will be serving from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 3 at the Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Rd, Edwardsville, Ill. Menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, seasoned green beans, yellow corn, dinner salad and bread, and tea and coffee, \$12 adults, \$6 youth ages 2-12 (ages younger than 2 eat free). Desserts are available to purchase and carry-outs are available.

IMMANUEL UCC CHICKEN DINNER MARCH 10

Immanuel UCC, Hamel, Ill., Chicken Dinner will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., March 10 at 5838 Staunton Rd, Edwardsville, Ill. Drive-thru and carry-out only, \$12. Menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, slaw, and applesauce.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "I am now setting up my covenant with you, with your descendants, and with every living being with you—with the birds, with the large animals, and with all the animals of the earth, leaving the ark with you. I will set up my covenant with you so that never again will all life be cut off by floodwaters. There will never again be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "This is the symbol of the covenant that I am drawing up between me and you and every living thing with you, on behalf of every future generation. I have placed my bow in the clouds; it will be the symbol of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will remember the covenant between me and you and every living being among all the creatures. Floodwaters will never again destroy all creatures. The bow will be in the clouds, and upon seeing it I will remember the enduring covenant between God and every living being of all the earth's creatures." God said to Noah, "This is the symbol of the covenant that I have set up between me and all creatures on earth."

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ himself suffered on account of sins, once for all, the righteous one on behalf of the unrighteous. He did this in order to bring you into the presence of God. Christ was put to death as a human, but made alive by the Spirit. And it was by the Spirit that he went to preach to the spirits in prison. In the past, these spirits were disobedient—when God patiently waited during the time of Noah. Noah built an ark in which a few (that is, eight) lives were rescued through water. Baptism is like that. It saves you now—not because it removes dirt from your body but because it is the mark of a good conscience toward God. Your salvation comes through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at God's right side. Now that he has gone into heaven, he rules over all angels, authorities, and powers.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"