



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

March 10, 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: "I do not at all understand the mystery of grace - only that it
meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us."

~ Anne Lamott

ANNOUNCEMENTS RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Light has entered our worlds; rejoice!

Light is God's gift to each, and to all together.

ALL: Give thanks to God for days of watchful care.

The steadfast love of God endures forever.

ONE: Let those whom God has redeemed rejoice!

Let them tell the world of God's good news!

ALL: We will thank God for wonderful works.

We will rejoice in God's love for all humankind.

ONE: By God's word, we are delivered from destruction.

By God's mercy, we are healed and made whole.

ALL: Our voices will join in songs of joy.

Our lives will offer sacrifices of thanksgiving.

Amen.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Ando, Tadao, 1941-. Interior of the Church of the Light, Ibaraki Kasugaoka Church in Ibaraki, Japan. From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58956>. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Church_of_Light.JPG.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Healing God, we are sick through our sinful ways. We are impatient, complaining, and troubled. We love the night because it hides the evil we have done and the doubt that shows on our faces. By our self-indulgent habits, we are destroying ourselves and depriving others. As a church, we seem content to be dead in our trespasses, for we are afraid to embrace the changes that come with the new life you offer. We cry out to you in our trouble. Save us from our distress. 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:

Numbers 21:4-9

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

SERMON

HYMN *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

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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*)

For life-sustaining gifts that we so often take for granted—for shelter, food, and meaningful tasks to do; for your steadfast love that awakens us and raises us from our sinful ways; for your word that guides and heals us—we give you thanks, gracious God. As we invest a part of all you entrust to us to further the ministries of the church, may we show to others the immeasurable riches of your grace in Jesus Christ. Make this church a beacon of hope for the world. 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 *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person\Liturgist Carol Kynion
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, 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

-Belleville Trinity UCC Rev. Tim (Shae) Powers-Reed

-Belleville St Paul UCC Rev. Michelle (Aaron) Torigia

Retired Pastor

Rev. Earl (Johanna) Crecelius, Freeburg, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAY

Patrick Thornton, March 10

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, March 3, 2024

St. John's – 14 St. Jacob – 30

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

MARCH 11: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

MARCH 13: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

MARCH 13: Lenten Study Series, 7 p.m., St. Jacob, Heritage Hall

MARCH 16-21: Pastor Phil Vacation

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL FLYERS

We are preparing for our 40th Annual Strawberry Festival and we could use your help in getting the word out. There are flyers located on the table in the Narthx, please take a few and take them to area businesses and request they be posted. The event will be held May 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park.

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.

IMMANUEL UCC CHICKEN DINNER TODAY

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

FRIEDENS UCC SAUSAGE & KRAUT DINNER MARCH 17

Friedens UCC Sausage & Kraut Dinner will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., March 17 at 207 E. Center St., Troy, Ill. It is drive-thru-only, cost is \$15 a plate, and includes grilled pork sausage, sauerkraut, green beans, mashed potatoes & gravy, and dessert.

FIRST LESSON: Numbers 21:4-9

They marched from Mount Hor on the Reed Sea road around the land of Edom. The people became impatient on the road. The people spoke against God and Moses: "Why did you bring us up from Egypt to kill us in the desert, where there is no food or water. And we detest this miserable bread!" So the Lord sent poisonous snakes among the people and they bit the people. Many of the Israelites died.

The people went to Moses and said, "We've sinned, for we spoke against the Lord and you. Pray to the Lord so that he will send the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

The Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous snake and place it on a pole. Whoever is bitten can look at it and live." Moses made a bronze snake and placed it on a pole. If a snake bit someone, that person could look at the bronze snake and live.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 2:1-10

At one time you were like a dead person because of the things you did wrong and your offenses against God. You used to live like people of this world. You followed the rule of a destructive spiritual power. This is the spirit of disobedience to God's will that is now at work in persons whose lives are characterized by disobedience. At one time you were like those persons. All of you used to do whatever felt good and whatever you thought you wanted so that you were children headed for punishment just like everyone else.

However, God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that he has for us. You are saved by God's grace! And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus. God did this to show future generations the greatness of his grace by the goodness that God has shown us in Christ Jesus.

You are saved by God's grace because of your faith. This salvation is God's gift. It's not something you possessed. It's not something you did that you can be proud of. Instead, we are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives.

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him isn't judged; whoever doesn't believe in him is already judged, because they don't believe in the name of God's only Son.

"This is the basis for judgment: The light came into the world, and people loved darkness more than the light, for their actions are evil. All who do wicked things hate the light and don't come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light. Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God."