



“I’ve seen the Lord.”

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

March 31, 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: "Let the resurrection joy lift us from loneliness and weakness
and despair to strength and beauty and happiness." ~ Floyd W. Tomkins

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

***HYMN of ACCLAMATION** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* 288

Charles Wesley | Samuel Arnold © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. www.sch.com CCLI License # 20849486

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: This is a great and joyous festival day.

Come to celebrate amazing good news.

ALL: We gather for worship in awe and wonder.

The tomb is empty; death is not the last word.

ONE: Sing songs of praise, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

ALL: God has answered our prayers with salvation.

Jesus Christ is alive and we, too, shall live.

ONE: Open your hearts and minds to the risen Christ.

You are greeted by name and welcomed here.

ALL: This is the day that our God has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

LeCompte, Rowan and Irene LeCompte. Mary Magdalene in the garden with Jesus (Resurrection Chapel, National Cathedral, Washington DC).

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

We cannot truly worship you, loving God, until we recognize how unloving we have been. We cannot truly live until we admit the many ways we have been dwelling in death. We cannot know forgiveness until we honestly face the wrong we have done and the good we have neglected. We admit before you now the anger and spite we have carried in our hearts, the doubts and fears we have allowed to paralyze us, the misplaced priorities that have led us away from your will and way. Help us break down the barriers we have erected so we can experience new life today. In Jesus' name. 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 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-18

SERMON

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 consecrate all we have brought to share, that the message of today may spread through the streets and across the lands, beginning within these walls and bursting out for all the world to hear and observe. May the glad songs motivate practical ministries. As forgiven and forgiving people, we take new life into the marketplace, into our schools, into our social life and leisure hours. May all we offer express true thankfulness. Amen.

HYMN *Come, Share the Lord*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (*insert*)

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** *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

ONE: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

ALL: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER

ONE: Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed!

ONE: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

ONE: It is a right and joyful thing to praise you, Holy God, who through your spirit anointed Jesus of Nazareth to tell your good news of grace and love through his birth, life, death, and resurrection.

ALL: Alleluia!

ONE: Break open the tombs of our lives by your earthquake and lightning that we may know your power and take courage from Christ's resurrection to live new lives.

ALL: Alleluia!

ONE: Grant us the fear and hope of Mary who found the empty tomb and heard the angel's word. Grant us the surprise and joy of the disciples who walked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Grant us the awe and deep happiness of the Apostles who met with Jesus at the breakfast campfire on the shore of Galilee.

ALL: Christ was not in the tomb! Christ is risen! Christ goes before us into the world!

ONE: Pour out your Spirit of resurrection on us and on this bread and cup, that we may experience newness in our own lives and bear your good news to the world!

ALL: Alleluia!

ONE: Thanks be to you, God of creative newness!
Thanks be to you, Christ reborn among us!
Thanks be to you, comforting and challenging Spirit!

ALL: Thanks be to you, Holy God, Three-in-One, now and forever! Alleluia!
Amen!

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

God of grace and resurrection, we give you thanks that you have brought us to your table and shared with us the presence of Christ. May this meal strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person
Accompanist

Donna Lowe
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

-Brighton St. John's UCC (above) **Rev. John (Jackie) Pawloski**

Retired Pastors

-Rev. Paul Thompson, Jr. Red Bud, IL

-Rev. Jack (Barbara) Spratte Mascoutah, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Ashley & Jerid Ahrens, 6 years, March 31
Kelli & Jeremy Zurliene, 12 years, March 31
Duane Zobrist, April 3
Patti & Duane Woods, 38 years, April 5

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, March 24, 2024

St. John's – 14 St. Jacob – 32

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

APRIL 7: First Sunday of the month communion

APRIL 7: Holy Sunday fellowship: St. John's (following worship)
& St. Jacob (before worship – starting at 9:30 a.m.)

APRIL 10: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

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 are 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.

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever.

Let Israel say it: "God's faithful love lasts forever!"

The Lord was my strength and protection; he was my saving help!

The sounds of joyful songs and deliverance are heard in the tents of the righteous: "The Lord's strong hand is victorious! The Lord's strong hand is ready to strike! The Lord's strong hand is victorious!"

I won't die—no, I will live and declare what the Lord has done.

Yes, the Lord definitely disciplined me, but he didn't hand me over to death.

Open the gates of righteousness for me so I can come in and give thanks to the Lord!

This is the Lord's gate; those who are righteous enter through it.

I thank you because you answered me, because you were my saving help.

The stone rejected by the builders is now the main foundation stone!

This has happened because of the Lord; it is astounding in our sight!

This is the day the Lord acted; we will rejoice and celebrate in it!

(continued on back cover)

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Brothers and sisters, I want to call your attention to the good news that I preached to you, which you also received and in which you stand. You are being saved through it if you hold on to the message I preached to you, unless somehow you believed it for nothing. I passed on to you as most important what I also received: Christ died for our sins in line with the scriptures, he was buried, and he rose on the third day in line with the scriptures. He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve, and then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at once – most of them are still alive to this day, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me, as if I were born at the wrong time. I'm the least important of the apostles. I don't deserve to be called an apostle, because I harassed God's church. I am what I am by God's grace, and God's grace hasn't been for nothing. In fact, I have worked harder than all the others—that is, it wasn't me but the grace of God that is with me. So then, whether you heard the message from me or them, this is what we preach and this is what you have believed.

GOSPEL: John 20:1-18

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him." Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, "I've seen the Lord." Then she told them what he said to her.