



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

April 21, 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: "As long as God gives me strength to work and try to make things real for my children, I'm going to work for it - even if it means making the ultimate sacrifice." ~ Medgar Evers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The Good Shepherd invites us to green pastures.

We are refreshed beside still waters.

ALL: We have been given everything we have.

God offers us everything we need.

ONE: When we walk through shadowed valleys, God is with us.

We are comforted and reassured.

ALL: God leads us in the right paths.

Our cups are filled to overflowing.

ONE: God welcomes us to the table where love is expressed.

We are invited to partake of the truth God offers.

ALL: We have received plenty that we might share.

We are called to be God's helpers.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

JESUS MAFA. The good shepherd, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/ink.pl?RC=48288>. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Good Shepherd, we have wandered down the strange pathways of our world. We have ventured into dead-end streets that looked more inviting than the narrow ways marked out by the signposts of love. We have trusted other voices and turned away from your truth. We have accepted your gifts without acknowledgement. We have failed to use our overflowing cups to fill the cups of sisters and brothers who need what we could offer. Forgive us, we pray, and restore us to your fold. 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:

Psalms 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

SERMON

HYMN *Abide With Me*

521

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*)

How can we express our thanks, O God, for the one who laid down life itself in witness to your love for all people? We are aware that many have not experienced that love. We see their need, and we want to respond. Use what we offer to you to bring healing and peace to others not of this fold. Draw us together as one flock in the care of one shepherd, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. 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 *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

INSERT

© 1975 Hope Publishing Company

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Kay Guse
Liturgist	George Anderson
Accompanist	Melody Hollis

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, Peggy Bohnenstiehl, 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

-Collinsville St. John UCC, Rev. Jennifer (Allen) Glover

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Hugh (Bo) Fitz Mascoutah, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Cheryl Byrnes, April 21
Marsha Shirley, April 22
Marilyn & Gary Warren, 53 years, April 24
Brice Ahrens, April 25

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, April 14, 2024

St. John's – 14 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

APRIL 28: Strawberry Festival committee meeting, following 10:15 a.m., worship

MAY 19: **Strawberry Festival**, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Jacob Township Park

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

We are preparing for our 40th anniversary Strawberry Festival and are seeking volunteer workers for preparations on Saturday, May 18th and for the event on May 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park. Sign-up forms are located on the table in the Narthex. For more information contact a festival committee member or call the church office at 618-644-2142.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

T-Shirts are now available for order for our 40th anniversary Strawberry Festival! Order forms are located on the table in the Narthex and may be dropped on the offering plate, or you may call the church office at 618-644-2142 to order. Orders must be in to the church office by noon **TODAY**.



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 Narthex, please take a few and get them posted on bulletin boards at area businesses. The event will be held May 19 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park.

LAWN MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please volunteer to mow the church lawn. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

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 Narthex.

***** THE UPPER ROOM** (May-June) magazines are available on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd. I lack nothing.

He lets me rest in grassy meadows; he leads me to restful waters; he keeps me alive.

He guides me in proper paths for the sake of his good name.

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger because you are with me.

Your rod and your staff – they protect me.

You set a table for me right in front of my enemies.

You bathe my head in oil; my cup is so full it spills over!

Yes, goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life,

and I will live in the Lord's house as long as I live.

SECOND LESSON: 1 John 3:16-24

This is how we know love: Jesus laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. But if someone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but refuses to help—how can the love of God dwell in a person like that?

Little children, let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth. This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts in God's presence. Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things. Dear friends, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have confidence in relationship to God. We receive whatever we ask from him because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. This is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love each other as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments dwell in God and God dwells in them. This is how we know that he dwells in us, because of the Spirit he has given us.

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. When the hired hand sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. That's because he isn't the shepherd; the sheep aren't really his. So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. He's only a hired hand and the sheep don't matter to him.

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I give up my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that don't belong to this sheep pen. I must lead them too. They will listen to my voice and there will be one flock, with one shepherd.

"This is why the Father loves me: I give up my life so that I can take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I give it up because I want to. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it up again. I received this commandment from my Father."

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

*Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-7**Latin, 6th-8th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.
St. 3 adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992*

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner - stone,
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, to - day!
3 Here re - new your ser - vants' vis - ion, that by faith they may at - tain

chos - en of our God and pre - cious, bind - ing all the Church in one;
With your con - stant, lov - ing kind - ness hear your peo - ple as they pray.
peace and hope, re - newed com - pas - sion, strength to com - fort those in pain,

Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
Give your full - est ben - e - dic - tion: grace to fol - low Christ the Way.
Tears and grief trans - formed to glad - ness in your ev - er - last - ing reign.

The hymn has its origins in an early Latin poem, Urbs beata Jerusalem, based on passages from Ephesians, 1 Peter, and Revelation. "Holy Zion" refers to the church transcendent, built of "living stones"—the saints of God.

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry T. Smart, 1867
Alternate tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY

