

# JOY



*Rejoice and exult  
with all your heart*

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 12, 2021

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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.

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### Silent Reflection:

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."

- Rabindranath Tagore

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Rejoice, give thanks; call on God's name;  
The Holy One is in our midst.

**ALL: How good it is to come home to God's house!  
How good it is to gather in Christ's presence!**

ONE: Sing aloud! Exult with all your heart;  
The Sovereign One has done glorious things.

**ALL: We offer up our anxieties, seeking God's peace.  
We face our plenty, eager to share.**

ONE: Shout your praise! Express your joy!  
The God of our salvation welcomes us.

**ALL: God's love is renewing us in these moments;  
God's strength is becoming our song!**

\*HYMN

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

Marty Haugen Words and Music © 1983 GIA Publications

160

## LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE - HOPE

### ADVENT SONG

Light the Advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun;  
We have started on our way, time to think of Christmas day.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Light the Advent candle, two: Think of humble shepherds, who  
filled with wonder at the sight of the child of Christmas night.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Light the Advent candle, three: Think of heavenly harmony;  
Angels singing "Peace on earth" at the blessed Savior's birth.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

What shall we do, O God? We can never do enough to deserve your love. We confess that we are not always truthful. We have defaced the purity of your love for us. We have embraced ugliness and oppression rather than loveliness and grace. We have distorted your cries for justice in order to benefit ourselves. We have given less than our best to others and to you! 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.

## SCRIPTURES:

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Philippians 4: 4-7

Luke 3: 7-18

## HYMN

### *Like a Child*

162

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## SERMON

## HYMN

### *Lift Up Your Head, O Mighty Gates*

176

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## INVITATION TO OFFERING

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

## 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 rejoice, O God of peace, in the privilege of giving without fear. You come to us daily with blessings too numerous to count. You are the Holy One whose presence relieves our anxieties, feeds our hungers, and stirs our compassion. Through our offerings, we express our gratitude. As we give of ourselves, we respond to your call to bear fruit and to make your name known among the nations. Thank you for accepting all we offer. 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

### *Oh, How Joyfully*

208

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## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

### SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Kevin Hollis

Accompanist

Melissa Taylor

### IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

**St. John's:** Ella Boggy and Celeste Short

**St. Jacob:** Peggy Bohnenstiehl, Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Almeda Lahr-Well, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz and Carol Zweck

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE Sunday, December 5, 2021

St. John's – 18

St. Jacob – 44

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### CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor's office hours: Monday through Thursday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Secretary's office hours: Tuesday & Thursday: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

St. Jacob Phone: 618-644-2142 / St. Jacob E-mail: [stjucc@hometel.com](mailto:stjucc@hometel.com)

Web-site: [stjacobucc.org](http://stjacobucc.org)

Pastor Phil Barbier Phone: 314-312-2347 / E-mail: [pastor@hometel.com](mailto:pastor@hometel.com)

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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:

#### Churches & Pastors

-Breese St. John's UCC

-Biddleborn Trinity UCC

#### Retired Pastors

- Revs. Robert Goddard and Jan Dashner, O'Fallon, IL

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#### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

Bradley Guetter, December 13

Brittany Frank, December 17

Germain Rehg, December 18

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## CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Tuesday:** St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

**Thursday:** St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

**December 18:** Breakfast with Santa, 8-10 a.m., donations accepted.

**December 24:** Christmas Eve services 4 p.m. and 10 p.m., St. Jacob

**December 24:** Christmas Eve service 7 p.m., St. John's

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### **UCC CHRISTMAS FUND DONATION NEXT SUNDAY**

The UCC's Christmas Fund is the last of the 5 denominational special offerings each year. For more than 100 years the fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ. It provides for emergency grants as well as supplementing retirement benefits and health insurance premiums to our lower-income retirees.

Offering envelopes will be in our bulletins on Sunday the 19th or you may donate online at: [www.christmasfund.org](http://www.christmasfund.org).

### **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

Please join us for Christmas caroling, immediately following service at St. Jacob, Dec. 19. Everyone is welcome to participate. We will be caroling at nursing homes, and to shut-ins. If you have someone you would like us to carol to, please let Dawn Mersinger know, or contact the church office at 618-644-2142, or e-mail: [stjucc@hometel.com](mailto:stjucc@hometel.com) with their name and location/address.

### **ST. JACOB CHURCH COUNCIL NEEDS TWO NEW MEMBERS**

Two members of the St. Jacob Church Council will have their terms expire as of Dec. 31. Please consider volunteering to serve on the church council. For more information call the office at 618-644-2142.

### **SNOW SHOVELING**

Winter weather will be here before you know it. Please volunteer to shovel the church sidewalks. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthx. Thank you!

**\*\*\* THE UPPER ROOM** (January-February) magazines are available on the table in the Narthx

DECEMBER 12, 2021

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THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**FIRST LESSON. Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

**SECOND LESSON. Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**GOSPEL. Luke 3:7-18**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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