



*You are the
light
of the
world*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

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:

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.” ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We delight to draw near to you, gracious God.

We rejoice in the many gifts you have given us.

ALL: We lift up our hearts and voices in praise.

We humble ourselves before the God of all worlds.

ONE: We gather to remember God’s commandants.

We seek for ourselves the wisdom God imparts.

ALL: The wisdom of God is not like any other.

It draws us away from the world’s agenda.

ONE: God sends us into the world with new priorities.

We are grounded in the Spirit that we might be discerning.

ALL: We are filled with the mind of Christ.

We are already citizens of God’s realm.

* HYMN

Christ Beside Me

425

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O God, you call out to us, saying, “Here I am,” but we do not listen. You pour out on us spiritual gifts, but we do not discern them. You call us to build a more just society but we cling to our advantages. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to change. Help us so to know and understand Jesus Christ that we might reflect the God of glory in our daily living. Create in us a generosity that reflects your own. Pour out your spirit on this congregation that we might understand and use it to build and repair and restore. 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:

Isaiah 58:1-12

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

HYMN***Lord, Speak to Me*****593**

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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*)

Righteous God, accept our gifts of gratitude for the dawning awareness among us of your healing presence. You have satisfied our need in parched places and made our bones strong. Now we wish to offer to the world the amazing wonders we have experienced. Let our righteousness and generosity exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. Fill us with yearning for the Spirit of Christ that we might become salt and light and be empowered for good works, to your honor and glory. Amen.

HYMN***Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*****698**

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SACREMENT 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*****This Little Light of Mine*****INSERT**

SACREMENT 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: God be with you

ALL: And also with you

ONE: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the God Most High.

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

ONE: Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith around the world and of every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, who you sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our prayers with the entire family of your faithful people, everywhere and in every time:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the Highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the Highest!

ONE: Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. We remember that Jesus ate and drank with the poor and with the wealthy, with the sinful and righteous alike. When he saw the multitude that followed him with nothing to eat, he took some loaves of bread, and a few fish, and

after giving thanks to you he divided the bread and gave it to the multitude. And all ate and were filled.

When his arrest seemed near, Jesus sat at table in an upper room, with his closest friends and disciples. As he had done so many times before, he took the bread and after giving thanks to you he shared it among the disciples, vowing to continue his work in spite of the risk. He said, "I will not eat this again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after the meal, he took the cup and after giving thanks he gave it to them saying, "Truly I tell you, I will never drink of the fruit of the vine until I drink it new with you in the kingdom of God." Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For a time it seemed that all was lost. Jesus was executed by the authorities, and his disciples scattered in fear and despair. But at an evening meal in Emmaus, and at a breakfast campfire by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus once more took the bread, and after giving thanks to you he divided it and gave it to his disciples, opening their eyes, binding up their wounds, continuing the meal, and revealing plainly that your steadfast love is stronger even than death, and your labor with us continues, for the sake of your realm.

Therefore, let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

ONE: Holy one, pour out your blessings on this food we have gathered. May it be multiplied like the loaves and fishes at Galilee and feed and bless your people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup, and on us, your children. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

ALL: Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Andy Schrieber
Liturgist	Audrey Yann
Accompanist	Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Ella Boggy, Wally Foxworthy, Margie Foxworthy's son Sean, and Jeffrey Thornton

St. Jacob: Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Erica Kynion, 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

-Lenzburg St. Peter's UCC, Rev. Earl (Johanna) Crecelius

-Maeystown St. John UCC, Rev. Patrick (Kathy) Poole

* Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Robert E (Jay) Lee, Swansea, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Austin Becker, Feb. 8

DiAnn Rufer, Feb. 11

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, JANUARY 29, 2023

St. John's – 13

St. Jacob – 39

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) contains non-perishable food, hygiene products, and other items for anyone in need. Please help us keep the "Blessing Box" stocked. 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.

Requested items for St. John's (Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries Food Pantry): Long shelf-life fresh produce: apples, oranges, celery, onions, potatoes, and carrots, etc.

Requested items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited): Toilet paper, paper towels, peanut butter, jelly, baked beans, crackers, peas, canned potatoes, canned yams, pasta sides, rice sides, mac-n-cheese, Ramen noodles, Hamburger Helper, & cake mixes

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday: ELF's meeting, 10 a.m.

Feb. 15: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

Feb. 21: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

ST. JACOB 2022 GIVING STATEMENTS

The 2022 Giving Statements are available on the table in the St. Jacob UCC Narthx.

ST. JACOB 2023 ENVELOPE BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

The St. Jacob 2023 envelope booklets are available for you to pick up on the table in the Narthx.

HALO PROGRAM NEEDS GIFT CARD DONATIONS

Hoyelton's HALO program (Healing and Loving Oneself) is in need of gift card donations. HALO provides resources, counseling and mentoring to high-risk youth and young adults ages 11 to 25. Youth are at-risk or confirmed survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Gift cards should be in denominations of \$10 and can be from Wal-Mart or Dollar General. You may leave the gift cards in the offering plate, drop them in the basket on the table in the St. Jacob Narthx, or drop them off at the church office.

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 Narthx.

SNOW SHOVELING

Winter weather is here -- Please volunteer to shovel the church sidewalks. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthx. A BIG thank you to those members who have signed up! However, we still have many weeks needing volunteers.

***** THE UPPER ROOM** (March - April) magazines are available on the table in the Narthx at St. Jacob UCC.

FIRST LESSON. Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

SECOND LESSON. 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. (And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.)

GOSPEL. Matthew 5:13-20

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

This Little Light of Mine

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$\text{♩} = 80$

1. This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
 2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
 3. Build - ing up a world, I'm gon-na let it shine.

Oh Oh

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.
 Build - ing up a world, I'm gon-na let it shine.

Oh

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it
 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it
 Build - ing up a world, I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it

Oh

shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 shine, let it shine, let it shine.

