



**CHOOSE**  
**LIFE** *so that*  
*you and*  
*your descendants*  
**MAY LIVE**

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 12, 2023

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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:** "It may not be an easy thing to live in sweet fellowship with all those with whom we come in contact; but that is what the grace of God is given to us for." ~ D.L. Moody

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

#### PRELUDE

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Happy are those who seek God with their whole heart.

Their eyes are fixed on all that God commands.

**ALL: We have come to reflect together on God's law.**

It is hard to hear, in other places, what God expects.

ONE: Ready yourselves to receive all that God supplies.

Attune your hearts to God's promises and warnings.

**ALL: We expect to be challenged as well as encouraged.**

We know that our ways are not God's ways.

ONE: God gives us choices that result in life or death.

We can obey or reject the way of life God intends for us.

**ALL: We seek to know and follow the way of life.**

We want to live according to promises we have made.

#### \* HYMN

#### *Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart*

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O God, you know the pain of all our broken relationships. Some we have tried to mend, and others we have tried to ignore. We feel your judgment on our estrangements. Hear us as, in silence, we remember them before you . . . O God, we ask for courage to admit our mistakes and overcome them. Show us what we can do to right the wrongs for which we are responsible, and forgive, we pray, what cannot be changed. Empower us as reconcilers and servants of your way. 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:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

## HYMN

### *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

589

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## SERMON

## HYMN

### *In Christ There is No East or West*

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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*)

Faithful God, we give in gratitude for your abundant gifts to us. You have not forsaken us when we were unfaithful. You have not abandoned us in the hells of our own making. You keep calling to us when we pursue other gods. As we offer our tokens of thanks today, we hear you sending us out to mend broken relationships. Our offering is not a substitute for our own engagements in your reconciling work. Go with us to help us as we accept the assignments you give us. 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 for the World! We Sing*

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## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

### SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Andy Schrieber
Liturgist	Beth Frank
Accompanist	Melissa Anderson Taylor

### IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

**St. Jacob:** Judy Bolton, 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

-Marine UCC, Rev. Phil (Sandee) Kershner

-Marion Zion UCC, Rev. John (Sara) Holst

\* Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

#### Retired Pastor

-Rev. Louis Fluck, Marion, IL

### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Terri Barnhart, Feb. 14

Karen Steinkoenig, Feb. 16

Carol Zweck, Feb. 17

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE, FEBRUARY 5, 2023

St. John's – 12

St. Jacob – 31

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### 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](mailto:stjucc@hometel.com)

Website: [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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### **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:** St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

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

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### **ELF BOOK SALE, LOOKING FOR DONATIONS**

This year as part of the St. Jacob community yard sale (May 4-6), the ELFs will hold a book sale in the Heritage Hall. As you prepare for spring cleaning, if you have any books you would like to donate, they can be placed on the cart in the Narthx. Funds raised will go toward supporting children in need through partner organizations in our community and within the wider church.

### **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.

### **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 a few weeks needing volunteers; please consider donating your time and energy to help keep our congregation safe.

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

**FIRST LESSON. Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

**SECOND LESSON. 1 Corinthians 3:1-9**

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

**GOSPEL. Matthew 5:21-37**

"You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. "Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."





## "SWEETHEART" SUNDAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

In honor of "Sweetheart" Sunday, we would like to recognize those couples who are celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries throughout this year (50 years and up, and those in 5-year increments). If you see them, please take a moment to congratulate them. Congratulations to all our happy couples!

### ST. JACOB

George and Myrna Anderson	65
Sandy and Nancy Autry	51
Shelly and Jack Bittle	5
Beth and Bruce Frank	30
Ken and Cathy Frutiger	50
Gene and Marie Gansmann	57
Kay and Paul Guse	35
Rick and Sharon Hanford	59
Carol and Charlie Kynion	52
Eric and Ronda Schmidt	25
David and Jane Schmidt	56
Richard and Susan Schmidt	62
Jerry and Carol Schmitt	60
Karen and Joe Schultze	53
Gary and Marilyn Warren	52
Robert and Gina Willie	25
Onis and Carol Zweck	50

### ST. JOHN'S

Ashley and Jerid Ahrens	5
Paul and Denise Baer	51
Don and Sharon Koenig	55
Tom and Nancy McCaw	67
Larry and Marlene Robison	54
Rusty and Melinda Schiefer	40
David and Glenda Williams	57

