



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

MARCH 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:

"A blessing is the visible, perceptible, effective proximity of God. A blessing demands to be passed on - it communicates itself to other people. To be blessed is to be oneself a blessing." ~ **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: People of God, where do we put our trust?
Where do we find wholeness and meaning?

ALL: We lift up our eyes to the hills.

Our help comes from the Creator of heaven and earth.

ONE: We are sons and daughters of Abraham and Sarah.
We trust in God, who neither slumbers nor sleeps.

ALL: We are followers of Jesus, who proclaimed God's realm.

We are born of the Spirit, born from above.

ONE: Our lives are a gift from God, who loves us.

By the grace of God, we are born anew each day.

ALL: God loved the world in the gift of Jesus Christ.

Through faith in Christ, we receive eternal life.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Tissot, James, 1836-1902. Interview between Jesus and Nicodemus (Entretien de Jésus et de Nicodème). Original source: Brooklyn Museum
<https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/13397>

CALL TO CONFESSION**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

O God, we confess that we have been far more ready to say we believe than to trust you to lead us to new ventures of faithfulness. We are afraid of the evil that surrounds us. We fear rejection, failure, and ridicule. We admire Jesus, but it is difficult to follow in footsteps that lead to a cross. In the midst of life as we know it here, how can we catch glimpses of eternity? Save us, we pray, from our timidity, and use our doubts as an entry to deeper faith. 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:

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

John 3:1-17

HYMN***To God Be the Glory*****66**

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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*)

Thank you, God, for glimpses of eternity in the daily experiences of life. We are grateful for encounters that lift the horizons of our vision. We rejoice in the teaching and care you have provided to us. Bless now the gifts we return to you for the programs and outreach of the church. We want to share our faith with the world. We pray for trustful relationships among all your children. We rejoice together in the saving ministry of Jesus that inspires us to give our best. Amen.

HYMN***One Bread, One Body*****689**

John B. Foley | Gary Alan Smith Words & Music © 1978 John B. Foley, S.J., and New Dawn Music

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*****Blessed Assurance*****426**

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: 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 Scheiber
Liturgist:	Beth Frank
Accompanist	Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Ella Boggy, Wally Foxworthy, Margie Foxworthy's son Sean, Jeffrey Thornton, and the family of Elsie Brandmeyer

St. Jacob: Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Dave Krausz, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, Carol Zweck, and the family of Elsie Brandmeyer

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

-Murphysboro St. Peter's UCC

-Nashville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Bev Kahle

* Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Chris and Lena Edwards, Converse, TX

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Marsha & Jason Shirley, 18 years, March 5

Gary Warren, March 8

Ron & Sandy Rujawitz, 49 years, March 9

Patrick Thornton, March 10

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, FEBRUARY 26, 2023

St. John's – 6

St. Jacob – 34

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): Shampoo, conditioner, body wash, pudding cups, large box instant mashed potatoes, laundry detergent-small bottles, cake mix, paper towels, toilet paper, canned potatoes, Ramen noodle bowls, and Nutri-Grain bars

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY: Meet & Greet/Open House with Noah McCarn, Executive Director of DuBois Center, 3-5 p.m., St. Jacob Heritage Hall

LENTEN STUDY SERIES

A **Lenten Study Series** will begin at 7 p.m., each Wednesday in March at St. Jacob Heritage Hall. All are welcome.

ELF BOOK SALE, LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

This year as part of the St. Jacob community yard sale (May 4-6), the ELF's 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. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH TRIVIA NIGHT MARCH 11

St. James Catholic Church Trivia Night will be held March 11 at the St. Jacob Community Building, doors open at 6 p.m., and trivia starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$100 per team (\$12.50 per person), limit of 18 tables. To reserve your table, contact Sharon Dickman, 618-691-8275 (e-mail: sdickman@hometel.com), or Judy Brendel, 618-210-8017 (e-mail: brendel@hometel.com)

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.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, those who curse you I will curse; all the families of the earth will be blessed because of you."

Abram left just as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him.

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 121

I raise my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

God won't let your foot slip. Your protector won't fall asleep on the job.

No! Israel's protector never sleeps or rests!

The Lord is your protector; the Lord is your shade right beside you.

The sun won't strike you during the day; neither will the moon at night.

The Lord will protect you from all evil; God will protect your very life.

The Lord will protect you on your journeys—whether going or coming—from now until forever from now.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him."

Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it's not possible to see God's kingdom."

Nicodemus asked, "How is it possible for an adult to be born? It's impossible to enter the mother's womb for a second time and be born, isn't it?"

Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don't be surprised that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' God's Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. It's the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said, "How are these things possible?"

Jesus answered, "You are a teacher of Israel and you don't know these things? I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don't receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him."