



I am the resurrection and the life.

Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die.

Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

MARCH 26, 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: “When we are at our wits' end for an answer, then the Holy Spirit can give us an answer. But how can the Spirit give us an answer when we are still well supplied with all sorts of answers of our own?” ~ **Karl Barth**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God calls us from the valley of dry bones.

Come, listen for a word from our God.

ALL: We hear God calling us in a far distant voice.

We had nearly forgotten God's care for us.

ONE: The Spirit breathes life into our dry bones.

God offers hope when we have lost our way.

ALL: Our souls wait for the refreshment God offers.

Our spirits are filled with great expectation.

ONE: Christ came as a light to all the world.

Christ comes among us today to light our way.

ALL: We hear the teacher calling for us.

Christ unbinds us that we may see and believe.

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*** HYMN**

Let Us Build a House

INSERT

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Out of the depths we cry to you, O God. Hear our prayers, the confession of our neglect, the admission of our desire to rule in your place. Like the house of Israel in Ezekiel's time, we are cut off from communication with you. We are like dead people, going through the motions of living. We cry out for forgiveness and a new start. We long to know you and to live in reverence before you. By your steadfast love, redeem us from our iniquities and raise us up to serve you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

SPECIAL PRESENTATION (SUNDAY SCHOOL)

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:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

HYMN

Spirit of the Living God

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SERMON

HYMN

Lord of the Dance

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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)*

Lift us up, O God, from the graves of our self-interest as we invest ourselves in sharing the good news with the world. Increase our gifts of time and treasure, that all who are drained of hope might have their minds set on the Spirit. May the Spirit raise them to new life as we celebrate the resurrection Jesus promised to Lazarus and to all who trust and follow where God leads. 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

Trust and Obey

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Ty Gansmann

Accompanist

Melissa Anderson Taylor

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, Dave Krausz, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, Carol Schmitt, Jerry Schmitt and Carol Zweek

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

-O'Fallon UCC, Rev. Dr. Martha Thierheimer

-St. Paul's UCC, Ohlman, IL Rev. Dr. Steve (Debbi) Nance

ISC Conference Minister

-Rev. Shana (Rev. Todd Bean) Johnson, O'Fallon, IL

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Linda and Bob Coulson, Palm Coast, FL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAY

Mandy Bolton, March 27

Gina Willie, March 27

Ashley & Jerid Ahrens, 5 years, March 31

Kelli & Jeremy Zurliene, 11 years, March 31

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, MARCH 19, 2023

St. John's – 18

St. Jacob – 30

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) is running low, and could use donations of 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

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Lord's power overcame me, and while I was in the Lord's spirit, he led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. He led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

He asked me, "Human one, can these bones live again?"

I said, "Lord God, only you know."

He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the Lord's word! The Lord God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the Lord."

I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them.

He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, human one! Say to the breath, The Lord God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live."

I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company.

He said to me, "Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.' So now, prophesy and say to them, The Lord God proclaims: I'm opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel's fertile land. You will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. I will put my breath in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the Lord. I've spoken, and I will do it. This is what the Lord says."

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:6-11

The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace. So the attitude that comes from selfishness is hostile to God. It doesn't submit to God's Law, because it can't. People who are self-centered aren't able to please God.

But you aren't self-centered. Instead you are in the Spirit, if in fact God's Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, they don't belong to him. If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life because of God's righteousness, but the body is dead because of sin. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also, through his Spirit that lives in you.

GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

A certain man, Lazarus, was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This was the Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped his feet with her hair. Her brother Lazarus was ill.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, saying, "Lord, the one whom you love is ill."

When he heard this, Jesus said, "This illness isn't fatal. It's for the glory of God so that God's Son can be glorified through it." Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. When he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was. After two days, he said to his disciples, "Let's return to Judea again."

The disciples replied, "Rabbi, the Jewish opposition wants to stone you, but you want to go back?"

Jesus answered, "Aren't there twelve hours in the day? Whoever walks in the day doesn't stumble because they see the light of the world. But whoever walks in the night does stumble because the light isn't in them."

(continued from inside cover)

He continued, "Our friend Lazarus is sleeping, but I am going in order to wake him up."

The disciples said, "Lord, if he's sleeping, he will get well." They thought Jesus meant that Lazarus was in a deep sleep, but Jesus had spoken about Lazarus' death.

Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died. For your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there so that you can believe. Let's go to him."

Then Thomas (the one called Didymus) said to the other disciples, "Let us go too so that we may die with Jesus."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was a little less than two miles from Jerusalem. Many Jews had come to comfort Martha and Mary after their brother's death. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary remained in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you."

Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She replied, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, God's Son, the one who is coming into the world."

After she said this, she went and spoke privately to her sister Mary, "The teacher is here and he's calling for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. He hadn't entered the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were comforting Mary in the house saw her get up quickly and leave, they followed her. They assumed she was going to mourn at the tomb.

When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died."

When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. He asked, "Where have you laid him?"

They replied, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus began to cry. The Jews said, "See how much he loved him!" But some of them said, "He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"

Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. Jesus said, "Remove the stone."

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, "Lord, the smell will be awful! He's been dead four days."

Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?" So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me." Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Therefore, many of the Jews who came with Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him.

1

Let Us Build a House

(All Are Welcome)

Unison

$\text{♩} = 100$

C⁷ F C/E F B^b C

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and
 ◊ 3 Let us build a house where love is found in
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be -
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their

Dm C/E F B^b C F/A Dm⁷

all can safe - ly live, a place where saints and
 words are strong and true, where all God's chil - dren
 ◊ wa - ter, wine and wheat; a ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone to heal and strength - en,
 songs and vi - sions heard and loved and treas - ured,

Gm⁷ C Gm⁷ F/A B^b C⁷ B^b/F F

chil - dren tell how hearts learn to for - give. Built of
 dare to seek to dream God's reign a - new. Here the
 ◊ ho - ly ground, where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the
 serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the
 taught and claimed as words with - in the Word. Built of

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TWO OAKS

Irregular

GATHERING, CENTRING, AND INVOCATION

Am⁷ Dm⁷ Gm⁷ C F F/A

hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of
 cross shall stand as wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's
 ♦ love of God, through Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and
 out - cast and the stran - ger bear the im - age of God's
 tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of

B^b F B^b A⁷ Dm

grace; here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 grace; here as one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 ♦ space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
 face; let us bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 grace; let this house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:

Gm Dm Am⁷ Gm/B^b F/C

All are wel - come, all are wel - come, all are wel - come

Gm⁷/C C⁷ F B^b/F F B^b/F F B^b/F F B^b/F F F/C

Fine

in this place.

See next page for French translation.