

*Put on my yoke,
and learn from me,*



*My yoke is easy to bear,
and my burden is light.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

July 9, 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 true Christian lives and labors on earth not for himself but for his neighbor. Therefore the whole spirit of his life him impels him to do even that which he needs not do, but which is profitable and necessary for his neighbor."

~ Martin Luther

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God.

Come to refreshing waters that God provides.

ALL: God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion.

All creation joins us in giving thanks.

ONE: Give ear, all people, to the law of God.

Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

ALL: God upholds all who are falling.

God raises us up when we are bowed down.

ONE: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens.

Come, for Christ has promised rest.

ALL: The gentle spirit of Christ invites us.

We have come to find rest for our souls.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God, we do not understand our own actions. We turn away from the good we are intent on doing. Yet, we find wisdom in your law. We delight in the idea of mutual caring and celebrating life together, but we get bogged down in our own concerns. We are too busy to seek community and too preoccupied to ponder your will for us. We go our own way, cutting ourselves off from you and one another. O God, help us to put away this sin. 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:

Psalm 45:10-17

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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*)

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. Amen.

SACRAMENT 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.

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, you are as close to us as our breathing and you are as 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 for your people. May it be multiplied like the loaves and fishes at Galilee and feed and bless them and bring them closer to you.

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.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	John Zweck
Liturgist	Kay Guse
Accompanist	Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Judy Chapman, Wally Foxworthy, Margie Foxworthy's son Sean, Cindy Roll, Jeffrey Thornton, and the family of Ella Boggy

St. Jacob: Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, 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

- Church of the Good Shepherd, Rev. Kim (Dr. Aaron Newcomb) Magwire
- Carlinville St. Paul UCC

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Gary and Joyce Kniepkamp, St. Jacob, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Beth & Don Hanser, 36 years, July 10

Eric Schmidt, July 10

Patti Woods, July 12

Melody Hollis, July 13

Charles Zweck, July 15

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, July 2, 2023

St. John's – 11

St. Jacob – 22

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) can use donations of non-perishable food, hygiene products, and other items for those in need. 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): Canned potatoes, chili, spam, canned ham, black eyed peas, breakfast bars, Pop-tarts, pineapple, pears, peaches, peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, tomato paste, Vienna sausages, sauerkraut, spinach, pasta sides, egg noodles, chicken & dumplings, beef stew, dish soap, & laundry detergent

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY: ELFs meeting, 10 a.m.

JULY 18: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

JULY 19: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

A men's fellowship organizational meeting will be held at 7 p.m., July 23 at Heritage Hall. Anyone interested in starting a men's fellowship group is welcome to attend.

INTERGENERATIONAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

St. Jacob UCC and Troy Friedens UCC are working together to organize an Intergenerational Vacation Bible School this summer – it will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., July 20 at St. Jacob Township Park, July 27 at Tri-Township Library, and Aug. 3 at Tri-Township Park. This Intergenerational Vacation Bible School is for everyone ages of 1-100-plus, and we will explore the theme of the Greatest Commandment: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind,"* and *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* For more information, contact the church office at (618) 644-2142.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS

-**St. John's UCC** is accepting monetary donations to purchase needed lunch supplies. Lunches are provided each weekday from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and can be picked up at the Summerfield Fire Department.

-**St. Jacob UCC:** So far this year we are providing lunches to almost twice as many kids as in years past and could use monetary donations and additional volunteers. Volunteers are needed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays to allow time to assemble lunches, as well as clean-up afterward. Lunches are served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St. Jacob Elementary School (outdoor classroom). A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthx. For more information, or to volunteer call Judy Bolton at 618-830-0526, or Audrey Yann at 618-567-8013.

***** THE UPPER ROOM** (July-August) magazines are available on the table in the Narthx at St. Jacob.

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 45:10-17

Listen, daughter; pay attention, and listen closely! Forget your people and your father's house.
Let the king desire your beauty. Because he is your master, bow down to him now.
The city of Tyre, the wealthiest of all, will seek your favor with gifts, with riches of every sort
for the royal princess, dressed in pearls, her robe embroidered with gold.
In robes of many colors, she is led to the king. Her attendants, the young women servants following her,
are presented to you as well.
As they enter the king's palace, they are led in with celebration and joy.

Your sons, great king, will succeed your fathers; you will appoint them as princes throughout the land.
I will perpetuate your name from one generation to the next so the peoples will praise you forever and always.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 7:15-25a

I don't know what I'm doing, because I don't do what I want to do. Instead, I do the thing that I hate. But if I'm doing the thing that I don't want to do, I'm agreeing that the Law is right. But now I'm not the one doing it anymore. Instead, it's sin that lives in me. I know that good doesn't live in me—that is, in my body. The desire to do good is inside of me, but I can't do it. I don't do the good that I want to do, but I do the evil that I don't want to do. But if I do the very thing that I don't want to do, then I'm not the one doing it anymore. Instead, it is sin that lives in me that is doing it.

So I find that, as a rule, when I want to do what is good, evil is right there with me. I gladly agree with the Law on the inside, but I see a different law at work in my body. It wages a war against the law of my mind and takes me prisoner with the law of sin that is in my body. I'm a miserable human being. Who will deliver me from this dead corpse? Thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

"To what will I compare this generation? It is like a child sitting in the marketplaces calling out to others, 'We played the flute for you and you didn't dance. We sang a funeral song and you didn't mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' Yet the Human One came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunk, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved to be right by her works."

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you've hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have shown them to babies. Indeed, Father, this brings you happiness.

"My Father has handed all things over to me. No one knows the Son except the Father. And nobody knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I'm gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light."

Hoyleton Back 2 School Supply Drive

Return items to Church by Sunday, July 23rd

- Backpacks
- Pencil Cases – about 9"x4.5"
- Pencil Boxes – Large (about 8"x4.5"x2.5")
- Folders – Two Pocket, Multiple Colors
- 3-Ring Binders – 1/2"
- Single Subject Spiral Notebooks – College Ruled
- Single Subject Spiral Notebooks – Wide Ruled
- Loose Leaf Paper – College Ruled
- Loose Leaf Paper – Wide Ruled
- Ballpoint Pens – Medium Point, Black ink
- Mechanical Pencils with Erasers – Medium Point (0.7mm)
- Wooden #2 Pencils
- Pink Erasers
- EXPO Dry Erase Markers – Blue, Low-Odor
- EXPO Dry Erase Markers – Black, Low-Odor
- Highlighters – Assorted Colors
- Crayola Crayons – 24 Colors
- Colored Pencils – 12 Colors
- Plastic Rulers – 12 Inch
- Scissors – Safety Blunt Tip
- Elmer's Glue Sticks

