



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

October 29, 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: “Whoever, then, thinks that he understands the Holy Scriptures, or any part of them, but puts such an interpretation upon them as does not tend to build up this twofold love of God and our neighbor, does not yet understand them as he ought.” ~ Augustine of Hippo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Gather together to hear stories of faith and courage.
Listen for ways God has acted among us.

**ALL: Our ancestors in the faith listened for God’s word.
They dared to believe God’s promises.**

ONE: Leaders like Moses and Paul saw evidence of God’s work.
They believed they were face-to-face with God’s truth.

**ALL: They looked beyond the present moment.
They lived for dreams not yet realized.**

ONE: Many felt God’s love in knowing Jesus.
They experienced a new relationship with neighbors.

**ALL: We have come seeking community centered in Christ.
We want to feel God’s presence as we worship.**

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

"Love Your Neighbor", Fayetteville, AR - 2020. Photo by Dereick McKinney on Unsplash (<https://unsplash.com/photos/W8kl19hCryA>)

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

O God, we have missed your signs and wonders because we are so busy creating our own. Those around us who pretend to be your prophets offer little to which we aspire. Yet, we would pray with the psalmist, "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so we may rejoice and be glad all our days." Where is the meaning we have missed in all our striving? Does Jesus hold the key when he says, "Love God with all your being," and "Love your neighbor as yourself"? O God, we long to make sense out of life. Help us to follow 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.

SCRIPTURE:

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

HYMN*God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

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SERMON**HYMN***Renew Your Church*

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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*)

As we give ourselves and our offerings, we pray, O God, that they may reveal your love in such a way that many will respond. Awaken in us a love for you and for one another that is contagious. Remove from us all apathy, pretension, and greed that we may grow in holiness and compassion, living joyously in communion with you. 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***Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

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BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person
Accompanist

Donna Lowe
Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Wally Foxworthy, Cindy Roll, Roy Roll and
Margie Foxworthy's son Sean and stepson Dustin

St. Jacob: Sandy Autry, Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Carolyn Masterson, 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

-Jerseyville Peace UCC, Rev. Debbie Lawson
-Godfrey Congregational Church

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Rev. Diane Grohmann, New Athens, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Madeleine Schmidt, Oct. 31
George Anderson, Nov. 2
Tyler Rehg, Nov. 3
Ronda Schmidt, Nov. 3

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, October 22, 2023

St. John's – 8

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): Canned chili, tomatoes, and beans (kidney, pinto, great northern, black), cereal, juice, canned fruit, boxed Jello or pudding, Ramen noodles, mac & cheese, boxed potatoes, white rice, canned chicken, canned stew, peanut butter, & jelly

Requested items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited): Jiffy corn muffin mix, yams, pie filling, Jiffy pie crust mix, peanut butter, pasta, chili beans, instant potato packets, rice 1-pound bags, & instant rice

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY: All Saints Day

NOVEMBER 5: Totenfest

NOVEMBER 5: Holey Sunday, St. John's & St. Jacob

HOYLETON'S HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS DRIVE

St. Jacob: This year we are providing gifts for children in residential care and foster care through Hoyleton. On the table in the Narthx you will find a basket with slips. Each slip lists one gift and has a number at the top. There is a sheet next to the basket with the same number on it. Please put your name next to the slip you take. Gifts are due back to church by Sunday, Nov. 26, and we will get them to Hoyleton that week. Please include the top half of the slip with the child's name on the gift.

St. John's: Again this year the council will be coordinating the purchase of gifts for the children in residential care and foster care through Hoyleton through their Amazon wish-list. Please place your donation in the envelope on the bulletin board.

HIGHLAND MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Highland Meals on Wheels needs several volunteers to deliver noon meals to a few residents in St. Jacob and Marine. The meals are picked up at St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland at approximately 10:50 a.m., Monday - Friday. If you have an hour one day a week to help it will be greatly appreciated. For more information or to volunteer call Mary, the coordinator at 618-954-0356.

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.

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

FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Then Moses hiked up from the Moabite plains to Mount Nebo, the peak of the Pisgah slope, which faces Jericho. The Lord showed him the whole land: the Gilead region as far as Dan's territory; all the parts belonging to Naphtali along with the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, as well as the entirety of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea; also the arid southern plain, and the plain—including the Jericho Valley, Palm City—as far as Zoar.

Then the Lord said to Moses: "This is the land that I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I promised: 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have shown it to you with your own eyes; however, you will not cross over into it."

Then Moses, the Lord's servant, died—right there in the land of Moab, according to the Lord's command. The Lord buried him in a valley in Moabite country across from Beth-peor. Even now, no one knows where Moses' grave is.

Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eyesight wasn't impaired, and his vigor hadn't diminished a bit.

Back down in the Moabite plains, the Israelites mourned Moses' death for thirty days. At that point, the time for weeping and for mourning Moses was over.

Joshua, Nun's son, was filled with wisdom because Moses had placed his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to Joshua, and they did exactly what the Lord commanded Moses.

No prophet like Moses has yet emerged in Israel; Moses knew the Lord face-to-face! That's not even to mention all those signs and wonders that the Lord sent Moses to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh, to all his servants, and to his entire land— as well as all the extraordinary power that Moses displayed before Israel's own eyes!

SECOND LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

As you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, our visit with you wasn't a waste of time. On the contrary, we had the courage through God to speak God's good news in spite of a lot of opposition, although we had already suffered and were publicly insulted in Philippi, as you know. Our appeal isn't based on false information, the wrong motives, or deception. Rather, we have been examined and approved by God to be trusted with the good news, and that's exactly how we speak. We aren't trying to please people, but we are trying to please God, who continues to examine our hearts. As you know, we never used flattery, and God is our witness that we didn't have greedy motives. We didn't ask for special treatment from people—not from you or from others— although we could have thrown our weight around as Christ's apostles. Instead, we were gentle with you like a nursing mother caring for her own children. We were glad to share not only God's good news with you but also our very lives because we cared for you so much.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. One of them, a legal expert, tested him. "Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

He replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

Now as the Pharisees were gathering, Jesus asked them, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?"

"David's son," they replied.

He said, "Then how is it that David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, called him Lord when he said, *The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right side until I turn your enemies into your footstool'*? If David calls him Lord, how can he be David's son?" Nobody was able to answer him. And from that day forward nobody dared to ask him anything.