



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

June 2, 2024

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: "Discernment is God's call to intercession, never to faultfinding." ~ Corrie Ten Boom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Listen, for your name is being called.

Beyond the range of human voices, God is calling.

ALL: We have come to observe a sabbath time.

We have gathered to worship at God's command.

ONE: Listen for the unfamiliar voice you have ignored.

Listen for the solemn charge God gives.

ALL: We are called away from things we have pursued as gods.

Our iniquity has separated us from the one true God.

ONE: Wonderful are the thoughts and works of God!

God's light is ready to shine in our hearts.

ALL: Even clay jars can be open to the light.

May the power of light cleanse and heal us!

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Tissot, James, 1836-1902. Man with the Withered Hand, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?PRC=57938>. Original

source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brooklyn_Museum_-_

[The_Man_with_the_Withered_Hand_\(L%27homme_%C3%A0_la_main_dess%C3%A9ch%C3%A9e\)_-_James_Tissot_-_overall.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Brooklyn_Museum_-_The_Man_with_the_Withered_Hand_(L%27homme_%C3%A0_la_main_dess%C3%A9ch%C3%A9e)_-_James_Tissot_-_overall.jpg)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Before a word is on our tongues, O God, you know it completely. Before we confess our broken vows, you are aware of them. Our unfaithfulness to you and to people around us is evident to you. You observe our sinful secrets and our blatant rebellion. Nothing we say or do escapes your notice. Test our sincerity now as we confess to you our individual and shared wrongdoing and neglect. Melt our hardness of heart that we may be forgiven and cleansed from our iniquity. 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:

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Mark 2:23-3:6

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*)

In answer to your call, gracious God, we have opened our ears for your instruction and our eyes to the needs of our sisters and brothers. Alone, our helpfulness is limited, though often greater than we have imagined, for you are with us. Together, our effectiveness is multiplied, and your work is made visible. Bless our sharing and our sacrifices that your rule of love may grow among us and extend to all we meet. Amen.

HYMN *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

698

© Words: 1975 Hope Publishing Company; Music: 1975 Hope Publishing Company

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.

* HYMN *Go Forth for God*

708

© 1984 Hope Publishing Company

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

he 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 wounded hearts, 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

Hosts are gluten free.

Juice in the center ring and wine in the outer rings.

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
Accompanist

Patti Woods
Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Don Koenig, Sharon Koenig, Fred Lanning, Cindy Roll, Roy Roll, Dave Williams, and Margie Foxworthy's son Sean & stepson Dustin

St. Jacob: Sandy Autry, Carol Casperson, Marvin Docter, Lori Foley, Norma Logsdon, Gail Miller, Jackie Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, Carol Schmitt, 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

-Fairview Heights St John UCC Rev. Rosemary Captain

-Farina Friedens UCC

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Russell (Doris) Miller Metropolis, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Mindy Schiefer, June 2
Debbie & Duane Zobrist, 50 years, June 7
Gina & Tim Hirsch, 33 years, June 8

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, May 26, 2024

St. John's – No Worship (9 - May 19) St. Jacob – 26

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.

Items for St. John's (For Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries): Canned goods including: vegetables, fruit, beans, soups, stews, pasta, chili, sloppy Joe, beef, sausage, chicken, salmon, and tuna. Boxed goods including pasta & noodles, rice, mashed potatoes, cereal, oatmeal, stuffing, and mac & cheese. Other pantry staples including flour, sugar, peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce, BBQ sauce, ramen, cake mix, Jello, and pudding. Nonfood items including trash bags, storage bags, paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, & toiletries.

Items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited): Pop-tarts, oatmeal, cheese cracker sandwiches, beef jerky, fruit cups, Vienna sausages, ketchup, mustard, broth, cooked ham, pasta sauce, jelly, pancake mix, & syrup

Portions reprinted [or adapted] by permission of United Church Press from *Gathered by Love* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1994 by United Church Press.

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUNE 12: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

JUNE 17: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

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

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS

This year both St. John's UCC and St. Jacob UCC are helping with their local Summer Lunch Programs.

-**St. John's UCC** is accepting monetary donations which will be used to purchase needed lunch supplies. There is an envelope at St. John's to place your donation. The money will then be used to buy supplies through Amazon.

-**St. Jacob UCC** needs volunteers to help with the free school lunch program this summer. We are also accepting monetary donations which will be used to purchase the lunch supplies. Lunches will be provided each day, however, St. Jacob UCC is only responsible for Thursdays and Fridays. Lunches will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St. Jacob Elementary School (outdoor classroom). Volunteers are needed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., to allow time to assemble lunches, as well as clean-up afterward. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex. For more information, or to volunteer call Audrey Yann at 618-567-8013, or Judy Bolton at 618-830-0526.

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. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex.

LAWN MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Thank you to all those who have already mowed the church lawn! Volunteers are still needed to mow the lawn: July 1-7, July 15-21, July 22-28, July 29-Aug. 4, Aug. 12-18 & Aug. 19-25. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

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

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Lord, you have examined me. You know me.

You know when I sit down and when I stand up. Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.

You study my traveling and resting. You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.

There isn't a word on my tongue, Lord, that you don't already know completely.

You surround me—front and back. You put your hand on me.

That kind of knowledge is too much for me; it's so high above me that I can't reach it.

You are the one who created my innermost parts; you knit me together while I was still in my mother's womb.

I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart. Your works are wonderful—I know that very well.

My bones weren't hidden from you when I was being put together in a secret place, when I was being woven together in the deep parts of the earth.

Your eyes saw my embryo, and on your scroll every day was written that was being formed for me, before any one of them had yet happened.

God, your plans are incomprehensible to me! Their total number is countless!

If I tried to count them—they outnumber grains of sand! If I came to the very end—I'd still be with you.

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

We don't preach about ourselves. Instead, we preach about Jesus Christ as Lord, and we describe ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. God said that light should shine out of the darkness. He is the same one who shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay pots so that the awesome power belongs to God and doesn't come from us. We are experiencing all kinds of trouble, but we aren't crushed. We are confused, but we aren't depressed. We are harassed, but we aren't abandoned. We are knocked down, but we aren't knocked out.

We always carry Jesus' death around in our bodies so that Jesus' life can also be seen in our bodies. We who are alive are always being handed over to death for Jesus' sake so that Jesus' life can also be seen in our bodies that are dying. So death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

GOSPEL: Mark 2:23-3:6

Jesus went through the wheat fields on the Sabbath. As the disciples made their way, they were picking the heads of wheat. The Pharisees said to Jesus, "Look! Why are they breaking the Sabbath law?"

He said to them, "Haven't you ever read what David did when he was in need, when he and those with him were hungry? During the time when Abiathar was high priest, David went into God's house and ate the bread of the presence, which only the priests were allowed to eat. He also gave bread to those who were with him." Then he said, "The Sabbath was created for humans; humans weren't created for the Sabbath. This is why the Human One is Lord even over the Sabbath."

Jesus returned to the synagogue. A man with a withered hand was there. Wanting to bring charges against Jesus, they were watching Jesus closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. He said to the man with the withered hand, "Step up where people can see you." Then he said to them, "Is it legal on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they said nothing. Looking around at them with anger, deeply grieved at their unyielding hearts, he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he did, and his hand was made healthy. At that, the Pharisees got together with the supporters of Herod to plan how to destroy Jesus.