



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

June 16, 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: "I never lose an opportunity of urging a practical beginning, however small, for it is wonderful how often in such matters the mustard-seed germinates and roots itself." ~ Florence Nightingale

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: It is good to give thanks to God!

Come to make music to our Creator.

ALL: God knows our troubles and remembers our need.

Our petitions are answered and our hearts' desires fulfilled.

ONE: Declare God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Seek God's help in the Sanctuary.

ALL: We know that God will help the anointed ones.

Our pride is in God alone.

ONE: Listen for the voice of God, speaking to us again.

How great is our God, our rock and defender!

ALL: God will respond when we call.

We will bear fruit for God as long as life endures.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of all truth, who can stand before you? We judge by outward appearances, but you examine our hearts. We see what is on the surface, but you discern beauty deep within. We measure importance by paychecks, but you find value among those we deem lowly and insignificant. You offer us the deep and profound joy of living in your realm. We forget your promises and turn to pursuits that separate us from you and destroy community. We seek forgiveness and a new direction for our lives. 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:

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation*

723

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SERMON

HYMN *Hymn of Promise*

515

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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*)

All that we have is yours, O God. What we present for the church's use is no sacrifice. We are privileged to share good news in word and deed. May our common ministry be extended by the time and talents and treasure we invest. We would no longer live just for ourselves but for the realization of your reign among us. Let all things become new as we give our best. 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** *Lord of All Hopefulness*

469

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Patti Woods
Liturgist	George Anderson
Accompanist	Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Don Koenig, Sharon Koenig, Fred Lanning, Cindy Roll, Roy Roll, Rusty Schiefer, 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, Carol Zweck, and the family of Charlie Kynion

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

-Freeburg St. Paul's UCC Rev. Andrew Lovins

-Pension Board National Staff Rev. Krista Betz Belleville, IL

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Nancy (Kevin) Spier-Lee, Dupon, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Vic Duncan, June 16

Shelly & Jack Bittle, 6 years, June 17

Susan & Richard Schmidt, 63 years, June 17

Kelli Zurliene, June 20

Audrey Bolck, June 21

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, June 9, 2024

St. John's – 9 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

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

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

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS

-**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.

FIRST LESSON: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Then Samuel went to Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah. Samuel never saw Saul again before he died, but he grieved over Saul. However, the Lord regretted making Saul king over Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long are you going to grieve over Saul? I have rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and get going. I'm sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have found my next king among his sons."

"How can I do that?" Samuel asked. "When Saul hears of it he'll kill me!"

"Take a heifer with you," the Lord replied, "and say, 'I have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will make clear to you what you should do. You will anoint for me the person I point out to you."

Samuel did what the Lord instructed. When he came to Bethlehem, the city elders came to meet him. They were shaking with fear. "Do you come in peace?" they asked.

"Yes," Samuel answered. "I've come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Now make yourselves holy, then come with me to the sacrifice." Samuel made Jesse and his sons holy and invited them to the sacrifice as well.

When they arrived, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, That must be the Lord's anointed right in front.

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Have no regard for his appearance or stature, because I haven't selected him. God doesn't look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the Lord sees into the heart."

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Next Jesse called for Abinadab, who presented himself to Samuel, but he said, "The Lord hasn't chosen this one either." So Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, "No, the Lord hasn't chosen this one." Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord hasn't picked any of these." Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Is that all of your boys?"

"There is still the youngest one," Jesse answered, "but he's out keeping the sheep."

"Send for him," Samuel told Jesse, "because we can't proceed until he gets here."

So Jesse sent and brought him in. He was reddish brown, had beautiful eyes, and was good-looking. The Lord said, "That's the one. Go anoint him." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him right there in front of his brothers. The Lord's spirit came over David from that point forward.

Then Samuel left and went to Ramah.

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

So we are always confident, because we know that while we are living in the body, we are away from our home with the Lord. We live by faith and not by sight. We are confident, and we would prefer to leave the body and to be at home with the Lord. So our goal is to be acceptable to him, whether we are at home or away from home. We all must appear before Christ in court so that each person can be paid back for the things that were done while in the body, whether they were good or bad.

The love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: one died for the sake of all; therefore, all died. He died for the sake of all so that those who are alive should live not for themselves but for the one who died for them and was raised.

So then, from this point on we won't recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn't how we know him now. So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

Then Jesus said, "This is what God's kingdom is like. It's as though someone scatters seed on the ground, then sleeps and wakes night and day. The seed sprouts and grows, but the farmer doesn't know how. The earth produces crops all by itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full head of grain. Whenever the crop is ready, the farmer goes out to cut the grain because it's harvest time."

He continued, "What's a good image for God's kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? Consider a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it's the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; but when it's planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade."

With many such parables he continued to give them the word, as much as they were able to hear. He spoke to them only in parables, then explained everything to his disciples when he was alone with them.