



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

August 18, 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: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

~ Reinhold Niebuhr

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.

Let us join our voices in giving thanks.

ALL: The works of God are all around us.

Those who share in God's work lack for nothing.

ONE: We are called to faithfulness, as God is faithful.

We are people of the covenant, gathered to please God.

ALL: Holy and awesome is God's name.

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

ONE: Come, then, as wise and faithful people.

Come as a beloved community of the redeemed.

ALL: We are amazed that God remembers us.

We reach out to the God who cares for us.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O God, we confess that we have lived so comfortably in the abundance of our times that we have made things our gods. We spend our days dreaming of, and working for, possessions that cannot satisfy. The pursuit of riches replaces the quest for faith and faithful relationships. We do not know you, God, and our relationship with others is superficial at best. Redeem us, we pray, from our self-destructive ways and restore us to your covenant community. 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 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 6:51-58

HYMN *Be Thou My Vision*

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SERMON

HYMN *O Word of God Incarnate*

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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*)

Your generosity, O God, is beyond our deserving. You grant health to our bodies and minds. You surround us with vast resources and with people who love us. You allow us to make decisions about the use of our time and possessions and relationships. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to share with others some of what we have received. Help us to use all our gifts as you intend. 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 *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person/Liturgist Carol Kynion
Accompanist Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Brian Bielong, June Boggy, Wally Foxworthy, Don Koenig, Sharon Koenig, Christy Lanning, Fred Lanning, Cindy Roll, Roy Roll, Dave Williams, and Sean and Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy

St. Jacob: Sandy Autry, Peggy Bohnenstiehl, Carol Casperson, Marvin Docter, Lori Foley, Norma Logsdon, Gail Miller, Jackie Miller, Jane Schmidt, Carol Zweck, and the family of Ronald Rujawitz

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

-Murphysboro St. Peter's UCC Rev. Lauren (Greg) Lambert-Goheen

-Marine UCC

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Jane Hillman

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Marie & Gene Gansmann, 58 years, Aug. 21

Nancy McCaw, Aug. 22

Evagene Gusewelle, Aug. 23

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, August 11, 2024

St. John's – 9 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.

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.

BBQ MEAT BONANZA DRAWING AUG. 25

The ELF's organization, in conjunction with Korte Meat Processing, Inc., are offering you a chance to win one of three bundles of barbeque meats in exchange for your donation. Tickets are \$2 each or six for \$10. An envelope of ticket packets for each family (as well as additional ticket packets) are available on the table in the Narthex for you to sell to friends, family, or purchase yourself. The proceeds will be used for mission giving, including purchasing new armchairs for Heritage Hall, providing summer lunches, paying off the delinquent lunch debts, supplying emergency supplies for DuBois Center campers, and sponsoring a girl in Kentucky, etc. The drawing will be held immediately following worship on Aug. 25, where three lucky winners' names will be drawn. Drop off your donation/tickets in the barbeque safe in the foyer at church or mail them to the church office at: 207 West Main Street, St. Jacob, IL 62281.



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER E-MAIL OPTION

With the rising cost of postage, printing and mailing our quarterly newsletter, we encourage you to consider having it e-mailed, instead of using traditional mail to send the paper copy. If you would like to have our newsletter e-mailed, please provide us with your preferred e-mail address at: stjucc@hometel.com. Also, if you currently receive our newsletter, and are no longer interested in receiving it, please let us know, either by e-mailing us at: stjucc@hometel.com or by calling the office at: 618-644-2142, and we will remove you from our newsletter mailing list.

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

FIRST LESSON: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Then David lay down with his ancestors and was buried in David's City. He ruled over Israel forty years – seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.

Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his royal power was well established.

Now Solomon loved the Lord by walking in the laws of his father David, with the exception that he also sacrificed and burned incense at the shrines.

The king went to the great shrine at Gibeon in order to sacrifice there. He used to offer a thousand entirely burned offerings on that altar. The Lord appeared to Solomon at Gibeon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask whatever you wish, and I'll give it to you."

Solomon responded, "You showed so much kindness to your servant my father David when he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and with a heart true to you. You've kept this great loyalty and kindness for him and have now given him a son to sit on his throne. And now, Lord my God, you have made me, your servant, king in my father David's place. But I'm young and inexperienced. I know next to nothing. But I'm here, your servant, in the middle of the people you have chosen, a large population that can't be numbered or counted due to its vast size. Please give your servant a discerning mind in order to govern your people and to distinguish good from evil, because no one is able to govern this important people of yours without your help."

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had made this request. God said to him, "Because you have asked for this instead of requesting long life, wealth, or victory over your enemies – asking for discernment so as to acquire good judgment – I will now do just what you said. Look, I hereby give you a wise and understanding mind. There has been no one like you before now, nor will there be anyone like you afterward. I now also give you what you didn't ask for: wealth and fame. There won't be a king like you as long as you live. And if you walk in my ways and obey my laws and commands, just as your father David did, then I will give you a very long life."

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 5:15-20

So be careful to live your life wisely, not foolishly. Take advantage of every opportunity because these are evil times. Because of this, don't be ignorant, but understand the Lord's will. Don't get drunk on wine, which produces depravity. Instead, be filled with the Spirit in the following ways: speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; sing and make music to the Lord in your hearts; always give thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL: John 6:51-58

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Then the Jews debated among themselves, asking, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "I assure you, unless you eat the flesh of the Human One and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. My flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in them. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me lives because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. It isn't like the bread your ancestors ate, and then they died. Whoever eats this bread will live forever."