



Barn Swallow
HIRUNDO AMERICANA.
Molt. 1. Female. 2.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

August 25, 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: Quote: "We rarely think of the air we breathe, yet it is in us and around us all the time. In similar fashion, the presence of God penetrates us, is all around us, is always embracing us." ~ Thomas Keating

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: With profound happiness, we welcome one another.

How good it is to approach the courts of our God!

ALL: Happy are those who live in God's house!

Singing our praise to God fills us with joy.

ONE: Here we welcome both friend and stranger.

All peoples of the earth are God's children.

ALL: We greet one another by name in Jesus' name.

Together we extol the name of our God.

ONE: Open your hearts to receive new strength.

Open your lives to renewed understanding.

ALL: Surely God will equip us to face our world.

We will be ambassadors for God wherever we go.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Barn Swallow from Birds of America (1827) by John James Audubon, etched by William Home Lizars. Original from University of Pittsburg. Public Domain.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Alert us now, eternal Spirit, to your presence among us in this place. Together, we confess that we have been busy with so many things that we have often forgotten you. We have made little gods out of buildings and furnishings and programs. Sometimes our pet beliefs and interpretations have been all-consuming as we do battle to correct others and presume to defend you. We have forgotten that your love is stronger than any force on earth. Forgive our mistrust of its power and draw us back into the company of disciples who are learning and growing in love. 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 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43

Psalm 84

John 6:56-69

SERMON

HYMN *In Christ There Is No East or West*

600

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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)*

May our giving add strength to the witness of your church as we humbly seek your truth and lovingly share it. Ready us to proclaim the gospel of peace in our homes, in our places of work and leisure, throughout our community and the world. Keep before your people the awesome mystery of faith. May its power overcome the cynicism of our skeptical, self-serving age, uniting us in disciplines that are freeing and discipleship that is amazingly fulfilling. 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 *Let Us Build a House*

INSERT

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Carol Kynion
Liturgist	Beth Frank
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

-Friedens UCC Marissa – Rev. Brett (Carolyn) Palmer

-St John UCC Mascoutah – Rev. Cherie Hambleton (Rev. Paul Burden)

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Frances (Jane) Feagans-King

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Carla Zobrist, Aug. 27

Robert Bittle, Aug. 29

Sophia Lowe, Aug. 29

Myrna & George Anderson, Aug. 30

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, August 18, 2024

St. John's – 11 St. Jacob – 24

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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BBQ MEAT BONANZA DRAWING TODAY

The drawing for the BBQ Meat Bonanza will be held **TODAY** immediately following worship. The ELFs 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. Ticket packets are available on the



table in the Narthex. 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. Thank you for your support!

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.

FIRST LESSON: 1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43

Then Solomon assembled Israel's elders, all the tribal leaders, and the chiefs of Israel's clans at Jerusalem to bring up the chest containing the Lord's covenant from David's City Zion.

The priests brought the chest containing the Lord's covenant to its designated spot beneath the wings of the winged creatures in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the most holy place.

When the priests left the holy place, the cloud filled the Lord's temple, and the priests were unable to carry out their duties due to the cloud because the Lord's glory filled the Lord's temple.

Solomon stood before the Lord's altar in front of the entire Israelite assembly and, spreading out his hands toward the sky, he said:

Lord God of Israel, there's no god like you in heaven above or on earth below. You keep the covenant and show loyalty to your servants who walk before you with all their heart. This is the covenant you kept with your servant David, my father, which you promised him. Today, you have fulfilled what you promised. So now, Lord, Israel's God, keep what you promised my father David, your servant, when you said to him, "You will never fail to have a successor sitting on Israel's throne as long as your descendants carefully walk before me just as you walked before me." So now, God of Israel, may your promise to your servant David, my father, come true.

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(Continued from inside cover)

But how could God possibly live on earth? If heaven, even the highest heaven, can't contain you, how can this temple that I've built contain you? Lord my God, listen to your servant's prayer and request, and hear the cry and prayer that your servant prays to you today. Constantly watch over this temple, the place about which you said, "My name will be there," and listen to the prayer that your servant is praying toward this place. Listen to the request of your servant and your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Listen from your heavenly dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive!

Listen also to the immigrant who isn't from your people Israel but who comes from a distant country because of your reputation – because they will hear of your great reputation, your great power, and your outstretched arm. When the immigrant comes and prays toward this temple, then listen from heaven, where you live, and do everything the immigrant asks. Do this so that all the people of the earth may know your reputation and revere you, as your people Israel do, and recognize that this temple I have built bears your name.

SECOND LESSON: PSALM 84

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord of heavenly forces!
My very being longs, even yearns, for the Lord's courtyards.
My heart and my body will rejoice out loud to the living God!

Yes, the sparrow too has found a home there; the swallow has found herself a nest where she can lay her young beside your altars, Lord of heavenly forces, my king, my God!
Those who live in your house are truly happy; they praise you constantly.

Those who put their strength in you are truly happy; pilgrimage is in their hearts.
As they pass through the Baca Valley, they make it a spring of water. Yes, the early rain covers it with blessings.
They go from strength to strength, until they see the supreme God in Zion.
Lord God of heavenly forces, hear my prayer; listen closely, Jacob's God!
Look at our shield, God; pay close attention to the face of your anointed one!

Better is a single day in your courtyards than a thousand days anywhere else!
I would prefer to stand outside the entrance of my God's house than live comfortably in the tents of the wicked!
The Lord is a sun and shield; God is favor and glory.
The Lord gives – doesn't withhold! – good things to those who walk with integrity.
Lord of heavenly forces, those who trust in you are truly happy!

GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

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." Jesus said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

Many of his disciples who heard this said, "This message is harsh. Who can hear it?"

Jesus knew that the disciples were grumbling about this and he said to them, "Does this offend you? What if you were to see the Human One going up where he was before? The Spirit is the one who gives life and the flesh doesn't help at all. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. Yet some of you don't believe." Jesus knew from the beginning who wouldn't believe and the one who would betray him. He said, "For this reason I said to you that none can come to me unless the Father enables them to do so." At this, many of his disciples turned away and no longer accompanied him.

Jesus asked the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?"

Simon Peter answered, "Lord, where would we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are God's holy one."