

وَسَأَلُوهُ قَائِلِينَ أَطْلُقُ هَذِهِ الْأَمْرَةَ. لِأَنَّهَا
تَصِيحُ فِي إِثْرِنَا. فَاجَابُ وَقَالَ لَهُ ارْسَلْ



لَا إِلَى الْخُرَافِ الضَّالَّةِ مِنْ بَيْتِ إِسْرَائِيلَ. فَانْتَه
وَسَجَدَتْ لَهُ قَائِلَةً يَا رَبِّ اعْنِي. فَاجَابُ وَقَالَ

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

September 8, 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: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: What good is it if we say we love all people, but give special treatment to a few?

ALL: God calls us to love others deeply as we love ourselves, with no strings attached.

ONE: What good is it if we say we say we want God to show mercy towards us, but are quick to judge others?

ALL: God calls us to forgive our sisters and brothers, to let mercy triumph over judgment.

ONE: What good is it if we say we say we trust God in every moment, but live guided by our fears?

ALL: We will speak and act as those who trust God to come and live in our fearful hearts.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Bazzi Rahib, Ilyas Basim Khuri. 1684. The Canaanite Woman asks for healing for her daughter, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55922>. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ilyas_Basim_Khuri_Bazzi_Rahib_-_Jesus_and_the_Canaanite_Woman_-_Walters_W59243A_-_Full_Page.jpg.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

How easily we say we trust you, Holy One, and how quickly our fears silence our words. We find you at the side of the poor while we cozy up to the rich and famous. You stand behind the counter serving the hungry at the soup kitchen, while we are stocking our pantries and freezers until they overflow. We look down at those whose hands are dirty, but your hand of mercy pulls them into your embracing love. Forgive us, O Lord, and do good to us when we have trouble doing good for others. Surround us with your love, your grace, your peace, and with the Spirit of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. 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:

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

James 2:1-17

Mark 7:24-37

HYMN *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* 591

SERMON

HYMN *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service* 575

©1988 Oxford University Press. Reproduced by permission. All rights reserved.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly hosts; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

Jesus Christ, you have done everything well. It is only by your goodness and grace that you have touched our hearts to share. Receive these gifts and bless them as a token of our grateful praise. 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** *Take My Life and Let it Be* 466

Text: © 1982 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person
Accompanist

Dian Gansmann
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: Peggy Bohnenstiehl, Carol Casperson, Marvin Docter, Lori Foley, Norma Logsdon, Gail Miller, Jackie Miller, 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

-Nashville St. Paul UCC- Rev. Beverly Kahle

-New Athens St. John UCC- Rev. Dr. Robert (Cathy) Koch

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Chris (Lena) Edwards

Also, for Rev. Jim Langdoc for a quick recovery after a recent health procedure

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Larry Robison, Sept. 10

Karen Schultze, Sept. 11

Carol Kynion, Sept. 14

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, September 1, 2024

St. John's – 18 St. Jacob – 25

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor's office hours: Tuesday through Thursday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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: green beans, corns, carrots, mixed vegetables, stew, chili, soup, fruit, spaghetti sauce, diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, potatoes (boxed/bags), Rice a Roni, macaroni and cheese, pasta, Ramen noodles, Jello, pudding, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, oatmeal, powdered sugar, brown sugar, oil, Crisco, dish soap, laundry detergent (quart bottles/sheets/pods), dryer sheets, paper towels, toilet paper, baggies (sandwich/qt./gal.) plastic wrap, toilet bowl cleaner, and cleaning solution

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 by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion. Copyright 2015.

Portions reprinted [or adapted] by permission of United Church Press from Trumpet in Zion: Worship Resources, Year B by Linda H. Hollies. Copyright 2002.

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 16: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 17: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

ON-LINE GIVING OPTION

An on-line giving option is available on the St. Jacob UCC's web site (<https://stjacobucc.org/>). There are two ways to access the on-line giving option: the first is the "DONATE" button located on the top-right corner of the "Home Page," and the second is by clicking on "RESOURCES" and then "DONATE." If you have any issues using the on-line giving option, please contact the church office at (618) 644-2142.



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.

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 Narthex.

BEST CHOICE LABEL COLLECTION

The ELFs organization is collecting Best Choice labels/UPC portion (proof of purchase). There is a box on the table in the Narthex to place the labels.

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

FIRST LESSON: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A good reputation is better than much wealth; high esteem is better than silver and gold.
 The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord made them both.
 Those who sow injustice will harvest evil; the rod of their fury will come to an end.
 Happy are generous people, because they give some of their food to the poor.
 Don't steal from the poor, because they are poor. Don't oppress the needy in the gate.
 The Lord will take up their case and press the life out of those who oppress them.

SECOND LESSON: James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, when you show favoritism you deny the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has been resurrected in glory. Imagine two people coming into your meeting. One has a gold ring and fine clothes, while the other is poor, dressed in filthy rags. Then suppose that you were to take special notice of the one wearing fine clothes, saying, "Here's an excellent place. Sit here." But to the poor person you say, "Stand over there"; or, "Here, sit at my feet." Wouldn't you have shown favoritism among yourselves and become evil-minded judges?

My dear brothers and sisters, listen! Hasn't God chosen those who are poor by worldly standards to be rich in terms of faith? Hasn't God chosen the poor as heirs of the kingdom he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Don't the wealthy make life difficult for you? Aren't they the ones who drag you into court? Aren't they the ones who insult the good name spoken over you at your baptism?

You do well when you really fulfill the royal law found in scripture, Love your neighbor as yourself. But when you show favoritism, you are committing a sin, and by that same law you are exposed as a lawbreaker. Anyone who tries to keep all of the Law but fails at one point is guilty of failing to keep all of it. The one who said, Don't commit adultery, also said, Don't commit murder. So if you don't commit adultery but do commit murder, you are a lawbreaker. In every way, then, speak and act as people who will be judged by the law of freedom. There will be no mercy in judgment for anyone who hasn't shown mercy. Mercy overrules judgment.

My brothers and sisters, what good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it? Claiming to have faith can't save anyone, can it? Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. What if one of you said, "Go in peace! Stay warm! Have a nice meal!"? What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs? In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

Jesus left that place and went into the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know that he had entered a house, but he couldn't hide. In fact, a woman whose young daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard about him right away. She came and fell at his feet. The woman was Greek, Syrophenician by birth. She begged Jesus to throw the demon out of her daughter. He responded, "The children have to be fed first. It isn't right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

But she answered, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

"Good answer!" he said. "Go on home. The demon has already left your daughter." When she returned to her house, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

After leaving the region of Tyre, Jesus went through Sidon toward the Galilee Sea through the region of the Ten Cities. Some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly speak, and they begged him to place his hand on the man for healing. Jesus took him away from the crowd by himself and put his fingers in the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. Looking into heaven, Jesus sighed deeply and said, "Ephphatha," which means, "Open up." At once, his ears opened, his twisted tongue was released, and he began to speak clearly.

Jesus gave the people strict orders not to tell anyone. But the more he tried to silence them, the more eagerly they shared the news. People were overcome with wonder, saying, "He does everything well! He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who can't speak."