



# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

September 15, 2024

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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.

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**Silent Reflection:** “Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.” ~ Vincent Van Gogh

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We are not our own;

ALL: So neither our will nor our wisdom should get in the way of God’s hopes for us.

ONE: We are not our own;

ALL: So we should not choose what is the easiest to the most gratifying way to live.

ONE: We are not our own, we are God’s;

ALL: So let us choose to live for God, and serve all of God’s children.

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God, we have hated knowledge and have not chosen to give you due reverence. We have turned our backs on your outstretched hands of grace and stumbled into the arms of the world. We speak poisonous gossip about others rather than tell of their glory as your child. Forgive us, our Rock and our Redeemer. Restore us to right relationship with you and with each other. 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 19

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

## SERMON

## APOSTLES' CREED – *(INSERT)*

## HYMN      *How Great Thou Art*

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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)*

God of wisdom, may this offering serve as a powerful witness to this world in need. Guide us as we administer the gifts that you have given us for the building of your kingdom. In Jesus Christ we pray. 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 Up Your Cross," the Savior Said*

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## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

## SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person  
Accompanist

Dian Gansmann  
Melissa Anderson Taylor

## 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:** 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

-New Hanover Zoar UCC- Rev. R.J. Morgan  
- O'Fallon UCC- Rev. Dr. Martha Thierheimer

### Retired Pastor

- Rev. Robert Tripp

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Don Hanser, Sept. 15  
Cathy Frutiger, Sept. 18  
Audrey Yann, Sept. 18  
Amy Zbinden Sullivan, Sept. 19

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE, September 8, 2024

St. John's – 14 St. Jacob – 17

### 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](mailto:stjucc@hometel.com)

Website: [stjacobucc.org](http://stjacobucc.org)

Pastor Phil Barbier: Phone: 314-312-2347 / E-mail: [pastor@hometel.com](mailto: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

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## CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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### **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](mailto: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](mailto:stjucc@hometel.com) or by calling the office at: 618-644-2142, and we will remove you from our newsletter mailing list.

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#### **FIRST LESSON: Psalm 19**

Heaven is declaring God's glory; the sky is proclaiming his handiwork. One day gushes the news to the next, and one night informs another what needs to be known. Of course, there's no speech, no words – their voices can't be heard – but their sound extends throughout the world; their words reach the ends of the earth.

God has made a tent in heaven for the sun. The sun is like a groom coming out of his honeymoon suite; like a warrior, it thrills at running its course. It rises in one end of the sky; its circuit is complete at the other. Nothing escapes its heat.

The Lord's Instruction is perfect, reviving one's very being. The Lord's laws are faithful, making naive people wise. The Lord's regulations are right, gladdening the heart. The Lord's commands are pure, giving light to the eyes. Honoring the Lord is correct, lasting forever. The Lord's judgments are true. All of these are righteous! They are more desirable than gold – than tons of pure gold! They are sweeter than honey – even dripping off the honeycomb! No doubt about it: your servant is enlightened by them; there is great reward in keeping them. But can anyone know what they've accidentally done wrong? Clear me of any unknown sin and save your servant from willful sins. Don't let them rule me. Then I'll be completely blameless; I'll be innocent of great wrongdoing.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you, Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

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*(Continued from inside cover)*

**SECOND LESSON: James 3:1-12**

My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because we know that we teachers will be judged more strictly. We all make mistakes often, but those who don't make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies.

Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder. In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly.

Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell.

People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God's likeness. Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn't be this way!

Both fresh water and salt water don't come from the same spring, do they? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn't flow from a saltwater spring either.

**GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38**

Jesus and his disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?"

They told him, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets."

He asked them, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Christ." Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed, and then, after three days, rise from the dead." He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: "Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father's glory with the holy angels."



## THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the universal Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

