

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

November 3, 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:** "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor: That is the whole Torah; all the rest of it is commentary; go and learn." ~ **Rabbi Hillel**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: You are welcome in this place where God meets us in love.

ALL: We are here to love God with all that we have and all that we are.

ONE: You are welcome in this place, where God loves us as children.

ALL: We are here to love ourselves as deeply as God loves us.

ONE: Welcome to this place where God serves us at the Table of love and grace.

ALL: We are here to be sent forth to love others as deeply as we love God and ourselves.

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

We are hesitant to confess, Holy God, how hard it is to love as you wish. It is easy to love you with all that we are, except when you ask us to love our neighbor the way we love ourselves. And we find it is difficult to love anyone – even you – more than we love ourselves. Forgive us, loving God. As you took a risk in creating us, help us to take risks to love others compassionately, to love ourselves genuinely, and to love you as completely as you love us.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## GLORIA PATRI

TOTENFEST (*insert*) – HYMN *Rejoice in God's Saints*

531

## 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:

Ruth 1:1-18

Psalm 146

Mark 12:28-34

## SERMON

## 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, we have always been a sharing people. It is in our nature to bless others in the community. Now we give to the wider community of all your people. We ask that you receive these gifts and bless them, that the love you have shared with us will spread far and wide. We pray in the name of the Ultimate Giver. Amen.

HYMN                      *Break Now the Bread of Life*                      665

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION *(insert)*

## PRAYERS OF OUR CHURCH/SILENT PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE              Into My Heart                      485

*Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*Come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.*

\* HYMN                      *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*                      719

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## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

## SERVING YOU TODAY

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Council Person | Ty Gansmann             |
| Liturgist      | George Anderson         |
| Accompanist    | Melissa Anderson Taylor |

## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

**St. John's:** Brian Bielong, Wally Foxworthy, Don Koenig, Christy Lanning, Fred Lanning, and Sean and Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy

**St. Jacob:** Carol Casperson, Marvin Docter, Lori Foley, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Kathleen Ritter, 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

- Trenton St. John UCC - Rev. Christy (Zach Bugger) Smith
- Tower Hill St. Paul UCC - Pastor Neil Kaiser

### Retired Pastor

- Retired Pastor - Rev. Pamela Gale Smith (Rev. Earl Menchhofer)

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSERIES

Tyler Rehg, Nov. 3  
Ronda Schmidt, Nov. 3  
Denise Baer, Nov. 7  
Kristen Kniepkamp Belcher, Nov. 8



## CHURCH ATTENDANCE, October 27, 2024

St. John's – 14 St. Jacob – 24

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### 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)

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### **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

**TODAY:** Marine UCC Pork Sausage Dinner, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(Information flyer on bulletin board in the Narthex)

**NOVEMBER 13:** Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

**NOVEMBER 18:** St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

**NOVEMBER 19:** St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

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### **HOYLETON'S HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS DRIVE**

**St. Jacob:** This year we are providing gifts for children in residential care and foster care through Hoyleton. On the table in the Narthex you will find a basket with slips. Each slip lists possible gifts and has a number at the top. There is a sheet next to the basket with the same number on it. Please put your name next to the slip you take. The gifts are due to church by Sunday, Dec. 1, and we'll get them to Hoyleton that week. Please include the top half of the slip with the child's name on the gift.

**St. John's:** Again this year the council will be coordinating the purchase of gifts for the children in residential care and foster care through Hoyleton through their on-line wish-list. Please place your donation in the envelope on the bulletin board.

### **SNOW SHOVELING**

Winter weather will be here before you know it. Please volunteer to shovel the church sidewalks. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. Thank you!

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#### **FIRST LESSON: Ruth 1:1-18**

During the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. A man with his wife and two sons went from Bethlehem of Judah to dwell in the territory of Moab. The name of that man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They entered the territory of Moab and settled there.

But Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died. Then only she was left, along with her two sons. They took wives for themselves, Moabite women; the name of the first was Orpah and the name of the second was Ruth. And they lived there for about ten years.

But both of the sons, Mahlon and Chilion, also died. Only the woman was left, without her two children and without her husband.

Then she arose along with her daughters-in-law to return from the field of Moab, because while in the territory of Moab she had heard that the Lord had paid attention to his people by providing food for them. She left the place where she had been, and her two daughters-in-law went with her. They went along the road to return to the land of Judah.

Naomi said to her daughters-in-law, "Go, turn back, each of you to the household of your mother. May the Lord deal faithfully with you, just as you have done with the dead and with me. May the Lord provide for you so that you may find security, each woman in the household of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

*(Continued from inside cover)*

But they replied to her, “No, instead we will return with you, to your people.”

Naomi replied, “Turn back, my daughters. Why would you go with me? Will there again be sons in my womb, that they would be husbands for you? Turn back, my daughters. Go. I am too old for a husband. If I were to say that I have hope, even if I had a husband tonight, and even more, if I were to bear sons – would you wait until they grew up? Would you refrain from having a husband? No, my daughters. This is more bitter for me than for you, since the Lord’s will has come out against me.”

Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth stayed with her. Naomi said, “Look, your sister-in-law is returning to her people and to her gods. Turn back after your sister-in-law.”

But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to abandon you, to turn back from following after you. Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord do this to me and more so if even death separates me from you.” When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her about it.

### SECOND LESSON: Psalm 146

Praise the Lord!

Let my whole being praise the Lord!

I will praise the Lord with all my life; I will sing praises to my God as long as I live.

Don’t trust leaders; don’t trust any human beings – there’s no saving help with them!

Their breath leaves them, then they go back to the ground. On that very same day, their plans die too.

The person whose help is the God of Jacob – the person whose hope rests on the Lord their God – is truly happy!

God: the maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, God: who is faithful forever, who gives justice to people who are oppressed, who gives bread to people who are starving!

The Lord: who frees prisoners. The Lord: who makes the blind see. The Lord: who straightens up those who are bent low.

The Lord: who loves the righteous. The Lord: who protects immigrants, who helps orphans and widows, but who makes the way of the wicked twist and turn!

The Lord will rule forever! Zion, your God will rule from one generation to the next!

Praise the Lord!

### GOSPEL: Mark 12:28-34

One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”

Jesus replied, “The most important one is Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.”

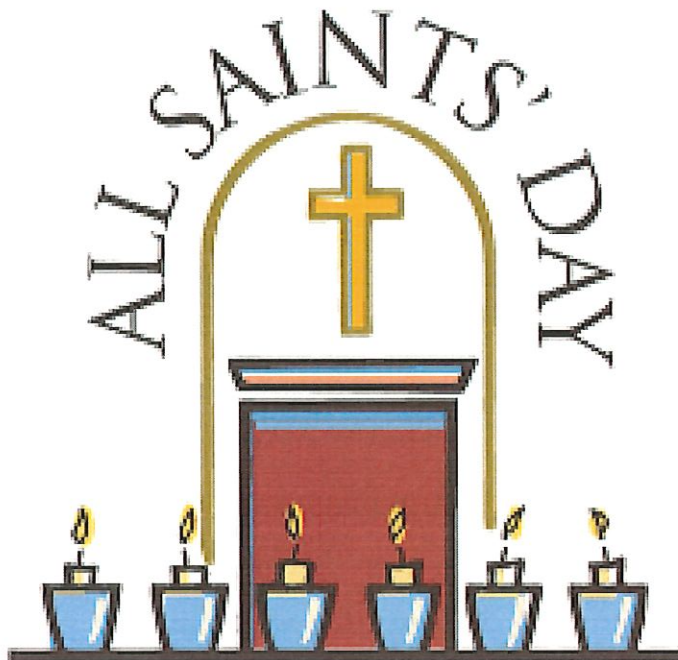
The legal expert said to him, “Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one’s strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, “You aren’t far from God’s kingdom.” After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.



# TOTENFEST

WE GATHER TO REMEMBER



St. Jacob United Church of Christ  
November 3, 2024

# WE GATHER TO REMEMBER

## INTRODUCTION

Pastor: As baptized believers in Christ, we are also baptized into Christ's death. In doing so, we are united with Christ through Christ's resurrection so that we might share in eternal life with Christ. Let us now hear the names of those, our brothers and sisters, who have been called home this past year and who are now sharing in the power of that eternal life.

We remember the following members and friends:

**Jerry Schmitt**

**Charlie Kynion**

**Ronald Rujawitz**

**Gail Miller**

**Everett Bohnenstiehl**

**Betty Reckmann**

Pastor: Let us now have a moment of silence to remember our loved ones who have been called home this past year.

## LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

PASTOR: God, whose hand reaches to the farthest star and to the depths of the sea, we feel the loss of no longer having those who have passed on with us. We also feel the gain of the time they were with us.

MANY: Their vital spark is burned in our memories, though they have departed.

PASTOR: We recall their ears,

MANY: Hearing our cries.

PASTOR: We recall their eyes,

MANY: Seeing our joys and pains.

PASTOR: We recall their touch,

MANY: Holding our hands.

PASTOR: We recall their voices,

MANY: Speaking to our hearts.

ALL: We continue to live with the best they had to give because it lives within us.

HYMN: *Rejoice In God's Saints*

531

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### PRAYER FOR COMFORT (*Unison*)

This day, we pause to give thanks for the gift of individuals who were special to many of us. We give thanks for the church which has nurtured us through the years, both ministering to us and enabling us to minister to others in Your name. We would recall the past with love, in order that we might live in the present with dignity. We ask for your guidance each day, that we may serve you well, with all things. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION

ONE: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

ALL: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

### COMMUNION PRAYER

ONE: God be with you

ALL: And also with you

ONE: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the God Most High.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

ONE: Holy God, our loving Creator, you are as close to us as our breathing and you are as distant as the farthest star. We thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith around the world and of every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, who you sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our prayers with the entire family of your faithful people, everywhere and in every time:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the Highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the Highest!

ONE: Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. We remember that Jesus ate and drank with the poor and with the wealthy, with the sinful and righteous alike. When he saw the multitude that followed him with nothing to eat, he took some loaves of bread, and a few fish, and after giving thanks to you he divided the bread and gave it to the multitude. And all ate and were filled. When his arrest seemed near, Jesus sat at table in an upper room, with his closest friends and disciples. As he had done so many times before, he took



he bread and after giving thanks to you he shared it among the disciples, vowing to continue his work in spite of the risk. He said, "I will not eat this again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after the meal, he took the cup and after giving thanks he gave it to them saying, "Truly I tell you, I will never drink of the fruit of the vine until I drink it new with you in the kingdom of God." Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For a time it seemed that all was lost. Jesus was executed by the authorities, and his disciples scattered in fear and despair. But at an evening meal in Emmaus, and at a breakfast campfire by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus once more took the bread, and after giving thanks to you he divided it and gave it to his disciples, opening their eyes, binding up their wounded hearts, continuing the meal, and revealing plainly that your steadfast love is stronger even than death, and your labor with us continues, for the sake of your realm.

Therefore, let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**ONE:** Holy one, pour out your blessings on this food we have gathered for your people. May it be multiplied like the loaves and fishes at Galilee and feed and bless them and bring them closer to you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup, and on us, your children. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

**ALL: Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

*Hosts are gluten free.*

*Juice in the center ring and wine in the outer rings.*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)**

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.