

*Be glad in the  
Lord always!  
Again I say,  
be glad!*



## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 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: "Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God."

~ Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Sing for joy; shout out loud! God, who is our love, is among us.

ALL: May God's presence fill us with hope and joy!

ONE: Sing aloud; rejoice in our hearts! Christ, who is our salvation, has come.

ALL: May the celebration of Christ's birth renew our hearts with love and grace!

ONE: Sing praises; laugh out loud! The Spirit, who is our peace, dwells in us.

ALL: May the Spirit bring us blessings to share with everyone we meet!

\* HYMN *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

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Tune: © 1983 and this setting © 2007 GIA Publications Inc.

# THE ADVENT WREATH – JOY

## Lighting the Candle

### Advent Song

1. Light the advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun;  
We have started on our way, time to think of Christmas day.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.
2. Light the advent candle, two Think of humble shepherds, who  
filled with wonder at the sight of the child of Christmas night.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.
3. Light the advent candle, three: Think of heavenly harmony;  
Angels singing “Peace on earth” at the blessed Savior’s birth.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of Wonder, we worry about everything that comes our way. Our constant companion, stress, guides us further and further from your gentle presence. Instead of waiting for you, we rush headlong through these days. We keep the hopes we could offer to you stuffed deep in our pockets, rather than lifting them to you. Forgive us, Holy One. Let your grace be known to all who come to you. May your hope be our strength. May your peace fill our spirits. And may your joy encompass our hearts as we celebrate the Advent of our savior, Jesus Christ. 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:

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

### HYMN *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*

Insert

Text: © 1939, Hope Publishing Company

### SERMON

### APOSTLES' CREED – *Insert*

### HYMN *Spirit of the Living God*

492

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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)*

We rejoice, O God of peace, in the privilege of giving without fear. You come to us daily with blessings too numerous to count. You are the Holy One whose presence relieves our anxieties, feeds our hungers, and stirs our compassion. Through our offerings, we express our gratitude. As we give of ourselves, we respond to your call to bear fruit and to make your name known among the nations. Thank you for accepting all we offer. Amen.

## 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      *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*      153

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

### SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person  
Accompanist

Kevin Hollis  
Melissa Anderson Taylor

### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Brittany Frank, Dec. 17

Germanyn Rehg, Dec. 18

Tiffany Duncan, Dec. 19

Cameron Woods, Dec. 19

Carol Casperson, Dec. 20

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE, December 8, 2024

St. John's – 12 St. Jacob – 40

### 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)

### IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

**St. John's:** Sherry Christ, 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, and Kathleen Ritter

**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

- Belleville Trinity UCC - Rev. Tim (Shea) Powers-Reed

- Biddleborn Trinity UCC - Rev. Tarrah (Jasen) Vaupel

#### Retired Pastor

- Rev. Janice (Rev. Bob Goddard) Dashner

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Come, Let Us Adore Him: Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2024 by Lisa Hancock used with permission.

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## CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

**DEC. 24: CHRISTMAS EVE** services -- 4 p.m. and 10 p.m., St. Jacob

**DEC. 24: CHRISTMAS EVE** service -- 7 p.m., St. John's

**DEC. 25: CHRISTMAS** no worship service

**DEC. 25 - JAN. 1:** Pastor Phil will be out of office.

**DEC. 29:** Christmas hymns (service), St. Johns, 8:45 a.m. & St. Jacob, 10:15 a.m.

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### **RETURN OF SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST. JACOB**

After a hiatus, Sunday School will return in January and is open to all children kindergarten through 6th grade. Classes will be held before worship (9-10 a.m.) the 2nd & 4th Sundays from January through May. Additional details will be posted on the St. Jacob UCC Facebook page as they become available.

### **ADULT BIBLE STUDY AT ST. JACOB**

A short, four-week adult Bible Study on the 10 Commandments will be offered every other Wednesday (Jan. 8 & 22, and Feb. 5 & 19). Each session will offer two options to attend, beginning at either 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. For more information call the office at 618-644-2142.

### **LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

This year's Lenten Bible Study will be held each Wednesday, March 5 - April 9 at 7 p.m., and we'll be using the book *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects* by Jill Duffield. If you are interested in joining us for the study, let Pastor Phil know by Jan. 18th so we can order enough books.



### **SNOW SHOVELING**

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

**\*\*\* THE UPPER ROOM** (Jan-Feb) magazines are available on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob.

**FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 12:2-6**

God is indeed my salvation; I will trust and won't be afraid.

Yah, the Lord, is my strength and my shield; he has become my salvation."

You will draw water with joy from the springs of salvation.

And you will say on that day:

"Thank the Lord; call on God's name; proclaim God's deeds among the peoples; declare that God's name is exalted.

Sing to the Lord, who has done glorious things; proclaim this throughout all the earth."

Shout and sing for joy, city of Zion, because the holy one of Israel is great among you.

**SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7**

Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

**GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire."

The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same."

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

He replied, "Collect no more than you are authorized to collect."

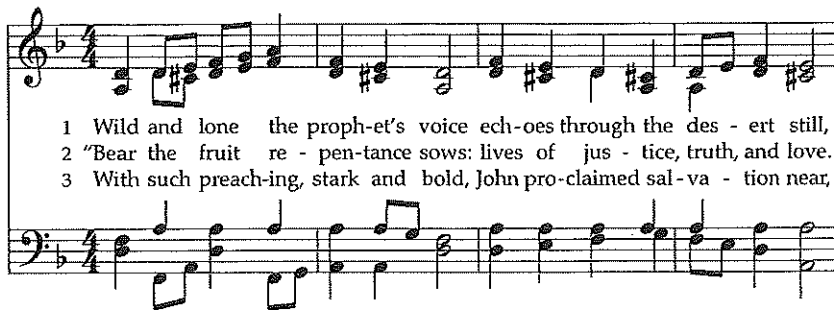
Soldiers asked, "What about us? What should we do?"

He answered, "Don't cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay."

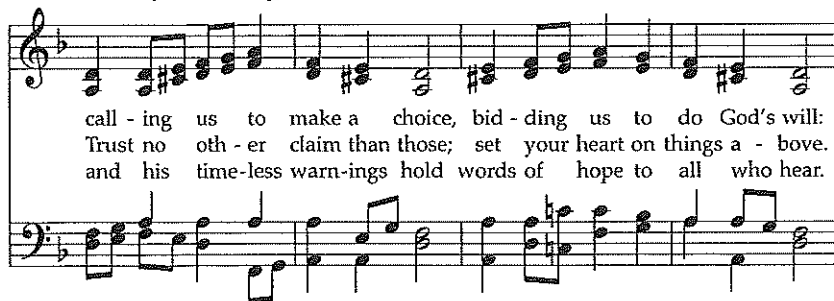
The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out." With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.



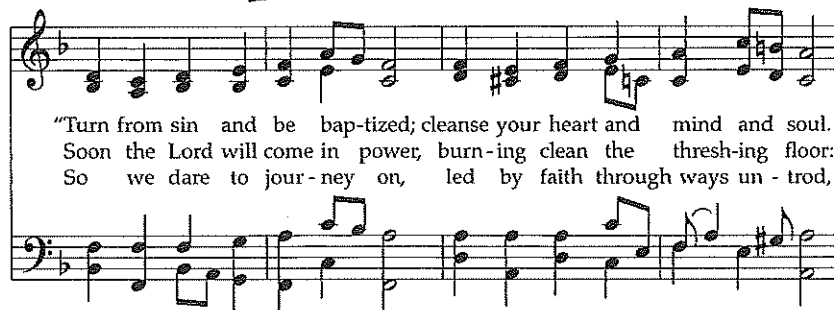
## 163 Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice



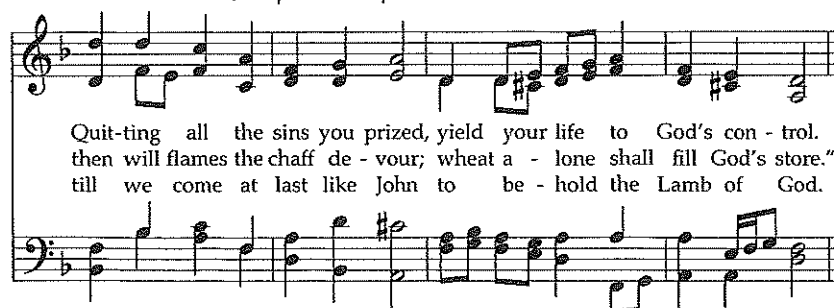
1 Wild and lone the proph-et's voice ech-oes through the des - ert still,  
 2 "Bear the fruit re - pen-tance sows: lives of jus - tice, truth, and love.  
 3 With such preach-ing, stark and bold, John pro-claimed sal - va - tion near,



call - ing us to make a choice, bid - ding us to do God's will:  
 Trust no oth - er claim than those; set your heart on things a - bove.  
 and his time-less warn-ings hold words of hope to all who hear.



"Turn from sin and be bap-tized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.  
 Soon the Lord will come in power; burn-ing clean the thresh-ing floor:  
 So we dare to jour - ney on, led by faith through ways un - trod,



Quit-ting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's con - trol.  
 then will flames the chaff de - vour; wheat a - lone shall fill God's store."  
 till we come at last like John to be - hold the Lamb of God.

While all four gospels identify John the Baptist with the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3, this text (well set to a vigorous Welsh tune) draws on the report of his preaching in Matthew 3:1-12. The final lines recall that he was the first to name Jesus "the Lamb of God" (John 1:29, 36).

## 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.