



# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 29, 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:** "The kingdom of God is available to you in the here and the now. But the question is whether you are available to the kingdom."

~ Thich Nhat Hanh

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**ONE:** Praise God! Praise the Lord, all creation!

**ALL:** Stars glittering with grace, birds of the sky and whales of the deep singing of hope: all praise our God!

**ONE:** Praise God! Praise the Lord, all you people!

**ALL:** From the youngest child to the eldest adult, the wise and those learning to walk: all praise our God!

**ONE:** Praise God! Praise the Lord, in every moment, in every place!

**ALL:** In church or at home; at work or at play: we will praise our God.

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HYMN	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	203
HYMN	<i>Good Christian Friends, Rejoice</i>	198
FIRST READING	Psalm 148	
HYMN	<i>The Birthday of a King</i>	224
HYMN	<i>He is Born</i>	201
HYMN	<i>See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw</i>	227
SECOND READING	Luke 2:22-40	
HYMN	<i>Carol at the Manger</i>	199
HYMN	<i>Go Tell It On the Mountain</i>	218

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

### WE GIVE:

*We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.*

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

Thank you, God, for coming to us in a human life so expressive of love that two thousand years have not extinguished the flame. May that love burn so brightly in our lives that its fires will spread. Use our offerings to ignite in the world such caring and compassion that all your children may know joy and peace, in Jesus' name. 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      *Hymn of Promise*      515

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

### SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Kevin Hollis

Accompanist

Melissa Anderson Taylor

### 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

- Carbondale Church of the Good Shepherd - Rev. Kim (Dr. Aaron Newcomb) Magwire

- Carlinville St. Paul UCC - Pastor Eddie Burton

#### Retired Pastor

- Rev. Gary (Joyce) Kniepcamp

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Myrna Anderson, Dec. 29

Ryan Baer, Jan. 2

Jane Noeltner, Jan. 2



## CHURCH ATTENDANCE, December 22, 2024

St. John's – 14 St. Jacob – 34

### 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

**WEDNESDAY: Happy NEW YEAR!**

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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. For more details and registration information visit the St. Jacob UCC Facebook page ([facebook.com/stjacobucc](https://facebook.com/stjacobucc)).

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

A short, four-week adult Bible Study on the 10 Commandments will be offered every other Wednesday (Jan. 15 & 29, 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, or add your name to the sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

### **ST. JACOB 2025 ENVELOPE BOOKLETS AVAILABLE**

The St. Jacob 2025 envelope booklets are available for you to pick up on the table in the Narthex.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION**

In case of inclement weather, we have implemented the following procedure: No later than 8 a.m., Sunday morning there will be a message on the church answering machine (618-644-2142) stating whether church will be cancelled. Also, the cancellation of service will be posted on our Facebook page and Channel 5.

### **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!

**FIRST LESSON: Psalm 148**

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from heaven! Praise God on the heights!  
Praise God, all of you who are his messengers! Praise God, all of you who comprise his heavenly forces!  
Sun and moon, praise God! All of you bright stars, praise God!  
You highest heaven, praise God! Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!  
Let all of these praise the Lord's name because God gave the command and they were created!  
God set them in place always and forever. God made a law that will not be broken.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all you ocean depths!  
Do the same, fire and hail, snow and smoke, stormy wind that does what God says!  
Do the same, you mountains, every single hill, fruit trees, and every single cedar!  
Do the same, you animals – wild or tame – you creatures that creep along and you birds that fly!  
Do the same, you kings of the earth and every single person, you princes and every single ruler on earth!  
Do the same, you young men – young women too! – you who are old together with you who are young!

Let all of these praise the Lord's name because only God's name is high over all.

Only God's majesty is over earth and heaven.

God raised the strength of his people, the praise of all his faithful ones – that's the Israelites,  
the people who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

**SECOND LESSON: Luke 2:22-40**

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. When he was 12 years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to their custom. After the festival was over, they were returning home, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't know it. Supposing that he was among their band of travelers, they journeyed on for a full day while looking for him among their family and friends. When they didn't find Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and putting questions to them. Everyone who heard him was amazed by his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were shocked.

His mother said, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Listen! Your father and I have been worried. We've been looking for you!"

Jesus replied, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father's house?" But they didn't understand what he said to them.

Jesus went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother cherished every word in her heart. Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people.