



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

January 12, 2025

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: "We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ." ~ Pope Francis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Like the soft whisper of a little child singing to herself before anyone else in the house is awake,

ALL: Ever so gently, God's voice cradles us with songs of wonder and awe.

ONE: With the persistence of teenagers and young adults, heady with the newfound freedom of questioning everything,

ALL: God's voice rumbles like a river through our lives, sweeping away all the boundaries between us.

ONE: Like the grandfather who passes on the secret to his bread, or the grandmother who teaches her grandchildren how to drive,

ALL: God's voice is always reminding us that we are precious, esteemed, beloved.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Holy God, we know what it is like to be singed by the flames of our lives. We look for fulfillment in all the wrong places – success, power, adulation. We carve our names in the granite walls of work, hoping we will be remembered when we are gone. We have gone through the waters of baptism, but live as if they have not changed us. Help us to hear your sure words, “do not fear”. Remind us that our failures do not cause you to quit loving us and that, in our baptism, we discover not the end, but the first step of our journey with 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 43:1-7

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

HYMN*When Jesus Came to Jordan*

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SERMON**REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM** – *Insert***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*)

For bringing us safely to this hour, we give you thanks, O God of wind and fire. May our offerings honor you. May our lives reflect your mercy. May our hands bestow on others the blessings we have received. May our prayers unite us with one another and with Christ, in whose name we celebrate the privilege of giving. Amen.

HYMN*I Come with Joy*

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SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION – *Insert***PRAYERS OF OUR CHURCH/SILENT PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER****PRAYER RESPONSE** Into My Heart

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*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** *Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart*

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Patti Woods
Liturgist	Kay Guse
Accompanist	Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Sherry Christ, Christy Lanning, Fred Lanning, Sean and Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy, and the Family of Don Koenig

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Marvin Docter, Lori Foley, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Kathleen Ritter, and the family of Ed Leder

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

- Collinsville St. John UCC - Rev. Jennifer Sowell
- Columbia St. Paul UCC - Rev. Jonathon (Sharon) Bangera

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Dr. Don (Nancy) Wagner

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Jerid Ahrens, Jan. 12
Katie Prange, Jan. 12
Sandy Rujawitz, Jan. 12
Debbie Zobrist, Jan. 14
Gene Gansmann, Jan. 16
Sharon Koenig, Jan. 16

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, December 29, 2024

St. John's – 15 St. Jacob – 16

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

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TUESDAY: St. John's Council meeting, 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY 19: St. John's annual meeting, noon

JANUARY 20: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

JANUARY 26: St. Jacob annual meeting, following worship

RETURN OF SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST. JACOB

Sunday School began today 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).

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.

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: Isaiah 43:1-7

But now, says the Lord –
the one who created you, Jacob, the one who formed you, Israel:
Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when through the rivers,
they won't sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched and flame won't burn you.
I am the Lord your God, the holy one of Israel, your savior.
I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place.
Because you are precious in my eyes, you are honored, and I love you.
I give people in your place, and nations in exchange for your life.
Don't fear, I am with you.
From the east I'll bring your children; from the west I'll gather you.
I'll say to the north, "Give them back!" and to the south, "Don't detain them."
Bring my sons from far away, and my daughters from the end of the earth,
everyone who is called by my name and whom I created for my glory,
whom I have formed and made.

SECOND LESSON: Acts 8:14-17

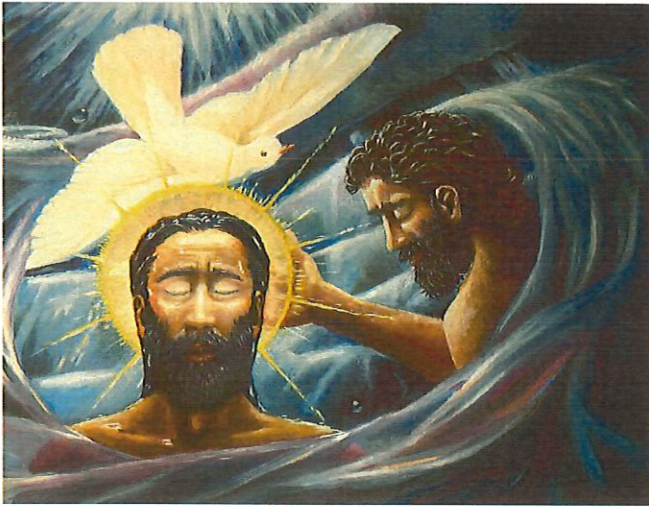
When word reached the apostles in Jerusalem that Samaria had accepted God's word, they commissioned Peter and John to go to Samaria. Peter and John went down to Samaria where they prayed that the new believers would receive the Holy Spirit. (This was because the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen on any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) So Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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."

When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit came down on him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

Remembrance of Baptism



Greeting

One: Dear friends, on this day of re-creation we recall Christ's baptism, and we claim and remember our own.

People: We gather at this font of living water to celebrate the gift of God's redeeming grace.

One: For just as the body is one and has many members and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

People: For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, male or female—and were all made to drink of one Spirit.

One: Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

*Affirmation of Faith

One: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: **I do.**

One: Do you believe in God?

People: **I believe in God, the creator of heaven and earth.**

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, the only one begotten of God before all worlds.**

One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: **I believe in God, the Holy Spirit.**

One: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

One: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

One: Let us pray.

People: **In this and all we do, keep us faithful to our Savior Jesus Christ, forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing of Water

One: Let us pray.

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Noah you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning. In the time of Moses and Miriam your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus Christ who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water that by it we may be reminded of our baptism into Jesus Christ and that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may be kept faithful until you receive us at last in your eternal home.

People: **Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.**

The Congregation Remembers Baptism

One: Eternal God, you have come to us in Jesus Christ, given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins, Bless us now with the grace we need to fulfill what we have promised.

People: **Keep us faithful to our Savior Jesus Christ, forever and ever.**
Amen.

You are invited to come up the center aisle to the baptismal font to touch the waters of baptism and receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please let the usher know and Pastor Phil will bring the water to you.

One: Remember your baptism and be thankful.

People: **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: You, Lord God, created the waters and the dry land. You spirit gave breath to Earth's people. We long for relationship with you, but in our humanness we turn away. Yet you remain steadfast, calling us again and again to turn to you. You planted justice on the Earth and sent the Messiah as a light to all people. For your ever-present grace and for all your mercies towards us, we join your people on earth and all the company of heaven in proclaiming your praise:

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: Holy are you and blessed is your son, Jesus Christ.

In this season we remember your gift of Baptism: how Jesus, though without sin, went to be baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And your voice came from Heaven, "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

We saw his glory, and we understood Jesus as your anointed one, as he took the bread and said “Take and eat for I will not eat this again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. Do this in remembrance of me.” And likewise as, after the meal, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, and said “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.”

In thanks for your beloved Son and all his actions on our behalf, we bring our whole selves to you as we proclaim the mystery of 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 these gifts of bread and cup, and on us, your children. Claim us as your own that we may go forth as your representatives in the world. And 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

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.