



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

January 26, 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: "When a person, yielding to God and believing the truth of God, is filled with the Spirit of God, even his faintest whisper will be worship."

~ Aiden Wilson Tozer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The Light of Epiphany shines upon the Living Word!

ALL: We have come to worship and to gain new wisdom and understanding.

ONE: This is the first day of a new week. The Word of God will be read and heard with clarity.

ALL: Let the ears of all the people be attentive. God has a fresh word for both the young and old.

ONE: This day is holy unto the Lord, our God; we will not mourn or weep.

ALL: Together we will bless the Great God with praise, as we lift up holy hands.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Spirit of the Living God, you have anointed us to carry good news, and we instead have carried lies and gossip. You told us to take good news to the poor, and instead we have too often turned away from them. You sent us to proclaim release to captives, to allow the oppressed to go free, and instead we have become greater oppressors ourselves. Forgive us our sin and grant us your mercy. Open our eyes that we may see how others truly live. Enlarge our hearts so that we may embrace opportunities to serve. Open our ears that we can listen to what Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, teaches us about your love and grace. 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:

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalms 19

Luke 4:14-21

HYMN***God Has Spoken by the Prophets*****667**

George Wallace Briggs | Ludwig van Beethoven © Words: 1953, Renewal 1981 The Hymn Society; Music: Public Domain

SERMON**HYMN*****Called as Partners in Christ's Service*****581**

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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*)

In the Spirit of Christ, we give our best for the world. Your rule among us, O God, is more to be desired than riches. Therefore, we share what you have allowed us to use, giving thanks for the joy of helping others and entering into partnership with them. This is only the beginning of our offering, for we dedicate here our varied gifts as apostles, prophets, teachers, healers, helpers, administrators, speakers, workers. In all we do, we will seek to serve you by sharing your love. 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*****In Christ There Is No East or West*****603**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Patti Woods
Liturgist	Beth Frank
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

St. Jacob: Edie Haller Bridges, Carol Casperson, Marvin Docter, Lori Foley, Norma Logsdon, and Jackie Miller

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

- Dupo Christ UCC - Rev. Todd (Suzanne) Mushaney
- DuQuoin St. John's UCC - Rev. Robert Morwell

Retired Pastor

- Retired Pastor - Rev. David (Kathryn) Riebeling

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Gina Hirsch, Jan. 27
Lynn Shirley, Feb. 1

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, January 19, 2025

St. John's – 13 St. Jacob – 23

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

TODAY: St. Jacob annual meeting, following worship (soup and chili luncheon)

FEBRUARY 2: Strawberry Festival meeting following worship at St. Jacob UCC

ST. JACOB 2024 ENVELOPE BOOKLETS/GIVING STATEMENTS

The St. Jacob 2024 Envelope Booklets and Giving Statements are available for you to pick up on the table in the Narthex.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST. JACOB

Sunday School will be held before worship (9-10 a.m.) the 2nd & 4th Sundays through May and is open to all children kindergarten through 6th grade. For more details and registration information visit the St. Jacob UCC Facebook page (facebook.com/stjacobucc).

ADULT BIBLE STUDY AT ST. JACOB

Our adult Bible Study on the 10 Commandments will continue every other Wednesday (Jan. 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.

FIRST LESSON: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

When the seventh month came and the people of Israel were settled in their towns, all the people gathered together in the area in front of the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Instruction scroll from Moses, according to which the Lord had instructed Israel.

So on the first day of the seventh month, Ezra the priest brought the instruction before the assembly. This assembly was made up of both men and women and anyone who could understand what they heard. Facing the area in front of the Water Gate, he read it aloud, from early morning until the middle of the day. He read it in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and everyone listened attentively to the Instruction scroll.

Standing above all of the people, Ezra the scribe opened the scroll in the sight of all of the people. And as he opened it, all of the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all of the people answered, "Amen! Amen!" while raising their hands. Then they bowed down and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

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(Continued from inside cover)

They read aloud from the scroll, the Instruction from God, explaining and interpreting it so the people could understand what they heard.

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all of the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Don't mourn or weep." They said this because all the people wept when they heard the words of the Instruction.

"Go, eat rich food, and drink something sweet," he said to them, "and send portions of this to any who have nothing ready! This day is holy to our Lord. Don't be sad, because the joy from the Lord is your strength!"

SECOND 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.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it."