



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

February 23, 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: "Loving Your Enemies... Far from being the pious injunction of a utopian dreamer, this demand is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. Yes, it is love that will save our world and civilization; love even for our enemies." ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We come seeking to trust in God.

ALL: We commit ourselves to do as Jesus would do for those around us.

ONE: We come delighting in all the wonders God provides.

ALL: We would not worry, but open ourselves to God's heart.

ONE: We come waiting patiently for God to speak.

ALL: We will be still, listening for God's words of hope and peace.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

In this season of light, O God, we find ourselves wandering the shadows of the world. In this time when we focus on Jesus' ministry of healing, we hold tight to all those emotions – hatred, fear, worry – which continue to damage us. In these days when we are invited to listen to Jesus' teachings, we confess it is easier to hear the seductive words of sin. Forgive us for trusting in promises which are short-lived, rather than in your Word which endures forever. Help us to follow Jesus that he might lead us from that far country of fear and doubt to that better country of resurrection and true life. 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:

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

Luke 6:27-38

HYMN***Help Us Accept Each Other*****596**

© Words: 1975 Hope Publishing Company; Music: 1977 Hope Publishing Company

SERMON**HYMN*****For the Healing of the Nations*****621**

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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*)

Receive our joy, O God, along with our gifts. We reach out with this offering to do good in and through your church. May any who have harmed others be helped. Heal us of unjust anger, jealousy, and strife. Through our shared life in this community of faith, create in us the image of the one who dwells in heaven. Let us share with the whole world the blessings we receive from your hand. 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*****Pass it On*****557**

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BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person: Cathy Frutiger
Liturgist: Kay Guse
Accompanist: Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Sherry Christ, and Sean and Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy

St. Jacob: Kirsten Bohnenstiehl, Edie Haller Bridges, Carol Casperson, Marvin Docter, Lori Foley, Sylvia Hoerchler, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, and Darik Zobrist

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

- Floraville St. Paul UCC - Pastor Matt (Laura) Friz
- Freeburg St. Paul's UCC - Rev. Dr. Andrew (Brenda) Lovins

Retired Pastors

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

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Ryan Becker, Feb. 23
Bruce Frank, Feb. 24
Zach Lowe, Feb. 24
Justin Huelsmann, Feb. 26
Margie Foxworthy, March 1

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, February 16, 2025

St. John's – No service 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

WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible study, 10 a.m. & 7 p.m. (rescheduled from Feb. 19)

WEDNESDAY: St. Jacob Maintenance Committee meeting, 6 p.m.

MARCH 2: Transfiguration Sunday

MARCH 5: Ash Wednesday, worship at St. Jacob UCC, 7 p.m.

MARCH 9: Strawberry Festival committee meeting following worship

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.

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](https://www.facebook.com/stjacobucc)).

ON-LINE GIVING OPTION

An on-line giving option is available on our web site (<https://stjacobucc.org/>). There are two ways to access the on-line giving option: the first is the "DONATE" button located on the top-right corner of the "Home Page," and the second is by clicking on "RESOURCES" and then "DONATE." If you have any issues using the on-line giving option, please contact the church office at (618) 644-2142.

SNOW SHOVELING

We still have several weeks of winter weather remaining, and several weeks still need volunteers to shovel the church sidewalks. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. Thank you to all those who have volunteered!

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.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I'm Joseph! Is my father really still alive?" His brothers couldn't respond because they were terrified before him.

Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me," and they moved closer. He said, "I'm your brother Joseph! The one you sold to Egypt. Now, don't be upset and don't be angry with yourselves that you sold me here. Actually, God sent me before you to save lives. We've already had two years of famine in the land, and there are five years left without planting or harvesting. God sent me before you to make sure you'd survive and to rescue your lives in this amazing way. You didn't send me here; it was God who made me a father to Pharaoh, master of his entire household, and ruler of the whole land of Egypt.

"Hurry! Go back to your father. Tell him this is what your son Joseph says: 'God has made me master of all of Egypt. Come down to me. Don't delay. You may live in the land of Goshen, so you will be near me, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and everyone with you. I will support you there, so you, your household, and everyone with you won't starve, since the famine will still last five years.'

He kissed all of his brothers and wept, embracing them. After that, his brothers were finally able to talk to him.

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Don't get upset over evildoers; don't be jealous of those who do wrong,
because they will fade fast, like grass; they will wither like green vegetables.

Trust the Lord and do good; live in the land, and farm faithfulness.

Enjoy the Lord, and he will give what your heart asks.

Commit your way to the Lord! Trust him! He will act and will make your righteousness shine like the dawn,
your justice like high noon.

Be still before the Lord, and wait for him.

Don't get upset when someone gets ahead – someone who invents evil schemes.

Let go of anger and leave rage behind! Don't get upset—it will only lead to evil.

Because evildoers will be eliminated, but those who hope in the Lord – they will possess the land.

In just a little while the wicked won't exist! If you go looking around their place, they won't be there.

But the weak will inherit the land; they will enjoy a surplus of peace.

The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; he is their refuge in times of trouble.

The Lord will help them and rescue them – rescue them from the wicked – and he will save them

because they have taken refuge in him.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

"But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other one as well. If someone takes your coat, don't withhold your shirt either. Give to everyone who asks and don't demand your things back from those who take them. Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you.

"If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to be paid back in full. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.

"Don't judge, and you won't be judged. Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion – packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing – will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return."