

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

March 9, 2025

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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:** "Lent comes providentially to awaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." ~ Pope Francis

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**ONE:** Led by the Holy Spirit, we come to this place.

**ALL:** God has given us this haven where we may bring our hopes, our fears, our doubts, our wonder.

**ONE:** Led by the Holy Spirit, we will gather for prayer.

**ALL:** Jesus has come to be with us in our lives, to hear our cries and give us grace and peace.

**ONE:** Led by the Holy Spirit, we will go to serve God's people.

**ALL:** There is no distinction between us and them, we are sisters and brothers in God's family.

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of our ancestors, we confess that we can become so obsessed with all that is new, that we ignore the past which is filled with wisdom. We prefer to wander down streets to all the places we know so well, yet are reluctant to be led by your spirit into unfamiliar neighborhoods. We sometimes are in such a hurry to get our heart's desires, we stumble past the grace you are longing to give us. Hear our hearts and see our brokenness, O God, and forgive us. May we grow in trust of you, rather than testing you. Gather us up and bring us into the presence of Jesus Christ our Savior, that we might follow him all the way to Jerusalem and beyond. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### GLORIA PATRI

734

## 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:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

**HYMN**            *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*            252

**SERMON**

**HYMN**            *I Know Whom I Have Believed*            407

**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*)

From the abundance entrusted to us, we offer up the best we can give. Guide our use of this precious trust, that it may be spent in ways you choose, in places where you would send us, for the sake of people among whom you wish to dwell. May we bear witness to your abiding love, not only with money but with dedicated lives. Allow us to be instruments of assurance and compassion in our homes and wherever our journeys lead. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF OUR CHURCH/SILENT PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**            **Hear Our Prayer, O Lord**            490

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;  
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.*

**\* HYMN**            *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*            254

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **SERVING YOU TODAY**

Council Person:	Angela Imming
Liturgist	Beth Frank
Accompanist:	Melissa Anderson Taylor

### **IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS**

- St. John's:** Sherry Christ, and Sean and Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy, and the family of Wendy Wilhelm
- St. Jacob:** Kirsten Bohnenstiehl, Edie Haller Bridges, Carol Casperson, Marvin Docter, Lori Foley, Sylvia Hoerchler, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Darik Zobrist, and the family of Genny Armstrong

**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**

- Granite City St. John UCC - Rev. Karla (Rev. Charles Preston) Frost
- Grantfork UCC - Rev. Nancy Brooks

#### **Retired Pastors**

- Rev. Michael (Elizabeth) Marx

### **UPCOMING BIRTHDAY**

Patrick Thornton, March 10

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE, March 2, 2025

St. John's – 12    St. Jacob – 30

### 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

**TODAY:** Strawberry Festival committee meeting following worship

**WEDNESDAY:** Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

**MARCH 17:** St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

**MARCH 20:** St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

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### **LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

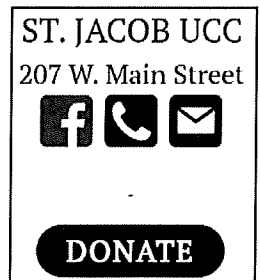
This year's Lenten Bible Study will be held each Wednesday, March 5 - April 9 at 7 p.m., and we'll be using the book *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects* by Jill Duffield.

### **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://facebook.com/stjacobucc)).

### **ON-LINE GIVING OPTION**

An on-line giving option is available on St. Jacob UCC's 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 a couple weeks of winter 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!

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

**FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

Once you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you take possession of it and are settled there, take some of the early produce of the fertile ground that you have harvested from the land the Lord your God is giving you, and put it in a basket. Then go to the location the Lord your God selects for his name to reside. Go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him: "I am declaring right now before the Lord my God that I have indeed arrived in the land the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us."

The priest will then take the basket from you and place it before the Lord your God's altar. Then you should solemnly state before the Lord your God:

"My father was a starving Aramean. He went down to Egypt, living as an immigrant there with few family members, but that is where he became a great nation, mighty and numerous. The Egyptians treated us terribly, oppressing us and forcing hard labor on us. So we cried out for help to the Lord, our ancestors' God. The Lord heard our call. God saw our misery, our trouble, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, with awesome power, and with signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land – a land full of milk and honey. So now I am bringing the early produce of the fertile ground that you, Lord, have given me."

Set the produce before the Lord your God, bowing down before the Lord your God. Then celebrate all the good things the Lord your God has done for you and your family – each one of you along with the Levites and the immigrants who are among you.

**SECOND LESSON: Romans 10:8-13**

But what does it say? *The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart* (that is, the message of faith that we preach). Because if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness, and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. The scripture says, *All who have faith in him won't be put to shame*. There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives richly to all who call on him. *All who call on the Lord's name will be saved*.

**GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13**

Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. There he was tempted for forty days by the devil. He ate nothing during those days and afterward Jesus was starving. The devil said to him, "Since you are God's Son, command this stone to become a loaf of bread."

Jesus replied, "It's written, *People won't live only by bread*."

Next the devil led him to a high place and showed him in a single instant all the kingdoms of the world. The devil said, "I will give you this whole domain and the glory of all these kingdoms. It's been entrusted to me and I can give it to anyone I want. Therefore, if you will worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered, "It's written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him*."

The devil brought him into Jerusalem and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, "Since you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here; for it's written: *He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you and they will take you up in their hands so that you won't hit your foot on a stone*."

Jesus answered, "It's been said, *Don't test the Lord your God*." After finishing every temptation, the devil departed from him until the next opportunity.