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nommees et de ses disciples
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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

April 6, 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: "Taking care is one way to show your love. Another way is letting people take good care of you when you need it." ~ **Fred Rogers**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Whatever God did in the past, the future is that much better!

ALL: **We will not stop looking for the newness God has for us!**

ONE: Whatever we have achieved to this point, we have not completed our journey.

ALL: **We will quicken our pace to follow Jesus wherever he leads.**

ONE: Whatever obstacles we put in the path, God will make a way in our hearts.

ALL: **We will move onward, through our doubts and fears.**

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Mary Anoints Christ's Feet, ca. 1503. from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of grace and glory, you are always in the business of surprising us with new lives, new dreams, new hopes. But we are so blinded by the dull reflection of our old habits, that we cannot see the fresh chances which you give so freely to us. Our senses are so deadened by our desires that we cannot smell the bouquet of joy that is in the air. Forgive us, O God. By your mercy, mend our broken lives. Rearrange our priorities that we may value the future you set before us and let go of all that holds us back from faithful living. 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:

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

John 12:1-8

SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

GIVE THANKS:

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. And now let the weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

Gift-giving God, we are glad for all the good things you have done for us. We count everything as loss before the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ. Receive our costly offerings and our best efforts, here dedicated for your use. May Christ be proclaimed and the poor be saved from the terrors of suffering and neglect. Fill the hearts of all your children with laughter and joy. To that end, bless our offerings. Amen.

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SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION – *Insert*

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.*

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: Holy God, our loving Creator, you are as close to us as our breathing, and you are as distant as the farthest star. We thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith around the world and of every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, who you sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our prayers with the entire family of your faithful people, everywhere and in every time:

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: Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. We remember that Jesus ate and drank with the poor and with the wealthy, with the sinful and righteous alike. When he saw the multitude that followed him with nothing to eat, he took some loaves of bread, and a few fish, and after giving thanks to you he divided the bread and gave it to the multitude. And all ate and were filled. When his arrest seemed near, Jesus sat at table in an upper room, with his closest friends and disciples. As he had done so many times before, he took the bread

and after giving thanks to you he shared it among the disciples, vowing to continue his work in spite of the risk. He said, "I will not eat this again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after the meal, he took the cup and after giving thanks he gave it to them saying, "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." For a time it seemed that all was lost. Jesus was executed by the authorities, and his disciples scattered in fear and despair. But at an evening meal in Emmaus, and at a breakfast campfire by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus once more took the bread, and after giving thanks to you he divided it and gave it to his disciples, opening their eyes, binding up their wounded hearts, continuing the meal, and revealing plainly that your steadfast love is stronger even than death, and your labor with us continues, for the sake of your realm.

Therefore, let us proclaim the mystery of our 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 this bread and cup, and on us, your children. 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

Hosts are gluten free.

Juice in the center ring and wine in the outer rings.

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.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Kay Guse
Liturgist	Carol Kynion
Accompanist:	Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Marvin Docter, Lori Townsend Erwin, Lori Foley, Sylvia Hoerchler, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Carol Schmitt, Darik Zobrist, and the family of Ashley Emmerich and her son Jacob

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

- Godfrey Congregational UCC
- Jerseyville Peace UCC - Rev. Debbie Lawson

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Joan (John) Mier

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Katie Schultz, April 10
Jill Bloemker, April 11
Ken Frutiger, April 11
Kristie Daniel, April 12
Kristen Hill, April 12

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, March 30, 2025

St. John's – 11 St. Jacob – 37

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: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m.

APRIL 21: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

APRIL 22: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORMS

Order your flower(s) to decorate your church sanctuary for Easter Sunday, April 20. The deadline to order flowers is Sunday, April 13. Order forms are located on the table in the Narthex.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

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

VOLUNTEER LITURGISTS AT ST. JACOB

We are looking for volunteers willing to read scripture, no long-term commitment, just one Sunday at a time. Everyone from the congregation is invited to take part in helping lead worship. There is a sign-up sheet located on the table in the Narthex.

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.

ST. JACOB UCC

207 W. Main Street



DONATE

LAWN MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please volunteer to mow the church lawn. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 43:16-21

The Lord says – who makes a way in the sea and a path in the mighty waters,
 who brings out chariot and horse, army and battalion;
 they will lie down together and will not rise;
 they will be extinguished, extinguished like a wick.

Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history.

Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?

I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness.

The beasts of the field, the jackals and ostriches, will honor me,
 because I have put water in the desert and streams in the wilderness
 to give water to my people, my chosen ones,
 this people whom I formed for myself, who will recount my praise.

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 126

When the Lord changed Zion's circumstances for the better, it was like we had been dreaming.

Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter; our tongues were filled with joyful shouts.

It was even said, at that time, among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them!"

Yes, the Lord has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed.

Lord, change our circumstances for the better, like dry streams in the desert waste!

Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts.

Let those who go out, crying and carrying their seed,
 come home with joyful shouts, carrying bales of grain!

GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, home of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Lazarus and his sisters hosted a dinner for him. Martha served and Lazarus was among those who joined him at the table. Then Mary took an extraordinary amount, almost three-quarters of a pound, of very expensive perfume made of pure nard. She anointed Jesus' feet with it, then wiped his feet dry with her hair. The house was filled with the aroma of the perfume. Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), complained, "This perfume was worth a year's wages! Why wasn't it sold and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief. He carried the money bag and would take what was in it.)

Then Jesus said, "Leave her alone. This perfume was to be used in preparation for my burial, and this is how she has used it. You will always have the poor among you, but you won't always have me."