



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

August 3, 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: "Unless we place our faith and our treasure in the same thing, faith will always be sacrificed." ~ Epictetus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God of the past who whispered in the prophets' ears; who rescued us from sin's slavery:

ALL: We are here to thank you.

ONE: God of the future, who is tearing down the old world and building up your kingdom in our midst:

ALL: We are here because we trust you.

ONE: God of the present who, in the giftedness of our diversity, creates us to be one people:

ALL: We are here to praise you.

ONE: God of life that surprises us when we find it within us:

ALL: We celebrate your grace.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

You hold nothing back from us, Amazing God, yet we are determined to cling to what we have accumulated. You invite us to set aside our old ways and walk with you, but unknown paths fill us with fear. Have mercy on us, O Lord. We come to your table of grace and hope, not for our personal satisfaction, but for the joy of recognizing the One who calls us to new life. Forgive us, O God, that we may share your peace and love with everyone we meet. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

734

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US (*Skip if no children are in attendance*)

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:

Hosea 11:1-11

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

HYMN***God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*****572**

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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*)

Help us, O God, to give enough of ourselves and our substance that we will not be tempted to embrace the idolatry of greed. Before we begin envisioning "larger barns," help us to reflect on how what we have might be better used by others than stored up by us. We dedicate not just our offerings, but all we possess, to causes far greater than our own desires. Thank you for the abundant opportunity to share. Amen.

HYMN***One Bread, One Body*****689**

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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.*

*** HYMN*****Now Thank We All Our God*****14**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Carol Kynion
Liturgist	Angela Imming
Accompanist:	Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Cathy Frutiger, Jeff Kelley, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer, Kathy Ritter, Darik Zobrist and Olin Zweck

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

- St. John UCC, Valmeyer - Rev. Steven (Carla) Boorsma
- St. Paul UCC, Waterloo

Retired Pastors

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

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Pauline Laux, Aug. 3
Melody & Kevin Hollis, 25 years, Aug. 5
Paul Guse, Aug. 9

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, July 27, 2025

St. John's – 9 St. Jacob – 27

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

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

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.

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST 13: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m., Heritage Hall

BBQ MEAT BONANZA DRAWING AUG. 24

The ELFs organization, in conjunction with Korte Meat Processing, Inc., are offering you a chance to win one of three prize packs worth \$50, \$150, & \$250 toward the cost of Korte's barbeque meats in exchange for your donation. Tickets are \$3 each, or four for \$10. Ticket packets will be mailed out, and additional ticket packets are available on the table in the Narthex for you to sell to friends, family, or purchase yourself. The proceeds will be used for mission giving, including providing summer lunches, paying off the delinquent lunch debts from this past semester at the grade school, supplying emergency supplies for DuBois Center campers and sponsoring a girl in Kentucky, etc. The drawing will be held following worship, Aug. 24, where three lucky winners' names will be drawn. You can drop your donation/tickets into the BBQ safe on the table in the Narthex or mail them to: 207 West Main St. St. Jacob, IL 62281.

WALK WITH GOD

Come join our St. Jacob UCC walking group, called "Walk with God." Anyone who likes to take walks, be in nature and share in unity is encouraged to join us. We hope to get members of the church together a couple times a week to walk and be visible in the community. We will meet at the church and decide from there where we would like to walk. Days and times are to be determined by the participants. If you're interested in participating and would like more information, contact the church office at 618-644-2142 or e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com.

MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Highland Meals on Wheels needs volunteer drivers for the St. Jacob routes. The volunteer would need to pick up meals at St. Joseph Hospital in Highland between 10:30-11 a.m. and deliver to St. Jacob addresses. It usually takes about 1.5 hours to do the route. If interested in volunteering one day a week or as a substitute driver, call Mary Redshaw at 314-277-9296 or e-mail: mredshaw@att.net.

***** THE UPPER ROOM** (July-August) magazines are available on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob.

FIRST LESSON: Hosea 11:1-11

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the further they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and they burned incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up in my arms, but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with bands of human kindness, with cords of love. I treated them like those who lift infants to their cheeks; I bent down to them and fed them.

They will return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria will be their king, because they have refused to return to me. The sword will strike wildly in their cities; it will consume the bars of their gates and will take everything because of their schemes. My people are bent on turning away from me; and though they cry out to the Most High, he will not raise them up.

How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart winces within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.

I won't act on the heat of my anger; I won't return to destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a human being, the holy one in your midst; I won't come in harsh judgment. They will walk after the Lord, who roars like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west. They will come trembling like a bird, and like a dove from the land of Assyria; and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

SECOND LESSON: Colossians 3:1-11

Therefore, if you were raised with Christ, look for the things that are above where Christ is sitting at God's right side. Think about the things above and not things on earth. You died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

So put to death the parts of your life that belong to the earth, such as sexual immorality, moral corruption, lust, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). The wrath of God is coming upon disobedient people because of these things. You used to live this way, when you were alive to these things. But now set aside these things, such as anger, rage, malice, slander, and obscene language. Don't lie to each other. Take off the old human nature with its practices and put on the new nature, which is renewed in knowledge by conforming to the image of the one who created it. In this image there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all things and in all people.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

Someone from the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

Jesus said to him, "Man, who appointed me as judge or referee between you and your brother?"

Then Jesus said to them, "Watch out! Guard yourself against all kinds of greed. After all, one's life isn't determined by one's possessions, even when someone is very wealthy." Then he told them a parable: "A certain rich man's land produced a bountiful crop. He said to himself, What will I do? I have no place to store my harvest! Then he thought, Here's what I'll do. I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. That's where I'll store all my grain and goods. I'll say to myself, You have stored up plenty of goods, enough for several years. Take it easy! Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself. But God said to him, 'Fool, tonight you will die. Now who will get the things you have prepared for yourself?' This is the way it will be for those who hoard things for themselves and aren't rich toward God."

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: O God, when we were children running footloose through grace, you loved us, teaching us to walk the paths of that first dawn and telling us of your dreams for all you created. When, in our hurry to greet you, we fell, skinning our knees, you lifted us up into your arms, holding us to your cheeks wet with joy. When we missed you calling to us to wash up for dinner, you came and found us, taking us by the hand to feed us from creation's abundance. But as we grew up, we thought we knew more that you, turning to idols of wealth and power, that promised to serve us even as they shackled us. Yet you are God, not a foolish human. You remain in our midst, not to punish our destroy, but to reach out and bring us home to your heart.

Therefore, we joyfully lift our voices with those who have gone before us, and those who stand beside us, singing our praise for your great love:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of steadfast love.

All creation thanks you for your wonderful works.

Hosanna in the Highest!

Blessed is the One who comes to lead us by a new way.

Hosanna in the Highest!

ONE: Holy are you, God of infinite tenderness, and blessed is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. And 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 called upon the disciples to share what they had, 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. 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." We remember that you did not give up on us or hand us over to sin and death, but showered us with your mercy through Christ Jesus, breaking the enslaving bonds of sin and binding our wounds with cords of compassion.

And so we take the bread of life and the cup of grace and joyfully celebrate that mystery we call faith:

ALL: Christ has died, his life hidden in God. Christ is risen, seated at God's side. Christ will come again, that we might be revealed with him in glory.

ONE: Compassionate God, 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 satisfy the thirsty with your grace and the hungry with your love.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these your simple gifts. Fill us with the broken bread and touch our parched lips with the cup of salvation that we might be made whole and recognize the risen Christ in our midst.

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

Host 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.