



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

August 31, 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: “True hospitality is marked by an open response to the dignity of each and every person.” ~ **Kathleen Norris**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We come to worship our God,
to listen to the One who calls us here.

ALL: We come trusting God to lead us,
just as God did for our ancestors in the faith.

ONE: We come to worship our God,
to shout with joy to the God of all people.

ALL: We come to the Creator of all things,
to be bathed in the waters of life.

ONE: We come to the Feast of God’s faithful,
to be fed by the One who never forsakes us.

ALL: We come to worship our God,
to sing aloud to the One who saves us.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Hochhalter, Cara B.. A Parable - Where to Sit, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59048>. Original source: Cara B. Hochhalter.

CALL TO CONFESSION**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

We are always uncomfortable, Watching God, when you notice how we will sit in the seats of honor. We can be so proper, so good, so well-off, that it is easy to imagine we are superior to the poor. We are so busy completing our 'To Do' list each day, that we forget to do good when we have the chance. Forgive us, O God. Fill our emptiness with your grace and humility that we may spend our lives alongside Jesus, throwing a party for the poor, the hurt, the prisoner, the lost, and the oppressed. 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:

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

SERMON

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH – Insert

INVITATION TO OFFERING

WE GIVE:

*We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

In joyous thanksgiving for the banquet of life, we invite those who live in poverty to share our wealth. We give up some of our luxuries for the sake of brothers and sisters who lack food, shelter, or medical care. We reach out to help, expecting no reward but the satisfaction of sharing what you have so richly entrusted to us. We dedicate our time and abilities along with these fruits of our labor. Amen.

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

PRAYER RESPONSE Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Carol Kynion

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, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer, Kathy Ritter, 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

- Trinity UCC, Biddleborn - Rev. Tarrah (Jasen) Vaupel
- Trinity UCC, Belleville - Rev. Tim (Shea) Powers-Reed

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Janis (Rev. Bob Goddard) Dashner

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Haley Petchulat, Sept. 3

Diane & Sam Frey, 43 years, Sept. 4

Paul Baer, Sept. 5

Renee & John Bippen, 17 years, Sept. 6

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, August 24, 2025

St. John's – 11 St. Jacob – 35

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

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

SEPTEMBER 15: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 18: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

WINNERS OF THE BBQ MEAT BONANZA DRAWING

The winners of the ELF's BBQ Meat Bonanza drawing gift certificates, held Aug. 24 following worship, are:

Shawndel Rose - \$250

Darren Schmitt - \$150

Marilyn Warren - \$50

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who supported this ELF's fundraiser! 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 (things they forgot to pack such as wash clothes, toothbrushes, and paste, etc.), and sponsoring a girl in Kentucky, etc.

ST. JACOB UCC SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS SEPT. 28

St. Jacob UCC Sunday School begins at 9 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 28. Class will be held from 9-10 a.m. every second and fourth Sunday thereafter. All children from pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join the fun. To register, fill out the online form at: <https://forms.gle/eW6KTtPzSm4DkVtx5> or call the church office at 618-644-2142.

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.

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 2:4-13

Listen to the Lord's word, people of Judah, all you families of the Israelite household.

This is what the Lord says:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me that made them wander so far? They pursued what was worthless and became worthless. They didn't ask, "Where's the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us through the wilderness, in a land of deserts and ravines, in a land of drought and darkness, in a land of no return, where no one survives?" I brought you into a land of plenty, to enjoy its gifts and goodness, but you ruined my land; you disgraced my heritage. The priests didn't ask, "Where's the Lord?" Those responsible for the Instruction didn't know me; the leaders rebelled against me; the prophets spoke in the name of Baal, going after what has no value. That is why I will take you to court and charge even your descendants, declares the Lord. Look to the west as far as the shores of Cyprus and to the east as far as the land of Kedar. Ask anyone there: Has anything this odd ever taken place? Has a nation switched gods, though they aren't really gods at all? Yet my people have exchanged their glory for what has no value. Be stunned at such a thing, you heavens; shudder and quake, declares the Lord. My people have committed two crimes: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water. And they have dug wells, broken wells that can't hold water.

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Keep loving each other like family. Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place. Marriage must be honored in every respect, with no cheating on the relationship, because God will judge the sexually immoral person and the person who commits adultery. Your way of life should be free from the love of money, and you should be content with what you have. After all, he has said, I will never leave you or abandon you. This is why we can confidently say,

The Lord is my helper, and I won't be afraid. What can people do to me?

Remember your leaders who spoke God's word to you. Imitate their faith as you consider the way their lives turned out. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

So let's continually offer up a sacrifice of praise through him, which is the fruit from our lips that confess his name. Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to share a meal in the home of one of the leaders of the Pharisees, they were watching him closely.

When Jesus noticed how the guests sought out the best seats at the table, he told them a parable. "When someone invites you to a wedding celebration, don't take your seat in the place of honor. Someone more highly regarded than you could have been invited by your host. The host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give your seat to this other person.' Embarrassed, you will take your seat in the least important place. Instead, when you receive an invitation, go and sit in the least important place. When your host approaches you, he will say, 'Friend, move up here to a better seat.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up."

Then Jesus said to the person who had invited him, "When you host a lunch or dinner, don't invite your friends, your brothers and sisters, your relatives, or rich neighbors. If you do, they will invite you in return and that will be your reward. Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind. And you will be blessed because they can't repay you. Instead, you will be repaid when the just are resurrected."

THE UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.

Amen.

Together We Serve

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1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,
2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,
3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,
4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,



in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.
re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.



We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
We of - fer a home to those who will come,
To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,



ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.
un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.
our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.
re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

The first three words of this text appear in the website address for First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, California, for whose centennial the hymn was commissioned. The text draws on Ephesians 4:11-16, a passage describing the many gifts and ministries within the body of Christ.