



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

September 7, 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: "We live in bodies that are fearfully and wonderfully made, yet they are not immune to illness and pain. We have hearts that are capable of experiencing great love, but sometimes they get broken." - **Rev. Adam Hamilton**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We gather in the presence of God:

ALL: Who knows us when we wake up, when we go to sleep, and in all the moments in between.

ONE: We gather in the house of God:

ALL: Who has created a family for us, both here at home and around the world.

ONE: We gather to be the people of God:

ALL: Who appeals to us to follow in love, in faith, and in service.

* HYMN

Sweet Hour of Prayer

478

CALL TO CONFESSION

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

O God, we are so attached to our possessions that we struggle to share them. We are so connected to our pleasures that we cannot feel the pain of those around us. We are so stuck on ourselves; we cannot sense our souls slipping away into the shadows. Most merciful God, loosen us from the grip of the world so we may feel your healing touch. Sever us from our sin, so your Spirit might bind us to you. Reshape us, redeem us, and renew us, so we may take up our crosses and follow Christ. 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 18:1-11

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Luke 14:25-33

HYMN

Just As I Am

354

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)

Loving God, there is no way we can settle accounts with you. We have no way to repay you for all we have received from your hands. Yet we want to give our best to the work you call us to do through this community of seekers. We enter, with renewed commitment and confidence, the costly venture of spreading love through your world. Amen.

HYMN *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* INSERT

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION – Insert

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

PRAYER RESPONSE Make Me a Servant 576
*Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord let me lift up those who are weak;
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.*

* HYMN Have Thine Own Way, Lord! 486

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Else_Berg_A_potter.jpg.

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.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, September 7, 2025

St. John's – 15 St. Jacob – 22

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

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Dian Gansmann

Liturgist

Angela Imming

Accompanist:

Melody Hollis

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

- St. John's UCC, Breese

- St. John's UCC, Brighton- Rev. John (Jackie Gordon-Pawloski) Pawloski

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Jack (Barbara Van Ausdall) Spratt

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Diane Doll, Sept. 7
Larry Robison, Sept. 10
Karen Schultze, Sept. 11
Tim Christ, Sept. 12

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY: 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.

“HORSE HOOKY” TRIP TO THE TRACK SEPT. 23

The ELF's have planned a “Horse Hooky” trip to Fairmount Park Tuesday, Sept. 23. All church members are invited to attend. Meet at the church at 1:30 p.m., to form carpools, and then proceed to Fairmount Park. Lunch and snacks are available for purchase at the racetrack if desired.

ST. JACOB UCC SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS SEPT. 28

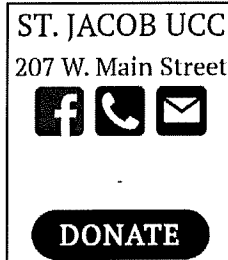
St. Jacob UCC Sunday School begins at 9 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 28. Class will be held from 9-10 a.m. every second and fourth Sunday thereafter. All children from pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join the fun. To register, fill out the online form at: <https://forms.gle/eW6KTtPzSm4DkVtx5> or call the office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

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.



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, or you may call the office at 618-644-2142 to sign up.

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.

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 18:1-11

Jeremiah received the Lord's word: Go down to the potter's house, and I'll give you instructions about what to do there. So I went down to the potter's house; he was working on the potter's wheel. But the piece he was making was flawed while still in his hands, so the potter started on another, as seemed best to him. Then the Lord's word came to me: House of Israel, can't I deal with you like this potter, declares the Lord? Like clay in the potter's hand, so are you in mine, house of Israel! At any time, I may announce that I will dig up, pull down, and destroy a nation or kingdom; but if that nation I warned turns from its evil, then I'll relent and not carry out the harm I intended for it. At the same time, I may announce that I will build and plant a nation or kingdom; but if that nation displeases and disobeys me, then I'll relent and not carry out the good I intended for it. Now say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem: This is what the Lord says: I am a potter preparing a disaster for you; I'm working out a plan against you. So, each one of you, turn from your evil ways; reform your ways and your actions.

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Lord, you have examined me. You know me.
You know when I sit down and when I stand up. Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.
You study my traveling and resting. You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.
There isn't a word on my tongue, Lord, that you don't already know completely.
You surround me – front and back. You put your hand on me.
That kind of knowledge is too much for me; It's so high above me that I can't reach it.

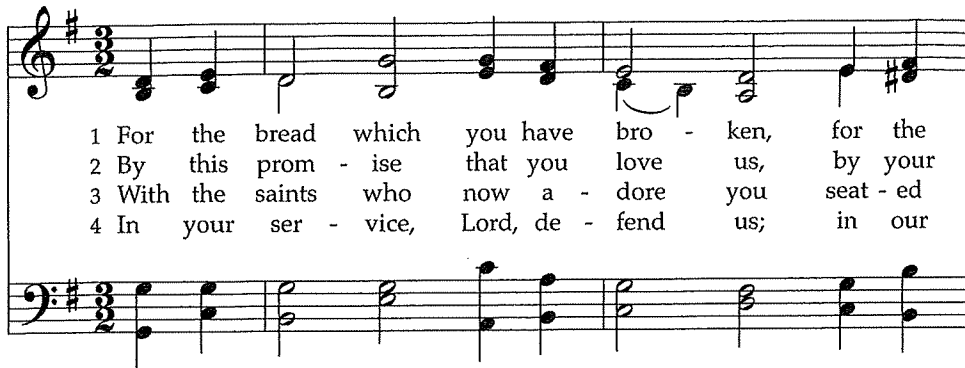
You are the one who created my innermost parts;
 you knit me together while I was still in my mother's womb.
I give thanks to you that I was fearfully and wonderfully made.
 Your works are wonderful – I know that very well.
My bones weren't hidden from you when I was being put together in a secret place,
 when I was being woven together in the deep parts of the earth.
Your eyes saw my embryo, and on your scroll every day was written that was being formed for me,
 before any one of them had yet happened.
God, your plans are incomprehensible to me! Their total number is countless!
If I tried to count them – they outnumber grains of sand! If I came to the very end – I'd still be with you.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

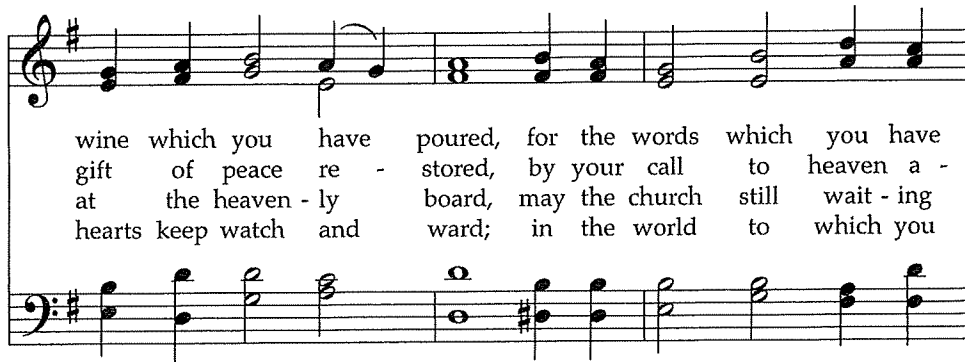
Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. Turning to them, he said, "Whoever comes to me and doesn't hate father and mother, spouse and children, and brothers and sisters – yes, even one's own life – cannot be my disciple. Whoever doesn't carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

"If one of you wanted to build a tower, wouldn't you first sit down and calculate the cost, to determine whether you have enough money to complete it? Otherwise, when you have laid the foundation but couldn't finish the tower, all who see it will begin to belittle you. They will say, 'Here's the person who began construction and couldn't complete it!' Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand soldiers could go up against the twenty thousand coming against him? And if he didn't think he could win, he would send a representative to discuss terms of peace while his enemy was still a long way off. In the same way, none of you who are unwilling to give up all of your possessions can be my disciple.

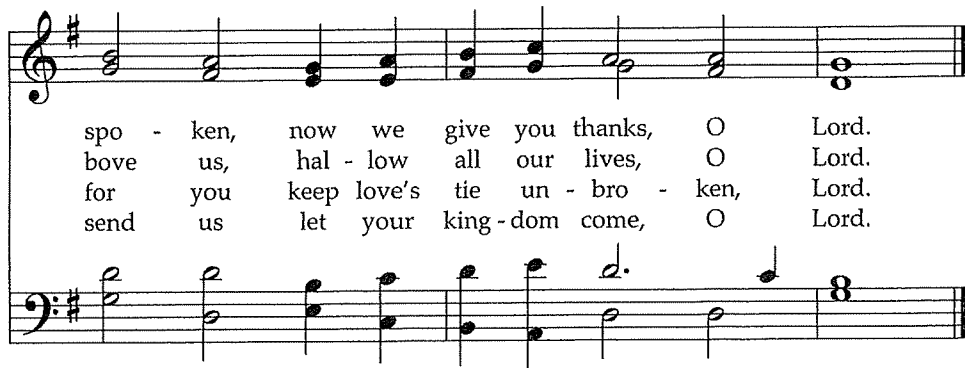
516 For the Bread Which You Have Broken



1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the
 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your
 3 With the saints who now a - dore you seat - ed
 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our



wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
 gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heaven a -
 at the heaven - ly board, may the church still wait - ing
 hearts keep watch and ward; in the world to which you



spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
 send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

The author of this text, the editor of several Presbyterian hymnals, was the foremost American hymnologist of the early 20th century. Although some of his language in this text echoes early hymns of the church, he is writing here not as a scholar but as a person of deep faith.

