



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

DECEMBER 14, 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: "Joy is the serious business of Heaven." ~ C. S. Lewis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Be patient! God is coming to us!

ALL: The One who teaches joyous songs to all of creation, comes to open
our ears to life.

ONE: Be strong! God is coming to be with us!

ALL: The One who paves a path to Bethlehem will walk with us every step
of the way.

ONE: Do not fear! Here is your God!

ALL: We worship the One who comes to save us.

* HYMN

While We Are Waiting, Come

Insert

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Toda la Tierra Espera: Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2025 by Lisa Hancock used with permission.
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/toda-la-tierra-espera-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2025>.

THE ADVENT WREATH – JOY *(Insert)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Ever Present God, you came to save us, but that is so hard to remember in this busy season. Our impatience for Christmas to arrive gets in the way of listening to our children singing in their rooms. We let the blinking lights blind us to your quiet presence in a hectic world. As you poured out your mercy on all who have gone before us, shower us with grace and forgiveness. Open our eyes to all your wonders that our ears will echo with the anthems of the angels and our emptiness will be filled with the life gifted to us through Jesus 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:

Psalms 146:5-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

HYMN

My Soul Proclaims with Wonder

170

Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company; Music © 1991 The Hymnal Project (Admin. Brethren Press)

SERMON**HYMN***On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry***156****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*)

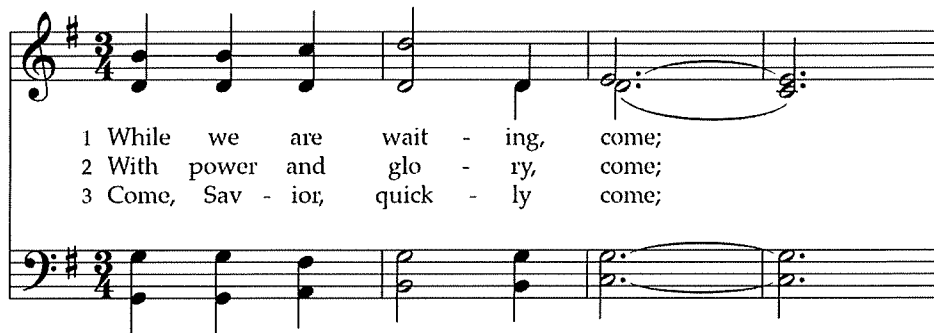
Majestic God, thank you for inviting us to share the blessings you pour out on us. We want to extend the healing ministry of Jesus who gave sight to those who were blind and new insight to some who only pretended to see. Use our resources to heal attitudes as well as bodies, to bring wholeness, not just cures. Help us to address the inequities of the earth that leave so many without food or shelter or hope. Lead us into your realm in the midst of our daily living. Amen.

PRAYERS OF OUR CHURCH/SILENT PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER**PRAYER RESPONSE***Make Me a Servant***576**

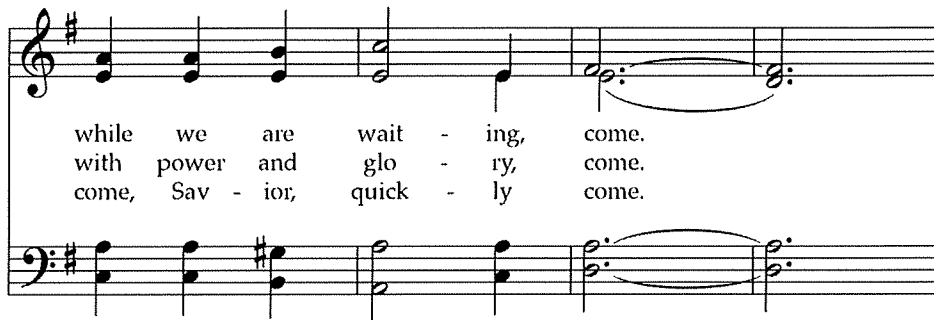
*Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord let me lift up those who are weak;
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.*

*** HYMN***O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing***96****BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE**

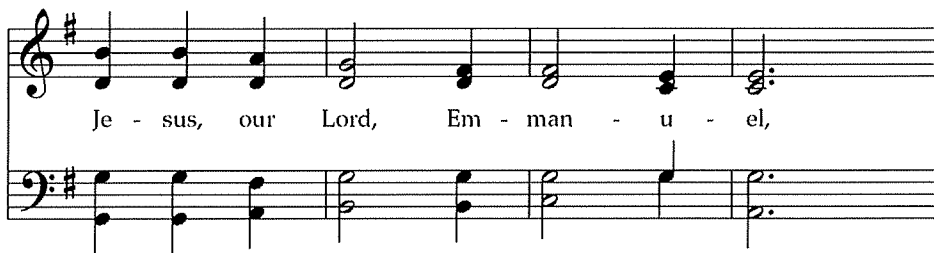
92 While We Are Waiting, Come



1 While we are wait - ing, come;
2 With power and glo - ry, come;
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;



while we are wait - ing, come.
with power and glo - ry, come.
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.



Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,



while we are wait - ing, come.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

THE ADVENT WREATH – JOY

Lighting the Candle

Advent Song

1. Light the advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun;
We have started on our way, time to think of Christmas day.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.
2. Light the advent candle, two Think of humble shepherds, who
filled with wonder at the sight of the child of Christmas night.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.
3. Light the advent candle, three: Think of heavenly harmony;
Angels singing “Peace on earth” at the blessed Savior’s birth.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

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CHURCH ATTENDANCE, December 7, 2025

St. John's – 10 St. Jacob – 39

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/Ty Gansmann

Liturgist

Melissa Anderson Taylor

Accompanist:

Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Kenzie Barker, Nancy McCaw, and Sean and Dustin,
sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy, and the family of Bobby Mikeals

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Rich Erwin, Lori Foley, Norma Logsdon,
Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer, Kathy Ritter,
Sandy Rujawitz, 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

- Zion Evangelical UCC, Hoyleton - Rev. Sharon Patton

- Friedens UCC, Irvington -Rev. Stacy (Mark) Tate

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Chris (Cathy) Hill

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Brittany Frank, Dec. 17
Germaine Rehg, Dec. 18
Tiffany Duncan, Dec. 19
Cameron Woods, Dec. 19
Carol Casperson, Dec. 20

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

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

DECEMBER 24: Christmas Eve worship, 4 p.m., St. Jacob & 7 p.m., St. John's

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Poinsettia order forms for Christmas Eve worship are available on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob. Paul has additional order forms for St. Johns. Return the forms, along with payment, to the St. Jacob Church office or drop in the offering plate at your church by **noon Tuesday, Dec. 16**. Poinsettia's may be taken home following worship service on Christmas Eve.

ST. JACOB UCC SUNDAY SCHOOL

St. Jacob UCC Sunday School will be held from 9-10 a.m., Dec. 21. All children 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 618-644-2142.

SNOW SHOVELING

Winter weather will be here before you know it. Please volunteer to shovel the church sidewalks. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. Thank you!

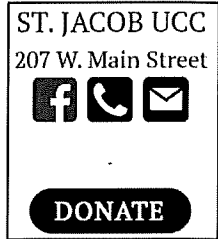


INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION

In case of inclement weather, we have implemented the following procedure: No later than 8 a.m., Sunday morning there will be a message on the church answering machine (618-644-2142) stating whether church will be cancelled. Also, the cancellation of service will be posted on our Facebook page and Channel 5.

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, contact 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 or for more information, contact the church office at 618-644-2142.

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: Psalm 146:5-10

The person whose help is the God of Jacob – the person whose hope rests on the Lord their God –
is truly happy!

God: the maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

God: who is faithful forever, who gives justice to people who are oppressed,
who gives bread to people who are starving!

The Lord: who frees prisoners. The Lord: who makes the blind see.

The Lord: who straightens up those who are bent low. The Lord: who loves the righteous.

The Lord: who protects immigrants, who helps orphans and widows,
but who makes the way of the wicked twist and turn!

The Lord will rule forever! Zion, your God will rule from one generation to the next!

Praise the Lord!

SECOND LESSON: James 5:7-10

Therefore, brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the coming of the Lord. Consider the farmer who waits patiently for the coming of rain in the fall and spring, looking forward to the precious fruit of the earth. You also must wait patiently, strengthening your resolve, because the coming of the Lord is near. Don't complain about each other, brothers and sisters, so that you won't be judged. Look! The judge is standing at the door!

Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of patient resolve and steadfastness.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

Now when John heard in prison about the things the Christ was doing, he sent word by his disciples to Jesus, asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Jesus responded, "Go, report to John what you hear and see. *Those who were blind are able to see. Those who were crippled are walking. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. The poor have good news proclaimed to them.* Happy are those who don't stumble and fall because of me."

When John's disciples had gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John: "What did you go out to the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in refined clothes? Look, those who wear refined clothes are in royal palaces. What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. He is the one of whom it is written: *Look, I'm sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.*

"I assure you that no one who has ever been born is greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.