

This is a medieval manuscript illumination depicting the Baptism of Christ. The scene is set in the Jordan River, represented by blue wavy lines. Christ stands in the water, wearing a red loincloth, with a yellow halo. Above his head is a yellow dove, the Holy Spirit, holding a cross. To the right, an angel in a blue robe with large black wings stands on the green bank, gesturing towards Christ. To the left, another angel in a red robe with large black wings is in the upper left, holding a golden vessel. The background features a red sky and green land with stylized trees and a yellow river. The entire scene is enclosed in a yellow border.

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

## JANUARY 11, 2026

---

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:** "O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark  
corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams."  
~ Saint Augustine of Hippo

---

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: When we are reluctant to dip our toes into faith's river,

**ALL: Jesus comes to teach us how to swim.**

ONE: When we are hesitant to cup our hands to drink from the fountain of grace,

**ALL: Jesus comes to reach in and splash our faces with God's joy.**

ONE: When we are unwilling to be the pipeline of hope,

**ALL: Jesus comes to turn on the faucets God has installed in our hearts.**

### \* HYMN

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

123

---

Portions reprinted [or adapted] by permission of Abingdon Press from *Litanies and Other Prayers for the Revised Common Lectionary Year A* by Phyllis Cole and Everett Tilson. Copyright 1992.

Portions reprinted [or adapted] by permission of United Church Press from *Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1998.

Portions reprinted [or adapted] by permission of Thom M. Shuman from *Playing Hopscotch in Heaven: Lectionary Liturgies for RCL Year A* by Thom M. Shuman. Copyright 2013.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

You would have all people hear of your grace, Servant God, but we hinder your efforts by hoarding the Word for ourselves. You would have hope flow through our neighborhoods, but we thwart your plans by damming up hope in our hearts. You would have us skip into your kingdom, but we frustrate your future by clinging tightly to those grudges we have carried for so long. Have mercy on us, O God, and unlock the shuttered doors of our hearts. Remind us that at our baptism you touch us with the waters of life just as Jesus touched the waters of the Jordan. 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:

Isaiah 42:1-9

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

### HYMN

© 1980 Hope Publishing Company

*When Jesus Came to Jordan*

241

### SERMON

### REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM — *Insert*

## HYMN

*Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God*

140

Text: © 1969 H Francis Yardley and Frank J Whiteley admin Jean Ann Yardley Estate

## 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*)

We pray, O God, that our offerings delight you. We bring them to encourage all who work for justice and peace on our behalf, that they may not grow faint or be crushed by opposition. May the oppressed find healing, the discouraged receive hope, and those who are bound discover freedom, through and beyond our efforts. 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

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

134

© 1962. Renewed 1990 Manna Music, Inc.

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

---

**Bulletin Cover Attribution:** Xacatur. Baptism of Christ, 1455, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.  
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56383>.  
Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/medmss/8614784984>.



# Remembrance of Baptism

## Greeting

*One:* Dear friends, on this day of re-creation we recall Christ's baptism, and we claim and remember our own.

*People:* **We gather at this font of living water to celebrate the gift of God's redeeming grace.**

*One:* For just as the body is one and has many members and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

*People:* **For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, male or female—and were all made to drink of one Spirit.**

*One:* Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.



## **\*Affirmation of Faith**

*One:* Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*People:* **I do.**

*One:* Do you believe in God?

*People:* **I believe in God, the creator of heaven and earth.**

*One:* Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

*People:* **I believe in Jesus Christ, the only one begotten of God before all worlds.**

*One:* Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

*People:* **I believe in God, the Holy Spirit.**

*One:* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer?

*People:* **I will, with God's help.**

*One:* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being?

*People:* **I will, with God's help.**

*One:* Let us pray.

*People:* **In this and all we do, keep us faithful to our Savior Jesus Christ, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Blessing of Water**

*One:* Let us pray.

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning. In the time of Moses and Miriam your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land. In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water that by it we may be reminded of our baptism into Jesus Christ and that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may be kept faithful until you receive us at last in your eternal home.

*People:* **Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.**

## The Congregation Remembers Baptism

**One:** Eternal God, you have come to us in Jesus Christ, given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins, Bless us now with the grace we need to fulfill what we have promised.

**People:** **Keep us faithful to our Savior Jesus Christ, forever and ever. Amen.**

*You are invited to come up the center aisle to the baptismal font to touch the waters of baptism and receive a blessing.*

*If you are unable to come forward, please let the usher know and Pastor Phil will bring the water to you.*

**One:** Remember your baptism and be thankful.

**People:** **Amen.**



## **CHURCH ATTENDANCE, JANUARY 4, 2026**

**St. John's – 12 St. Jacob – 28**

---

### **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](mailto:stjucc@hometel.com)

Website: [stjacobucc.org](http://stjacobucc.org)

Pastor Phil Barbier: Phone: 314-312-2347 / E-mail: [pastor@hometel.com](mailto:pastor@hometel.com)

---

### **SERVING YOU TODAY**

Council Person

Patti Woods

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

**St. Jacob:** Carol Casperson, Rich Erwin, Lori Foley, Norma Logsdon,  
Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer, Taylor Ostrander,  
Kathy Ritter, David Schmidt 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, Maeystown - Rev. Patrick (Kathy) Poole Pastor Tim Burns

- Marine UCC, Marine

#### **Retired Pastors**

- Rev. Dr. Don (Nancy) Wagner

## **UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS**

Jerid Ahrens, Jan. 12  
Katie Prange, Jan. 12  
Sandy Rujawitz, Jan. 12  
Debbie Zobrist, Jan. 14  
Gene Gansmann, Jan. 16  
Sharon Koenig, Jan. 16

## **CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

**JANUARY 18:** St. John's annual meeting, noon, lunch following

**JANUARY 19:** St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

**JANUARY 25:** Strawberry Festival planning meeting, following worship

**FEBRUARY 1:** St. Jacob annual meeting, following worship, lunch following

---

## **LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

This year's Lenten Bible Study will be held each Wednesday, Feb. 25 – March 25 at 7 p.m., meeting in Heritage Hall.

## **ST. JACOB UCC WORSHIP VIDEO STREAMING ISSUE**

Due to video streaming issues, St. Jacob UCC worship service is temporarily unavailable to view on-line.

## **SNOW SHOVELING**

We still need volunteers at St. Jacob UCC 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.

## **ST. JACOB 2026 ENVELOPE BOOKLETS AVAILABLE**

There are still a few St. Jacob 2026 envelope booklets available for you to pick up on the table in the Narthex.

## **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.

**\*\*\* THE UPPER ROOM** (January-February) magazines are available on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob.

## **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):**

**January Shopping list:** Vinegar, oil, flour, sugar, fruit juice, ground coffee, (Hamburger/Tuna) Helper, Crisco, paper towels, & kitchen trash bags

**February Shopping list:** Canned stew, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, corn beef hash, canned soup, evaporated milk, Ramen noodles, powdered sugar, household cleaner, & body lotion

**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: Isaiah 42:1-9**

But here is my servant, the one I uphold; my chosen, who brings me delight.  
I've put my spirit upon him; he will bring justice to the nations.  
He won't cry out or shout aloud or make his voice heard in public.  
He won't break a bruised reed; he won't extinguish a faint wick, but he will surely bring justice.  
He won't be extinguished or broken until he has established justice in the land.  
The coastlands await his teaching.

God the Lord says – the one who created the heavens, the one who stretched them out,  
the one who spread out the earth and its offspring, the one who gave breath to its people  
and life to those who walk on it –

I, the Lord, have called you for a good reason. I will grasp your hand and guard you,  
and give you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations,  
to open blind eyes, to lead the prisoners from prison,  
and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.

I am the Lord; that is my name; I don't hand out my glory to others or my praise to idols.

The things announced in the past – look – they've already happened, but I'm declaring new things.  
Before they even appear, I tell you about them.

### **SECOND LESSON: Acts 10:34-43**

Peter said, "I really am learning that God doesn't show partiality to one group of people over another. Rather, in every nation, whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him. This is the message of peace he sent to the Israelites by proclaiming the good news through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all! You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism John preached. You know about Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit and endowed with power. Jesus traveled around doing good and healing everyone oppressed by the devil because God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did, both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him up on the third day and allowed him to be seen, not by everyone but by us. We are witnesses whom God chose beforehand, who ate and drank with him after God raised him from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17**

At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him. John tried to stop him and said, "I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?"

Jesus answered, "Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness."

So John agreed to baptize Jesus. When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him."