



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

MARCH 15, 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: "There was nothing dark and hidden about Jesus. He was and is
the Light of the world, and He welcomed the light." ~ **Samuel Logan Brengle**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God summons us to wake up and see.

Light has come to lead us to all that is good.

**ALL: Our eyes have been opened to God's goodness.
We seek to live as children of light.**

ONE: God sees beyond our standard appearance.

God knows the intent of our hearts.

**ALL: We are here to find out what is pleasing to God.
We want to know what is right and true.**

ONE: God listens to all who worship sincerely.

Praise God with openness and obedience.

**ALL: We seek to know and follow God's will.
This is a day to do the works of God.**

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*)

God our great shepherd, it is easy for us to lose sight of your kingdom and your plan for us. We hope that love conquers hate, that light shines in the shadows, and that life is stronger than death – yet our lips are filled with bitter words, our lives are weak and shallow, and the shadowed corners of the world beckon to us. Have mercy on us and lead us to the still waters of your grace and the healing garden of your heart. Restore our sight that we can see you living with us, restore our hope that we might trust you, and restore our speech that we might praise you for your gift of salvation 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:

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

500

© Words: 1938 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.; Music: 1938 Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED – Insert**HYMN***Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

575

©1988 Oxford University Press

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, as you illuminate our lives with fascinating insights and possibilities, we reach out to share your love through our offerings and our investment of time and energy in tasks to which you call us. All this we offer now for your blessing as we endeavor to serve you wherever we go. Amen.

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

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face;
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.*

*** HYMN***He Leadeth Me*

499

BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE**

Cover Attribution: JESUS MAFA. Jesus cures the man born blind, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48383>.

Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, MARCH 8, 2026

St. John's – 13 St. Jacob – 32

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/Liturgist	Angela Imming
Liturgist	Beth Frank
Accompanist:	Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Roger Baer, Kenzie Barker, Nancy McCaw, Lisa Pier, Pat Thornton, and Sean & Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Melody Hollis, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer, Taylor Ostrander, Kathy Ritter, David Schmidt, Jane 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. Peter UCC, Red Bud - Pastor Cory (Geraldine) Hartz
- St. John UCC, Smithton - Rev. Debby Harness

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Fred (Shirley) Wehrenberg

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Lilly Zobrist, March 19

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

TUESDAY: St. Patrick's Day

WEDNESDAY: Lenten Bible Study, 7 p.m., Heritage Hall

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

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM DEADLINE MARCH 24

Easter flower order forms are available on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob, and on the offering table at St. Johns. Deadline to order is March 24.

FRIEDENS' SAUSAGE DINNER TODAY

Troy Friedens' sausage dinner, drive thru only, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., **TODAY** and includes grilled pork sausage, sauerkraut, green beans, and a dessert, \$15

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):

March Shopping list: Pancake mix, fruit juice, pancake syrup, canned fruit, cereal, mac & cheese, oatmeal, canned chili, laundry detergent, & dryer sheets

April Shopping list: Canned tuna/chicken/beef, Rice-a-Roni, peas, green beans, mashed potatoes, hamburger/tuna/cheesy helper, toilet bowl cleaner, toilet paper

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

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul
He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 5:8-14

You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, so live your life as children of light. Light produces fruit that consists of every sort of goodness, justice, and truth. Therefore, test everything to see what's pleasing to the Lord, and don't participate in the unfruitful actions of darkness. Instead, you should reveal the truth about them. It's embarrassing to even talk about what certain persons do in secret. But everything exposed to the light is revealed by the light. Everything that is revealed by the light is light. Therefore, it says, Wake up, sleeper! Get up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

GOSPEL: John 9

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. Jesus' disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?"

Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents. This happened so that God's mighty works might be displayed in him. While it's daytime, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After he said this, he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smeared the mud on the man's eyes. Jesus said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (this word means sent). So the man went away and washed. When he returned, he could see.

The man's neighbors and those who used to see him when he was a beggar said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?"

Some said, "It is," and others said, "No, it's someone who looks like him."

But the man said, "Yes, it's me!"

So they asked him, "How are you now able to see?"

He answered, "The man they call Jesus made mud, smeared it on my eyes, and said, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and then I could see."

They asked, "Where is this man?"

He replied, "I don't know."

Then they led the man who had been born blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus made the mud and smeared it on the man's eyes on a Sabbath day. So Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.

The man told them, "He put mud on my eyes, I washed, and now I see."

(Continued on back)

(Continued from inside)

Some Pharisees said, "This man isn't from God, because he breaks the Sabbath law." Others said, "How can a sinner do miraculous signs like these?" So they were divided. Some of the Pharisees questioned the man who had been born blind again: "What do you have to say about him, since he healed your eyes?"

He replied, "He's a prophet."

The Jewish leaders didn't believe the man had been blind and received his sight until they called for his parents. The Jewish leaders asked them, "Is this your son? Are you saying he was born blind? How can he now see?"

His parents answered, "We know he is our son. We know he was born blind. But we don't know how he now sees, and we don't know who healed his eyes. Ask him. He's old enough to speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jewish authorities. This is because the Jewish authorities had already decided that whoever confessed Jesus to be the Christ would be expelled from the synagogue. That's why his parents said, "He's old enough. Ask him."

Therefore, they called a second time for the man who had been born blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know this man is a sinner."

The man answered, "I don't know whether he's a sinner. Here's what I do know: I was blind and now I see."

They questioned him: "What did he do to you? How did he heal your eyes?"

He replied, "I already told you, and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

They insulted him: "You are his disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses, but we don't know where this man is from."

The man answered, "This is incredible! You don't know where he is from, yet he healed my eyes! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners. God listens to anyone who is devout and does God's will. No one has ever heard of a healing of the eyes of someone born blind. If this man wasn't from God, he couldn't do this."

They responded, "You were born completely in sin! How is it that you dare to teach us?" Then they expelled him.

Jesus heard they had expelled the man born blind. Finding him, Jesus said, "Do you believe in the Human One?"

He answered, "Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him."

Jesus said, "You have seen him. In fact, he is the one speaking with you."

The man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Jesus.

Jesus said, "I have come into the world to exercise judgment so that those who don't see can see and those who see will become blind."

Some Pharisees who were with him heard what he said and asked, "Surely we aren't blind, are we?"

Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you wouldn't have any sin, but now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the universal Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

