

WELCOME TO WORSHIP
NOVEMBER 8, 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 may be of service to you or your family.

Silent Reflection: "If you're proactive, you focus on preparing. If you're reactive, you end up focusing on repairing." **~ John C. Maxwell**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God summons us to this place,
ALL: Where we hear those stories which show us what the Kingdom of God is like.
ONE: God has gathered us to this place,
ALL: Where we can learn how to serve God without reservation or hesitation.
ONE: God will send us from this place,
ALL: To tell others of God's hopes and dreams, so they, too, can choose to follow God.

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HYMN *Great God, as We Are Gathering* 604

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

We have so much trouble putting away our false gods, O Lord. When we could place our hope in you, we trust platitudes and shaky promises. When we could tell our friends about what you have done in our lives, we become forgetfully silent. When we could make ourselves ready to serve in your kingdom, we find other places to put our time and resources. Forgive us, loving God, and fill us with your tender mercy. Guide us that we may listen intently as you whisper to us your transforming grace, that we may follow faithfully in our calling as disciples. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI 734

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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:

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
Matthew 25:1-13

HYMN *A Charge to Keep I Have* 588

SERMON

HYMN *Christ Be My Leader* 453

© Words: 1961, 1964 Dudley-Smith, Timothy; Music: 1964 Abingdon Press

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 set our hopes in you, God of all ages, and seek to serve you through our offerings and our efforts to encourage and equip one another for ministry. Help us decide daily to live according to your will, preparing ourselves for the opportunities and challenges you give us. May your rule shape our lives in ways that introduce many to the joys of eternity in the midst of time. Amen.

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

PRAYER RESPONSE Into My Heart 485

Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.
Come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

* HYMN *Together We Serve* Insert

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Cover Attribution: Bridesmaids Sleeping - St. Giles' Church, Oxford U.K., from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/57769. Original source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/6317715388/ - Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.

Together We Serve 767



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.

TEXT and MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon, 1996
Text and Music © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

SAN ANSELMO
5.5.11.D

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, NOVEMBER 1, 2026

St. John's – 14 St. Jacob – 38

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	Rich Erwin
Liturgist	Bennett Seger
Accompanist:	Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Cheryl Byrnes, Carol Casperson, Jackie Miller, and JP

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, New Athens**
- **Zion UCC, New Baden -** Rev. Stephen (Molly) Stark

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Beverly Kahle

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Kristen Kniepkamp Belcher, Nov. 8
Darik Zobrist, Nov. 9

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY: VETERANS DAY
WEDNESDAY: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m., Heritage Hall
NOVEMBER 16: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.
NOVEMBER 19: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.
NOVEMBER 22: "Hanging of the Greens," following worship at St. Johns
NOVEMBER 22: "Hanging of the Greens," following worship at St. Jacob, potluck lunch

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SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING CAMPAIGN

This Christmas season, the St. Jacob UCC is teaming up with the Highland Area Christian Service Ministry in support of the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Campaign.
The Highland Area Food Pantry will receive 80% of the donations collected to feed our neighbors. Details about the Highland Area Food Pantry:

- **Service Area:** Highland, Grantfork, Alhambra, New Douglas, Pierron, Marine, and St. Jacob
- **Monthly Reach:** 463 unduplicated individuals (January–September 2025 average)
- **Monthly Visits:** 684 total pantry visits per month (households can visit up to twice monthly)
- **Additional Services:** SNAP assistance, LIHEAP, emergency rent and utility help, and seasonal programs like Adopt-A-Family.

For information about volunteering or to donate to the campaign, contact Angela Imming at bellsforfood@gmail.com or call 618-977-5819.

ST. JACOB UCC SUNDAY SCHOOL

St. Jacob UCC Sunday School will be held from 9-10 a.m., every second and fourth Sunday. All children from pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join the fun. To register contact the church office: e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com, or call 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.

BEST CHOICE LABEL COLLECTION

The ELFs organization is collecting Best Choice labels/UPC portion (proof of purchase). There is a box on the table in the Narthex to place the labels.

*** **THE UPPER ROOM** (November-December) 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):
November Shopping list: Syrup, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, pancake mix, oatmeal, granola bars, cereal, pudding cups, toilet bowl cleaner, & Mr. Clean

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

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FIRST LESSON: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders of Israel, its leaders, judges, and officers. They presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to the entire people, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Long ago your ancestors lived on the other side of the Euphrates. They served other gods. Among them was Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor. I took Abraham your ancestor from the other side of the Euphrates. I led him around through the whole land of Canaan. I added to his descendants...

"So now, revere the Lord. Serve him honestly and faithfully. Put aside the gods that your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt and serve the Lord. But if it seems wrong in your opinion to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Choose the gods whom your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But my family and I will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "God forbid that we ever leave the Lord to serve other gods! The Lord is our God. He is the one who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. He has done these mighty signs in our sight. He has protected us the whole way we've gone and in all the nations through which we've passed. The Lord has driven out all the nations before us, including the Amorites who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God."

(Continued from inside)

Then Joshua said to the people, "You can't serve the Lord, because he is a holy God. He is a jealous God. He won't forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you leave the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn around and do you harm and finish you off, in spite of having done you good in the past."

Then the people said to Joshua, "No! The Lord is the one we will serve."

So Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord."

They said, "We are witnesses!"

"So now put aside the foreign gods that are among you. Focus your hearts on the Lord, the God of Israel."

The people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and will obey him."

On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people and established just rule for them at Shechem.

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 78:1-7

Listen, my people, to my teaching; tilt your ears toward the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth with a proverb. I'll declare riddles from days long gone –
ones that we've heard and learned about, ones that our ancestors told us.
We won't hide them from their descendants; we'll tell the next generation
all about the praise due the Lord and his strength – the wondrous works God has done.
He established a law for Jacob and set up Instruction for Israel,
ordering our ancestors to teach them to their children.
This is so that the next generation and children not yet born will know these things,
and so they can rise up and tell their children
to put their hope in God – never forgetting God's deeds, but keeping God's commandments.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. Now five of them were wise, and the other five were foolish. The foolish ones took their lamps but didn't bring oil for them. But the wise ones took their lamps and also brought containers of oil.

"When the groom was late in coming, they all became drowsy and went to sleep. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Look, the groom! Come out to meet him.'

"Then all those bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. But the foolish bridesmaids said to the wise ones, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out.'

"But the wise bridesmaids replied, 'No, because if we share with you, there won't be enough for our lamps and yours. We have a better idea. You go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' But while they were gone to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready went with him into the wedding. Then the door was shut.

"Later the other bridesmaids came and said, 'Lord, lord, open the door for us.'

"But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

"Therefore, keep alert, because you don't know the day or the hour.

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