

PEACE



Prepare the way before me

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 5, 2021

We welcome all who are visiting with us today.

It is good to have you in worship with us. Please introduce yourself to our Pastor, this morning and let us know if there is any way we might be of service to you or your family.

Silent Reflection: "There is no path to Happiness. Happiness is the path. There is no path to Love. Love is the path. There is no path to Peace. Peace is the path."

-Dan Millman

ANNOUNCEMENTS RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Listen! Listen for a messenger from God.

The way is being prepared for Christ's coming.

ALL: We are here to listen for a word from God.

We have gathered to prepare for Christ's advent.

ONE: Come with your joys and sorrows, laughter and tears.

There is a place for you in the company of seekers.

ALL: We thank God for our acceptance in the church.

We rejoice to offer the love of Christ to others.

ONE: We are partners in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Claim anew today this opportunity and responsibility.

ALL: We are glad God is doing great things among us.

We want to rejoin ourselves to God's work in the world.

*HYMN

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

153

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LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE - PEACE

ADVENT SONG

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.

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.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O God, we have tried to cover up our sins, yet you know the disorder we have caused in our lives. You have witnessed our poor choices and our destructive habits. We have denied our baptism and ignored the responsibilities of discipleship. The good we do is often self-serving, while we avoid the full claims of gospel partnership. Hear our cries of repentance and turn our lives around, that we may know the wonder of your forgiveness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

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.

SCRIPTURES:

Malachi 3:1-4

Philippians 1: 3-11

Luke 3: 1-6

HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

156

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SERMON

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

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*)

How good you have been to us, gracious God! How meagerly we have responded. You have restored our fortunes when we felt all was lost. You have filled our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy. We give thanks, not only with a portion of our income, but also through renewed commitment to righteous living. By your grace, we share in the work Christ came to accomplish among us. May love abound in and through us. Amen.

HYMN

Break Now the Bread of Life

665

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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 & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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, you created us and loved us, even when we turned away.
Through your prophets you promised to send us a savior. Prepare our
hearts and minds to receive your Incarnation, that we may know you
through Jesus Christ and sing with all the saints in glory.

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: Holy are you and blessed is your son, Jesus Christ. He came and lived
among us, teaching and healing, showing us new ways to live and love.
At his final meal with his disciples, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he
had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body,
which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.
Jesus did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is
poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."
In remembrance and thanks for this gift of Jesus Christ, we give ourselves
to you O God, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ was promised; Christ was born; Christ will dwell among us.

ONE: Pour out your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup, and on us, your children.
Form us into your body, the church, that we may be your body in this world.

ALL: Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE WINE

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

God of new life, with joy we have received the sacraments of bread and wine. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our peace and our hope. Unite us together in love that we may be servants of your word. 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 *Star-Child*

223

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person Kevin Hollis
Accompanist Melissa Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Ella Boggy, Celeste Short and Margie Foxworthy and her family
(on the passing of her grandson).

St. Jacob: Peggy Bohnenstiehl, Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Gail Miller,
Ronald Rujawitz, Carol Zweck, and JoAnn (Kay Guse's mom)

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

John & Donna Lowe, 37 years, December 8
Ty & Dian Gansmann, 26 years, December 8
Roger Baer, December 8
Sam Frey, December 9
Peggy Bohnenstiehl, December 10
Roger & Barbara Baer, 39 years, December 11

CHURCH ATTENDANCE Sunday, November 28, 2021

St. John's 13

St. Jacob 47

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor's office hours: Monday through Thursday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Secretary's office hours: Tuesday & Thursday: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

St. Jacob Phone: 618-644-2142 / St. Jacob E-mail: stjucc@hometel.com

Web-site: stjacobucc.org

Pastor Phil Barbier Phone: 314-312-2347 / E-mail: pastor@hometel.com

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:

Churches & Pastors

- Belleville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Michelle (Aaron Brent) Torigian
- Belleville Trinity UCC, Pastor Tim (Shea Powers) Reed

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Donald and Anne Sabbert, Crestwood, MO



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CALENDAR

Wednesday: ELF's meeting, 10 a.m., lunch following, Weeping Willow Tea Room, Glen Carbon, IL

December 18: Breakfast with Santa, 8-10 a.m., donations accepted.

December 19: Christmas caroling, immediately following service.

December 24: Christmas Eve services 4 p.m. and 10 p.m., St. Jacob

December 24: Christmas Eve service 7 p.m., St. John's

ST. JACOB CHURCH COUNCIL NEEDS TWO NEW MEMBERS

Two members of the St. Jacob Church Council will have their terms expire as of Dec. 31. Please consider volunteering to serve on the church council. For more information call the office at 618-644-2142.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Please join us for Christmas caroling, immediately following service at St. Jacob, Dec. 19. Everyone is welcome to participate. We will be caroling at nursing homes, and to shut-ins. If you have someone you would like us to carol to, please let Dawn Mersinger know, or contact the church office at 618-644-2142, or e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com with their name and location/address.



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 Narthx. Thank you!

***** THE UPPER ROOM** (January-February) magazines are available on the table in the Narthx.

DECEMBER 5, 2021

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SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

FIRST LESSON. Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

SECOND LESSON. Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL. Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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