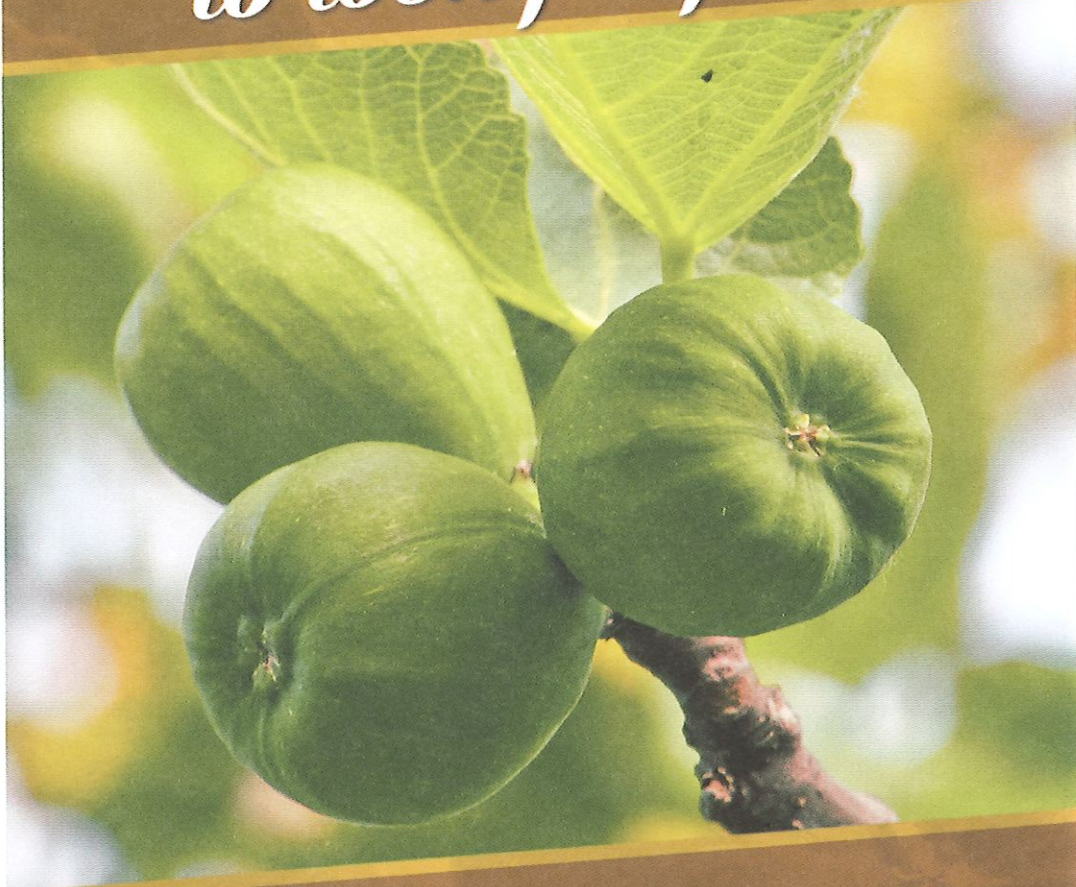


*I have been coming
to look for fruit*



on this fig tree

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

March 20, 2022

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:

"Be ye sincerely converted, and with your whole heart, to the Lord our God, for nothing is impossible to Him, that He may today send you food on your road, even until you are satisfied, because He has everywhere abundance." ~ Saint Patrick

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters,
You who have no money, come, buy, and eat!

**ALL: Our souls thirst for God in a dry and weary land.
We seek God's power and glory in the sanctuary.**

ONE: Listen carefully to God and eat what is good;
delight yourselves in the rich food God provides.

**ALL: Here our souls are satisfied as with a rich feast.
Together our mouths praise God with joyful lips.**

ONE: God offers us steadfast love and a covenant relationship.
We are called to be faithful witnesses and leaders.

**ALL: We have come to meditate on the living God.
We seek inspiration and empowerment to do what God asks.**

CALL TO CONFESSION**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

We have been tempted, loving God, to go our own way without reference to eternal truths. We seek our own gratification rather than the well-being of all your children. We compare ourselves to others and find their failures but seldom discover our own shortcomings. We seek to build our lives by our own limited design rather than by your larger purposes. We engage in immorality in the name of freedom and become enslaved by our selfish ambitions. The ground on which we stand is crumbling under our feet. O God, forgive us and grant us a firmer foundation. 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:

Isaiah 55: 1-9

Psalms 63:1-8 (INSERT)

Luke 13: 1-9

HYMN

Rock of Ages

384

Augustus Montague Toplady | Thomas Hastings © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain *For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use.*
All rights reserved. www.gcf.com CCLI License # 20849486

SERMON

HYMN

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

INSERT

Henry Alfred | Samuel McFarland | Richard Proulx © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

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*)

We offer these gifts, O God, in the spirit of love. May the gifts that we offer this day embody our loving response to your great love for us. We thank you for the privilege of sharing these gifts and hope that through these gifts, others will feel the love of Christ. 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

There Is a Balm in Gilead

631

© Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain *For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use.* All rights reserved. www.ccli.com
CCLI License # 20849486

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Dawn Mersinger

Accompanist

Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Ella Boggy, Nancy McCaw, Linda Noltkampter, and Cindy Roll

St. Jacob: George & Myrna Anderson, Peggy Bohnenstiehl, Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Gail Miller, Jackie Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Carol Schmitt, Debbie Zobrist and Carol 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:

Churches & Pastors

-Highland Evangelical UCC, Rev. Todd (Rev. Shana Johnson) Bean

-Hecker Friedens UCC, Rev. Ivan (Vivian) Horn

Retired Pastors

- Rev. James and Lelynna Langdoc, Sun City Center, FL

CHURCH ATTENDANCE Sunday, March 13, 2022

St. John's – 11

St. Jacob – 31

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

Website: stjacobucc.org

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

**ALL ORDERS MUST BE
PLACED BY
FRIDAY APRIL 15
-DELIVERY APRIL 16**

**DON'T WAIT!
ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER
OF YARDS WILL BE EGGED**

**\$20 FOR 20 EGGS
\$30 FOR 40 EGGS
\$40 FOR 60 EGGS
\$60 FOR 100 EGGS**

**CALL/EMAIL/TEXT
DAWN: SMDZ@HOMETEL.COM
618-792-4316
BRITTANY: BFRANK@HOMETEL.COM
618-792-5191**

**HELP SUPPORT THE ST.
JACOB UCC
YOUTH GROUP**

**ORDER CANDY FILLED EGGS
TO BE DELIVERED BY EASTER**

***** DONATIONS OF CANDY AND EGGS ARE NEEDED *****

Portions reprinted [or adapted] by permission of United Church Press from *Gathered by Love* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1994 by United Church Press.

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: Strawberry Festival planning meeting, following service, St. Jacob

Wednesday: Lenten Study, 7 p.m., St. Jacob UCC,
theme is: "*Lent as a time of reflection.*"

Saturday: Fellowship breakfast, 8 a.m., St. Jacob

PIZZA FUNDRAISER ORDER DEADLINE APRIL 3

St. Jacob UCC is sponsoring a pizza fundraiser along with Papa Murphy's. We receive a percentage of the total order -- if we sell 100 or more pizzas, our profit is 30 percent; if we sell less than 100 pizzas we get 25 percent. Order forms are available on the table in the Narthx and must be returned by April 3. Your order form and can be dropped off at the church office, or in the collection plate. Pizzas will be available for pick-up following service at St. Jacob April 10, Palm Sunday.

ELFS LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT

Our ELF group has adopted a mission project in conjunction with our Lenten season. The ELFs will be collecting and distributing items to the Samaritan House in Granite City, which is a shelter for women and children, and to Highland Health Care. There is a board set up in the vestibule with needed items. Deadline to donate is April 10. Items collected will be delivered before Easter.

STRAWBERRY FEST PLANNING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Strawberry Festival planning committee would like additional help in preparing for this year's event. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to attend their next meeting which will be held today after the St. Jacob service.

STRAWBERRY FEST NEEDS SPONSORS/DONATIONS

We are preparing for our 38th Annual Strawberry Festival and are seeking sponsors for the event, as well as raffle donations. The event will be held May 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park & St. Jacob UCC parking lot. This event draws more than 3,000 people from the surrounding areas. It's a family-friendly event including musical entertainment, jump houses, pony rides, face painting, and local craft vendors. Sponsor forms are available at: stjacobucc.org, from a festival committee member, or contact the church office at 618-644-2142.

FIRST LESSON. Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

SECOND LESSON. 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

GOSPEL. Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"



Psalm 63:1-8 (Second Lesson)

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. ²So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. ³Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. ⁴So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. ⁵My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,^[a] and my mouth praises you with joyful lips ⁶when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; ⁷for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. ⁸My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

