

Put your finger here. Look at my hands.
Put your hand into my side.

No more disbelief.



Believe!

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

APRIL 16, 2023

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: "Faith and doubt go hand in hand, they are complementaries.
One who never doubts will never truly believe." ~ **Hermann Hesse**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We come again to celebrate resurrection.

God gives us new birth into a living hope.

ALL: Death has no power over us.

Christ goes before us in the new life God offers.

ONE: Blessed be the God of our Savior Jesus Christ!

Our faith, tested by fire, is renewed.

ALL: Our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice.

God shows us the path of life.

ONE: Again, Jesus says to us: Peace be with you.

Come to receive life in Christ's name.

ALL: We rejoice in God's amazing good news.

In God's presence, we find fullness of joy.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

LeCompte, Rowan and Irene LeCompte. Christ shows himself to Thomas - Washington National Cathedral, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://digilib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/link.pl?RC=54879>. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/maryaansolari/5119341372/>

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

Forgive us, God, for seeking to limit your truth to what we can understand. Forgive us for chasing after gods of our own making. We are so busy with them that we forget to open ourselves to your larger reality. We reduce the circles of connection and caring that Jesus demonstrated. Goodness is crucified by our narrow prejudices, and our doubts plunge us into despair. Be to us a refuge, granting us courage to face the questions that haunt us until they lead to deeper understanding. 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:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

HYMN

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

INSERT

SERMON

HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

411

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*)

We rejoice in the inheritance you have given us, O God, and delight in sharing it with others. You have given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. You have touched our lives with eternity, with indescribable and glorious joy. We want others to experience what we have begun to realize in company with one another and with you. To that end, bless all the offerings of this day. 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

Thine is the Glory

310

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person
Accompanist

Kay Guse
Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Ella Boggy, Wally Foxworthy, Margie Foxworthy's son Sean,
and Jeffrey Thornton

St. Jacob: Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz,
Jane Schmidt, 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:

Church & Pastors

-Plum Hill St. John's UCC, Rev. Don Jones

-Red Bud St. Peter UCC, Pastor Cory (Geraldine) Hartz

ISC Conference Minister

-Rev. Shana (Rev. Todd Bean) Johnson, O'Fallon, IL

Retired Pastors

-Rev. Elmer and Linda Bowman, Jr. Trenton, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Pat May, April 16

Gary Rufer, April 16

Bailey Frank, April 17

Carol Schmitt, April 19

Cheryl Byrnes, April 21

Marsha Shirley, April 22

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, APRIL 9, 2023

St. John's – 36

St. Jacob – 7 a.m. - 13; 10:15 a.m. - 65

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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

(Mondays by appointment)

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

BLESSING BOX LOCATED AT ST. JACOB UCC

The “Blessing Box” (located on the east side of St. Jacob UCC) is running low, and could use donations of non-perishable food, hygiene products, and other items for anyone in need. Please help us keep the “Blessing Box” stocked. 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.

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.

Requested items for St. John's (Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries Food Pantry): Long shelf-life fresh produce: apples, oranges, celery, onions, potatoes, and carrots, etc.

Requested items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited): Shampoo, conditioner, body wash, pudding cups, large box instant mashed potatoes, laundry detergent-small bottles, cake mix, paper towels, toilet paper, canned potatoes, Ramen noodle bowls, and Nutri-Grain bars.

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

STRAWBERRY FEST NEEDS WORKERS & T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

We are preparing for our 39th Annual Strawberry Festival and are seeking volunteer workers for the event, which will be held May 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park. Sign-up forms to work the event and Strawberry Festival T-shirt order forms are located on the table in the Narthx. For more information contact a festival committee member or call 618-644-2142.



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL FLYERS

Request your help in publicizing our Strawberry Festival – there are two flyers in the Narthx, one with general information, and one listing our sponsors. Please pick up a few of each and take them to any place you feel might be appropriate to post.

ELF BOOK SALE, LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

This year as part of the St. Jacob community yard sale (May 4-6), the ELFs will hold a book sale in Heritage Hall from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 5 & 6. As you prepare for spring cleaning, if you have any books you would like to donate, they can be placed on the cart in the Narthx. Funds raised will go toward supporting children in need through partner organizations in our community and within the wider church.

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 Narthx.

LAWN MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please volunteer to mow the church lawn. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthx at St. Jacob.

***** THE UPPER ROOM** (May-June) magazines are available on the table in the Narthx at St. Jacob.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Fellow Israelites, listen to these words! Jesus the Nazarene was a man whose credentials God proved to you through miracles, wonders, and signs, which God performed through him among you. You yourselves know this. In accordance with God's established plan and foreknowledge, he was betrayed. You, with the help of wicked men, had Jesus killed by nailing him to a cross. God raised him up! God freed him from death's dreadful grip, since it was impossible for death to hang on to him. David says about him, "I foresaw that the Lord was always with me; because he is at my right hand I won't be shaken. Therefore, my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced. Moreover, my body will live in hope, because you won't abandon me to the grave, nor permit your holy one to experience decay. You have shown me the paths of life; your presence will fill me with happiness."

"Brothers and sisters, I can speak confidently about the patriarch David. He died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this very day. Because he was a prophet, he knew that God promised him with a solemn pledge to seat one of his descendants on his throne. Having seen this beforehand, David spoke about the resurrection of Christ, that he wasn't abandoned to the grave, nor did his body experience decay. This Jesus God raised up. We are all witnesses to that fact.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 1:3-9

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed! On account of his vast mercy, he has given us new birth. You have been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. You have a pure and enduring inheritance that cannot perish—an inheritance that is presently kept safe in heaven for you. Through his faithfulness, you are guarded by God's power so that you can receive the salvation he is ready to reveal in the last time.

You now rejoice in this hope, even if it's necessary for you to be distressed for a short time by various trials. This is necessary so that your faith may be found genuine. (Your faith is more valuable than gold, which will be destroyed even though it is itself tested by fire.) Your genuine faith will result in praise, glory, and honor for you when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you've never seen him, you love him. Even though you don't see him now, you trust him and so rejoice with a glorious joy that is too much for words. You are receiving the goal of your faith: your salvation.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in

3

gra-cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you

6

none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Guitar chords in Pew Edition do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Glory to God 817

TEXT: Henry Alford, 1844, alt.

MUSIC (DUNLAP'S CREEK, CM): Samuel McFarland, c. 1814; harm. Richard Proulx, 1986; © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

