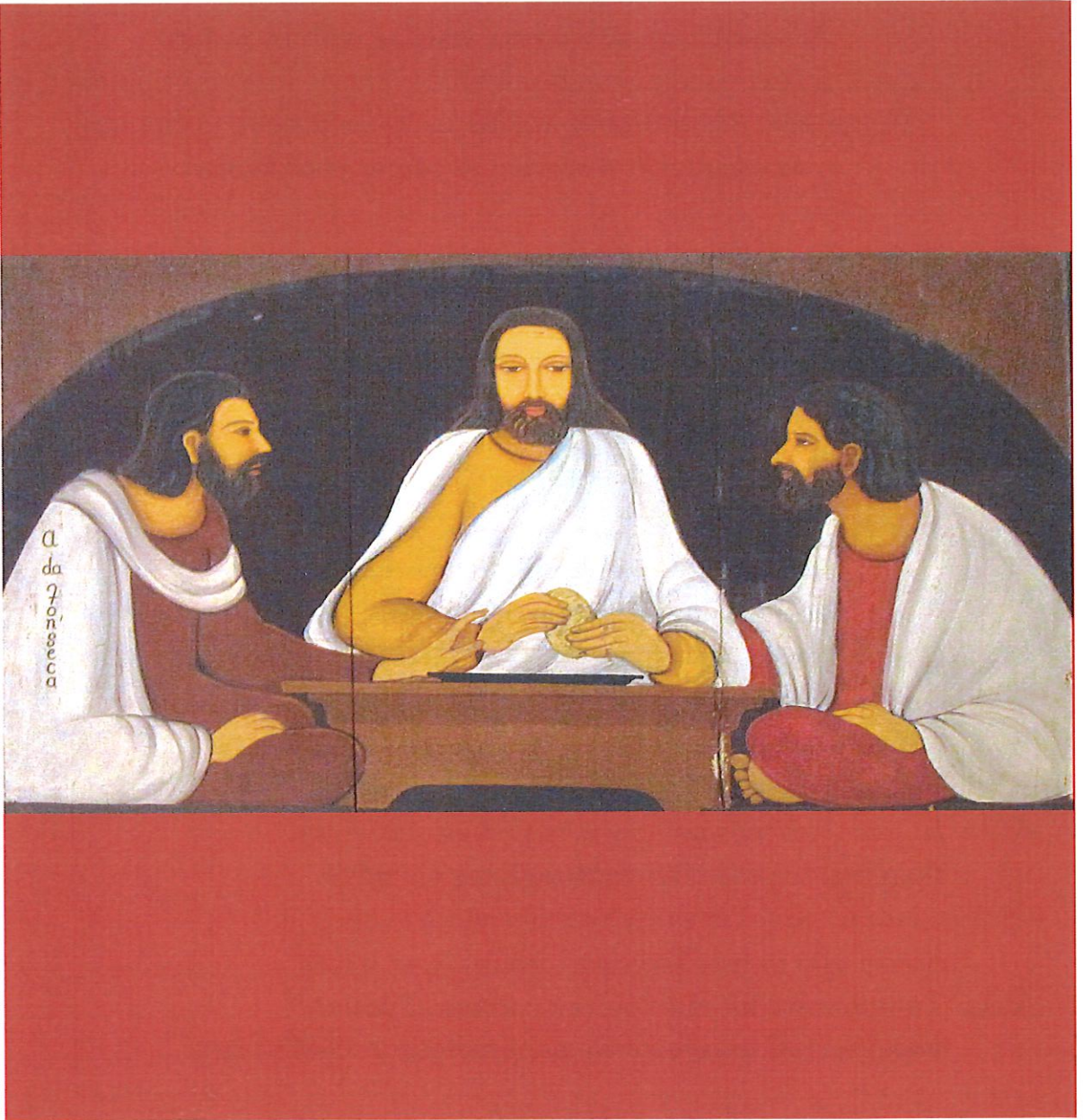


He took the bread, blessed and broke it,
and gave it to them.



Their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

APRIL 23, 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: “When we break bread and give it to each other, fear vanishes and God becomes very close.” ~ **Henri J.M. Nouwen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God has called us together for this time of worship.

God is listening to our thoughts and to our speaking.

ALL: God inclines an ear to us and hears us.

God knows us better than we know ourselves.

ONE: Let us open our hearts to the One who gives us life.

Let us set our faith and hope in God.

ALL: In one another's presence, we renew our vows.

Together we offer our thanksgiving sacrifice.

ONE: God's promises to us are ancient and ever new.

God is with us here and on all the roads we travel.

ALL: Together we lift our voices in songs of praise.

Together we recognize we are precious in God's sight.

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

O God, we confess that we rush through our days without recognizing your presence with us. We follow our busy diversions without reference to your will for us. We strive for financial success and personal recognition, while you call for obedience to truth and genuine mutual love. Purify our souls, we pray, and redirect our priorities. May we be born anew through your living and enduring word. 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, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Luke 24:13-35

HYMN*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

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SERMON**HYMN***Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

504

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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*)

Thank you, God, for the privilege of joining with Christ in the proclamation of your love for all people. May the ministries we support serve to unite people across all differences, building up the body of Christ and reaching out to the world with healing energy. Bless these gifts and all who give in any way to make your love known. 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***With Grateful Heart I Thank You, Lord*

720

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Kay Guse

Accompanist

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

-Smithton St. John's UCC

-Saint Jacob UCC, Rev. Philip (Kate) Barbier

ISC Conference Minister

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

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Wesley and Doris Bornemann. St. Louis, MO

UPCOMING BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY

Gary & Matilyn Warren, 52 years, April 24

Brice Ahrens, April 25

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, APRIL 16, 2023

St. John's – 7

St. Jacob – 21

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): Manwich, scalloped potatoes boxed, cereal bars, canned spinach, canned sauerkraut, pasta sides, black-eyed peas (dried/canned), canned ham, Rotel tomatoes, Vienna sausages, pepperoni, pizza crust mix, dish detergent, coffee, & snack foods (chips, peanuts, etc)

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TUESDAY: Pastor Phil will be out of the office.

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.

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

FIRST LESSON: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, "Therefore, let all Israel know beyond question that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

When the crowd heard this, they were deeply troubled. They said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

Peter replied, "Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you, your children, and for all who are far away—as many as the Lord our God invites." With many other words he testified to them and encouraged them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Those who accepted Peter's message were baptized. God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day.

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

I love the Lord because he hears my requests for mercy. I'll call out to him as long as I live, because he listens closely to me. Death's ropes bound me; the distress of the grave found me — I came face-to-face with trouble and grief. So I called on the Lord's name: "Lord, please save me!" What can I give back to the Lord for all the good things he has done for me? I'll lift up the cup of salvation. I'll call on the Lord's name. I'll keep the promises I made to the Lord in the presence of all God's people. The death of the Lord's faithful is a costly loss in his eyes.

Oh yes, Lord, I am definitely your servant! I am your servant and the son of your female servant — you've freed me from my chains. So I'll offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to you, and I'll call on the Lord's name. I'll keep the promises I made to the Lord in the presence of all God's people, in the courtyards of the Lord's house, which is in the center of Jerusalem.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. They were prevented from recognizing him.

He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" They stopped, their faces downcast.

The one named Cleopas replied, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?"

He said to them, "What things?"

They said to him, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. But there's more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning and didn't find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn't see him."

Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. But they urged him, saying, "Stay with us. It's nearly evening, and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?"

They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying to each other, "The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!" Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.