



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

APRIL 30, 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: “I have all things and abound; not because I have a good store of money in the bank, not because I have skill and wit with which to win my bread, but because the Lord is my shepherd.” ~ Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: How awesome to gather before God!

We are here to celebrate with wide-eyed wonder.

ALL: The God of all worlds is with us.

Praise God for this season of Easter.

ONE: Praise God for all the signs of new life.

Praise God for all we can do together.

ALL: Praise God for the life and ministry of Jesus.

Praise God for all who share that ministry today.

ONE: Christ came to offer us abundant life.

We are here today to reclaim that gift.

ALL: We gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

We want to follow in the steps of Jesus.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O God, we do not want to admit that our possessions possess us. Yet we do seem captive to all the things we have acquired and all the things we want. We are reluctant to share too much, lest we be deprived of the comforts we cherish. We do not want to suffer for our faith. There are limits to our willingness to follow Jesus. O God, help us trust you beyond these limits.

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 2:42-47

Psalm 23

John 10:1-10

HYMN

Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

455

SERMON

HYMN

Together We Serve

INSERT

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 abundant life we enjoy, not in the things we possess but in the relationships you offer and the opportunities for sharing that you provide. May all that we dedicate to you be distributed in ways that meet human need and offer praise to you. Extend our outreach beyond our vision, that we may live in awe and wonder before you, marveling before your goodness and mercy. 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**

They'll Know We are Christians

595

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person/Liturgist

Kay Guse

Accompanist

Melody Hollis

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, Carol Schmitt, 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

-Staunton St. Paul UCC, Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins

-Stone Church St. Peter's UCC

ISC Conference Minister

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

Retired Pastor

-Rev. P. Jerry Bennett, Highland, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY

Darren Schmitt, May 1

Tiffany & Vic Duncan, 21 years, May 4

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, APRIL 23, 2023

St. John's – 9

St. Jacob – 27

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) can use donations of non-perishable food, hygiene products, and other items for those in need. 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

May 5-6: ELF's book sale, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Heritage Hall.

May 10: ELF's meeting, 10 a.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.

ELFS BOOK SALE, LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

This year as part of the St. Jacob community yard sale, the ELF's will hold a book sale from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 5 & 6 in Heritage Hall. If you have any books you would like to donate, they can be placed on the cart in the Narthx by Wednesday, May 3. 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 2:42-47

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters;
He restores my soul.
He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

I assure you that whoever doesn't enter into the sheep pen through the gate but climbs over the wall is a thief and an outlaw. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The guard at the gate opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. Whenever he has gathered all of his sheep, he goes before them and they follow him, because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger but will run away because they don't know the stranger's voice." Those who heard Jesus use this analogy didn't understand what he was saying.

So Jesus spoke again, "I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.

Together We Serve

B \flat F Gm Dm⁷

1 To-gether we serve, u - nit - ed by love, in -
 2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope, a
 3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor, the
 4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work, re -

5 E \flat B \flat Cm⁷ Fsus F

vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast. We
 lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. We
 bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care. We
 mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong. To -

9 B \flat F E \flat Dm B \flat

work and we pray through sor - row and joy, ex -
 learn, year by year, to let love shine through un -
 of - fer a home to those who will come, our
 geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth, re -

13 E \flat B \flat Cm F⁷ B \flat

tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.
 til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.
 hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.
 mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

