



# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

MAY 14, 2023

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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.

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**Silent Reflection:** "O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams."

~ Saint Augustine

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The God of heaven and earth calls us together.

We come to explore matters of the Spirit.

ALL: **There is so much we do not know or understand.**

**So much of God is unknown to us.**

ONE: Let us look carefully at the objects of our worship.

Our attention is easily diverted from God.

ALL: **We want to worship the One who gives us breath.**

**We reach for the Reality beyond our knowing.**

ONE: In God we live and move and have our being.

All that we have and are comes from God.

ALL: **God is not limited to shrines made by us.**

**God is everywhere present in the whole universe.**

#### Bulletin Cover:

God's Hands and the Holy Spirit, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/act-image-link.pl?RC=56826>. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/basta-cosi/1547659026/>.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O God, we confess that we have loved our own way more than we love you. The Spirit of truth does not abide in us, for our actions belie the words of praise we utter in worship. We neglect the spiritual disciplines that would draw us close to you and the caring outreach that would link us with sisters and brothers who need to know of your love. We have not witnessed to our faith in ways powerful enough to evoke opposition or cause us to suffer. O God, it is hard to follow Jesus! Forgive us, teach us, help us! 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:

Ephesians 1:3-6, 13-19a

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

## HYMN

### *I Sing the Almighty Power of God*

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Isaac Watts | Xavier Ludwig Harig © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain *For use solely with the SongSelect W. [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. [www.wsl.com](#) CCLI License # 20849486*

## SERMON

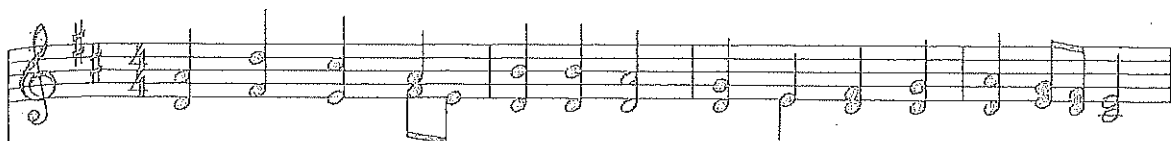
## HYMN

### *Holy Spirit, Source of Love*

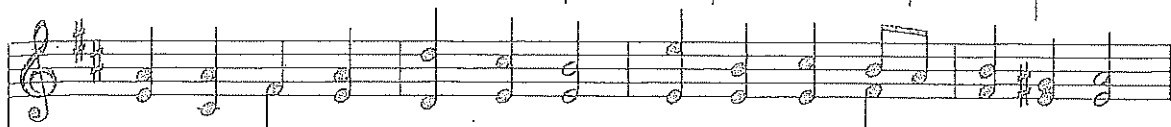
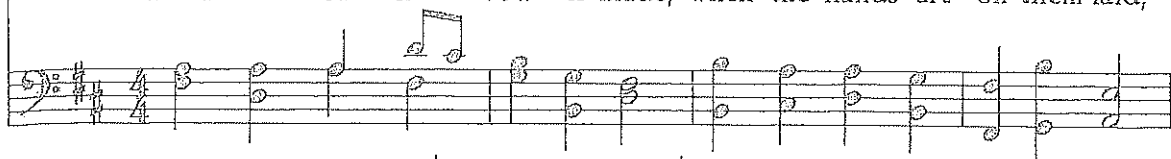
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# Holy Spirit, Source of Love

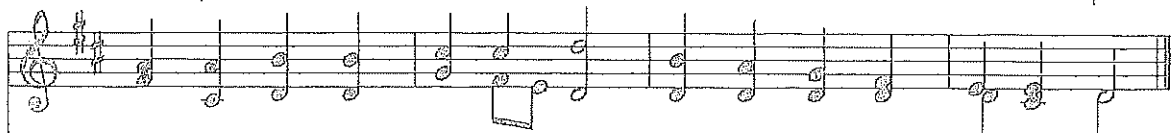
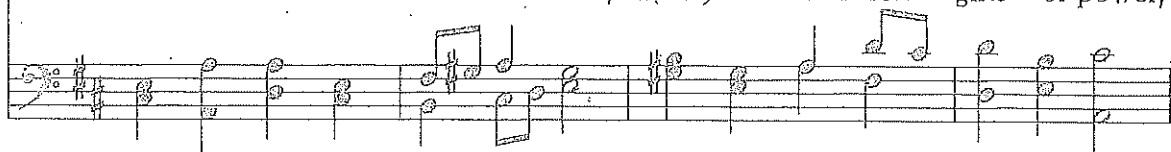
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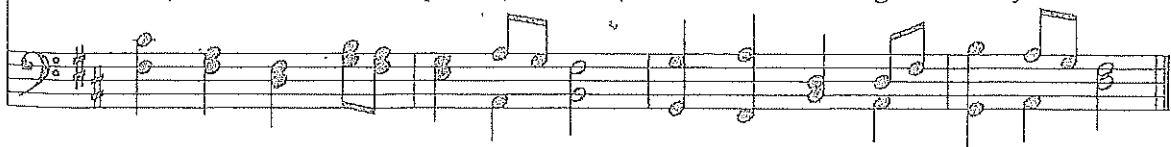
1 Ho - ly Spir - it, source of love, who, to us, came from a - bove,  
2 Give them light your truth to see, strength to serve you joy - ful - ly,  
3 When the sa - cred vow is made, when the hands are on them laid,



gifts of bless - ing to be - stow on your wait - ing church be - low:  
dai - ly power to con - quer sin, pa - tient faith the crown to win;  
come in this most sol - emn hour, with your seven - fold gifts of power;



once a - gain in love draw near to your ser - vants gath - ered here.  
shield them from temp - ta - tion's breath, keep them faith - ful un - to death.  
come, O bless - ed Spir - it, come, make each ea - ger heart your home.



Words: William Dalrymple Maclagan 1875  
Music: Henry Thomas Smart 1867

HEATHLANDS

777777

Alt. tune: Dix

## 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*)

May all that we give today be used to express your love among us and beyond us, God of all people. We are thankful for your gift to us in Christ Jesus, who was so committed to sharing your love that he risked rejection and death. We are grateful that even though his suffering resulted in death in the flesh you made him alive in the spirit. May Christ live today in us, in our caring, in our giving, in our speaking, in our doing. We rededicate ourselves to your service. Amen.

# CONFIRMATION

## Invitation

## Questions of the Candidates

### Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

## Prayers of the Candidates

## Prayers of the Congregation

Pastor: And we pray,

**All:** Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, and self-control in all things. Strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



## Act of Confirmation

Pastor: Oh God, in the grace of Jesus Christ you have accepted this your servant, Lilly Zobrist, through the water of baptism. Nourish in her the power of your Holy Spirit that she may serve you in the world.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Oh God, in the grace of Jesus Christ you have accepted this your servant, Savannah Hellon, through the water of baptism. Nourish in her the power of your Holy Spirit that she may serve you in the world.

All: Amen.

## Prayer of Confirmation

Pastor: We rejoice, O merciful God, with these people in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life. We give you thanks that they have been moved to affirm their baptism. Help them to live not only for themselves, but for Christ and all whom Christ loves. Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing towards the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

## Question about Participation

### Welcome

Pastor: Let us, the members of St. Jacob United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.



## Prayer

## Benediction

Pastor: Go in the peace of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

O Jesus, I Have Promised

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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

ONE: Christ is risen!

ALL: **Christ is risen indeed!**

ONE: Lift up your hearts

ALL: **We lift them to God.**

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

ONE: It is a right and good thing to praise you, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Almighty God. You claim us as your people, bathe us in forgiveness through Baptism, and draw us together into your church.

You call us to be your royal priesthood, a holy people, and you give us this holy meal as food for our journey. Today these confirmands have professed their faith in Christ and your presence within their journey. Today they claim your gracious love for themselves and seek to live into a deeper and mature faith. Give them your grace and peace, as they and we join with your people on earth and all the company of heaven to praise your name.

**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 Jesus Christ, who came to live among us. As a young person, Jesus traveled with his family to Jerusalem, then stayed behind in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them, and asking questions. Jesus grew in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor, setting for us as example of spiritual growth. He calls us now to walk in God's ways on a journey of faith. On the night before his own journey in the flesh ended, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said to his disciples, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way Jesus took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." In remembrance of Jesus Christ's gracious acts on our behalf, we offer ourselves to you O God, as we proclaim the promises of faith:

**ALL:** Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

ONE: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit on all gathered here and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ Jesus, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed and reconciling.

ALL: Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Holy 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 grace and resurrection, we give you thanks that you have brought us to your table and shared with us the presence of Christ. May this meal strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. 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

### *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

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## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

## SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Audrey Yann
Liturgist	Audrey Yann
Accompanist	Melissa Anderson Taylor

## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

**St. John's:** Ella Boggy, Wally Foxworthy, Margie Foxworthy's son Sean, Cindy Roll, 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

-Trenton St. John UCC, Rev. Christy Smith

-Troy Friedens UCC, Rev. Dr. Tim (Danielle) Harrison

### Retired Pastor

-Rev. Robert & Doris Utke, St. Paul, MN

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Ty Gansmann, May 16

Karen & Joe Schultze, 53 years, May 16

Shelly Bittle, May 17

Mary and Zach Lowe, 4 years, May 18

Duane Woods, May 19

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

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE, MAY 7, 2023

St. John's – 16

St. Jacob – 31

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### 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](mailto:stjucc@hometel.com)

Website: [stjacobucc.org](http://stjacobucc.org)

Pastor Phil Barbier: Phone: 314-312-2347 / E-mail: [pastor@hometel.com](mailto:pastor@hometel.com)

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### **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)

## CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

**SATURDAY:** Berry cleaning and Strawberry Festival setup, 8 a.m.

**MAY 21:** **Strawberry Festival**, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

St. Jacob UCC and Friedens UCC, Troy, are working together to organize an intergenerational Vacation Bible School this summer! Specifics are still being planned, but if you're between the ages of 1-100+, we hope you will join us as we explore the theme of the Greatest Commandment: " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' " Save the date for the evenings of Thursdays, July 20, July 27, and August 3; as soon as the details are confirmed, we will publicize them in weekly bulletin, Facebook, and the church website!



### 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.

### 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.



**FIRST LESSON: Ephesians 1:3-6, 13-19a**

Bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing that comes from heaven. God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in God's presence before the creation of the world. God destined us to be his adopted children through Jesus Christ because of his love. This was according to his goodwill and plan and to honor his glorious grace that he has given to us freely through the Son whom he loves.

You too heard the word of truth in Christ, which is the good news of your salvation. You were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit because you believed in Christ. The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance, which is applied toward our redemption as God's own people, resulting in the honor of God's glory.

Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers.

**SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

Who will harm you if you are zealous for good? But happy are you, even if you suffer because of righteousness! Don't be terrified or upset by them. Instead, regard Christ the Lord as holy in your hearts. Whenever anyone asks you to speak of your hope, be ready to defend it. Yet do this with respectful humility, maintaining a good conscience. Act in this way so that those who malign your good lifestyle in Christ may be ashamed when they slander you. It is better to suffer for doing good (if this could possibly be God's will) than for doing evil.

Christ himself suffered on account of sins, once for all, the righteous one on behalf of the unrighteous. He did this in order to bring you into the presence of God. Christ was put to death as a human, but made alive by the Spirit. And it was by the Spirit that he went to preach to the spirits in prison. In the past, these spirits were disobedient—when God patiently waited during the time of Noah. Noah built an ark in which a few (that is, eight) lives were rescued through water. Baptism is like that. It saves you now—not because it removes dirt from your body but because it is the mark of a good conscience toward God. Your salvation comes through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at God's right side. Now that he has gone into heaven, he rules over all angels, authorities, and powers.

**GOSPEL: John 14:15-21**

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. I will ask the Father, and he will send another Companion, who will be with you forever. This Companion is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can't receive because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be with you.

"I won't leave you as orphans. I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them loves me. Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."