



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

July 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 never lose an opportunity of urging a practical beginning, however small, for it is wonderful how often in such matters the mustard-seed germinates and roots itself." ~ Florence Nightingale

ANNOUNCEMENTS RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

- ONE: Let us call on our God and give thanks.
Let hearts rejoice as we sing God's praise.
- ALL: **Glory be to God in whose covenant we find life.
Let all the people tell of God's wonderful works.**
- ONE: Let us open ourselves continually to God's presence.
Let us seek the strength that God alone provides.
- ALL: **Surely the Spirit helps us in our weakness.
The Spirit searches our hearts and enlarges our prayers.**
- ONE: Who can separate us from the love of God?
Will hardship, distress, or peril overcome us?
- ALL: **Nothing can separate us from God's love.
We can face all things, knowing God's care.**
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Mustard Field (<https://unsplash.com/photos/htLR7cvpR1c>) by Mak (https://unsplash.com/@mak_jp)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

You know us, God, better than we know ourselves. You know the ways we scheme and manipulate for our own advantage. You are aware of how often our deeds fail to match the faith we claim. Help us to face ourselves with honesty. Give us the will and courage to change our ways. We give thanks for Christ's intercession for us. We rejoice as the Spirit gives voice to all we cannot express. Save us, O God, that our lives might give expression to your reign. 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:

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

HYMN

I Am Thine, O Lord

408

SERMON

HYMN

Seek Ye First

349

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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*)

The gift of your realm is precious to us, O God. It is worth our greatest efforts and our caring sacrifice. As we search for the best in life, we also want to share our faith discoveries with friends and neighbors. We do that personally and with our giving. May our outreach proclaim to all that nothing can separate us from your love. We give thanks that you have entrusted to us all that we are privileged to share. 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**

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

INSERT

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	John Zweck
Accompanist	Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Judy Chapman, Wally Foxworthy, Cindy Roll,
Jeffrey Thornton, and Margie Foxworthy's son Sean

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

-Columbia St. Paul UCC, Rev. Jonathan Banger

-New Baden, Rev. Stephen (Molly) Stark

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Dr. Don and Nancy Wagner, Marissa, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Ruth Mikeals, July 31

Pauline Laux, Aug. 3

Melody & Kevin Hollis, 23 years, Aug. 5

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, July 23, 2023

St. John's – 12

St. Jacob – 26

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): Canned potatoes, chili, spam, canned ham, black eyed peas, breakfast bars, Pop-tarts, pineapple, pears, peaches, peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, tomato paste, Vienna sausages, sauerkraut, spinach, pasta sides, egg noodles, chicken & dumplings, beef stew, dish soap, & laundry detergent

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUG. 9: ELFs meeting, 10 a.m.

INTERGENERATIONAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The final session for the St. Jacob UCC and Troy Friedens UCC Intergenerational Vacation Bible School will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Aug. 3 at Tri-Township Park, Troy, IL. This Intergenerational Vacation Bible School is for everyone ages of 1-100-plus, and we will 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,"* and *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* You can register on-line at: <https://forms.gle/1kkGSY9uLLuPDiET9>, or if you prefer, there are registration forms available on the table in the Narthx and in the church office.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS, DONATIONS

-**St. John's UCC** is accepting monetary donations to purchase needed lunch supplies. Lunches are provided each weekday from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and can be picked up at the Summerfield Fire Department.

-**St. Jacob UCC:** So far this year we are providing lunches to almost twice as many kids as in years past and could use monetary donations and additional volunteers. Volunteers are needed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays to allow time to assemble lunches, as well as clean-up afterward. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthx. For more information, or to volunteer call Judy Bolton at 618-830-0526, or Audrey Yann at 618-567-8013.

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make his deeds known to all people!

Sing to God; sing praises to the Lord; dwell on all his wondrous works!

Give praise to God's holy name! Let the hearts rejoice of all those seeking the Lord!

Pursue the Lord and his strength; seek his face always!

Remember the wondrous works he has done, all his marvelous works, and the justice he declared—you who are the offspring of Abraham, his servant, and the children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

The Lord—he is our God. His justice is everywhere throughout the whole world.

God remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded to a thousand generations, which he made with Abraham, the solemn pledge he swore to Isaac.

God set it up as binding law for Jacob, as an eternal covenant for Israel, promising, "I hereby give you the land of Canaan as your allotted inheritance."

Praise the Lord!

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:26-39

In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will. We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. We know this because God knew them in advance, and he decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of his Son. That way his Son would be the first of many brothers and sisters. Those who God decided in advance would be conformed to his Son, he also called. Those whom he called, he also made righteous. Those whom he made righteous, he also glorified.

So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him? Who will bring a charge against God's elect people? It is God who acquits them. Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us. Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

*We are being put to death all day long for your sake.
We are treated like sheep for slaughter.*

But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

He told another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. It's the smallest of all seeds. But when it's grown, it's the largest of all vegetable plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds in the sky come and nest in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast, which a woman took and hid in a bushel of wheat flour until the yeast had worked its way through all the dough."

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that somebody hid in a field, which someone else found and covered up. Full of joy, the finder sold everything and bought that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. When he found one very precious pearl, he went and sold all that he owned and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that people threw into the lake and gathered all kinds of fish. When it was full, they pulled it to the shore, where they sat down and put the good fish together into containers. But the bad fish they threw away. That's the way it will be at the end of the present age. The angels will go out and separate the evil people from the righteous people, and will throw the evil ones into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

"Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked.

They said to him, "Yes."

Then he said to them, "Therefore, every legal expert who has been trained as a disciple for the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings old and new things out of their treasure chest."

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

1. O day of God, draw nigh in beau - ty
 2. Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain
 3. Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may
 4. Bring to our world of strife thy sov - ereign
 5. O day of God, draw nigh as at - ere

and in power; come with thy time - less
 and a - fraid, the qui - et of a
 dwell se - cure, and fine - ly build for
 word of peace, that war may haunt the
 a - tion's birth; let there be light a -

judg - ment now to match our pre - sent hour.
 stead - fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.
 days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.
 earth no more, and de - so - la - tion cease.
 gain, and set thy judg - ments on the earth.

Text: R. B. Y. Scott, 1937
 Tune: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551;
 arr. William Crotch, 1836



SM
 ST. MICHAEL
www.hymnary.org/text/o_day_of_god_draw_nigh

