



# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

August 6, 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:** "There is a loneliness more precious than life. There is a freedom more precious than the world. Infinitely more precious than life and the world is that moment when one is alone with God." ~ **Rumi**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**ONE:** Come into the presence of God to be fed.

Come to call on God, who is eager to answer.

**ALL:** We gather to seek God's face.

Let our eyes see all that is right and true.

**ONE:** Incline your ears to hear all God would teach.

Seek to experience God's steadfast love.

**ALL:** We are here to receive God's blessing.

God is our refuge in a frightening world.

**ONE:** God is near to all who call and seek.

Come to praise God and receive a blessing.

**ALL:** Open all our senses to pay close attention, O God.

We want to renew our covenant with the living God.

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#### Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Delacroix, Eugene, 1798-1863. Jacob Wrestling with the Angel - Saint Sulpice Church, Paris, France. 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=48070>. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/dalbera/45889226434/> - CC BY 2.0.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

God of justice and righteousness, whose compassion for humankind was expressed so vividly in Jesus of Nazareth, we bring to you our sorrow and anguish that we have not followed faithfully in the footsteps of Christ. Unkindness and deceit are all around us, and we have sometimes joined in their destructive ways. We waste resources you have entrusted to us. We cause others to stumble and fall. Take away our wickedness, O God, restore your covenant among us. We pray in Jesus' name. 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:**

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm 17:1-7, 15

Matthew 14:13-21

## SERMON

## 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 all you have given to satisfy our needs. You quench our thirst and alleviate our hungers when we turn to you. You turn scarcity into plenty and give us the opportunity to help others. May our offerings proclaim your goodness and mercy. May they be devoted to extending the beloved community of your people. Keep our words and actions attuned to your will, that we may offer to all what they need from your hand. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (*insert*)

## 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.*



## 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: God be with you

ALL: And also with you

ONE: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the God Most High.

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

ONE: Holy God, our loving Creator, you are as close to us as our breathing and you are as distant as the farthest star. We thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith around the world and of every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, who you sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our prayers with the entire family of your faithful people, everywhere and in every time:

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: Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. We remember that Jesus ate and drank with the poor and with the wealthy, with the sinful and righteous alike. When he saw the multitude that followed him with nothing to eat, he took some loaves of bread, and a few fish, and after giving thanks to you he divided the bread and gave it to the multitude. And all ate and were filled. When his arrest seemed near, Jesus sat at table in an upper room, with his

closest friends and disciples. As he had done so many times before, he took the bread and after giving thanks to you he shared it among the disciples, vowing to continue his work in spite of the risk. He said, "I will not eat this again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after the meal, he took the cup and after giving thanks he gave it to them saying, "Truly I tell you, I will never drink of the fruit of the vine until I drink it new with you in the kingdom of God." Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For a time it seemed that all was lost. Jesus was executed by the authorities, and his disciples scattered in fear and despair. But at an evening meal in Emmaus, and at a breakfast campfire by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus once more took the bread, and after giving thanks to you he divided it and gave it to his disciples, opening their eyes, binding up their wounds, continuing the meal, and revealing plainly that your steadfast love is stronger even than death, and your labor with us continues, for the sake of your realm.

Therefore, let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

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

**ONE:** Holy one, pour out your blessings on this food we have gathered for your people. May it be multiplied like the loaves and fishes at Galilee and feed and bless them and bring them closer to you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup, and on us, your children. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

**ALL: Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (unison)

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. 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.

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

### SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person/Liturgist  
Accompanist

Carol Kynion  
Melody Hollis

### IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

**St. Jacob:** Sandy Autry, Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Carolyn Masterson, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jamie Runion, Jane Schmidt, Sara Schreiber, Carol Zweck, and Dawn and "B" friends of John 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

-Darmstadt Holy Ghost UCC, Rev. Tarrah (Jasen) Vaupel

-DuBois St. Mark's UCC

#### Retired Pastor

-Rev. Christopher and Cathy Hill, O'Fallon, IL

### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Charlie Kynion, Aug. 7

Paul Guse, Aug. 9

Susan Schmidt, Aug. 12

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE, July 30, 2023

St. John's – 14      St. Jacob – 30

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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):** 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

**WEDNESDAY:** ELFs meeting, 10 a.m.

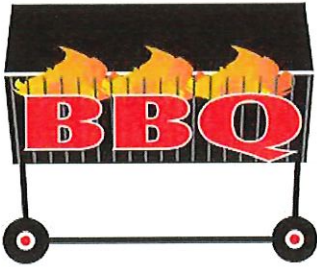
**AUGUST 15:** St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

**AUGUST 16:** St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

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### **BBQ MEAT BONANZA DRAWING AUG. 27**

The ELFs organization, in conjunction with Korte Meat Processing, Inc., are offering you a chance to win one of three bundles of barbeque meats in exchange for your donation. Tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$10. Ticket packets have been mailed out, and additional ticket packets are available on the table in the Narthx for you to sell to friends, family, or purchase yourself. The proceeds will be used to purchase a display case in the Upper Meeting Room. The drawing will be held immediately following worship on Aug. 27, where three lucky winners' names will be drawn. You can drop your donation/tickets in the Barbeque safe in the foyer at church or mail them to the church office at: 207 West Main Street. St. Jacob, IL 62281.



### **ST. JACOB UCC HOSTS RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE AUG. 22**

St. Jacob UCC will host a Red Cross blood drive from 1-5 p.m., Aug. 22 at Heritage Hall. The goal for the blood drive is 24 pints. You may schedule your appointment on-line at: [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: **StJacob** or you can call the office at 618-644-2142.



### **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.

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

**FIRST LESSON: Genesis 32:22-31**

Jacob got up during the night, took his two wives, his two women servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed the Jabbok River's shallow water. He took them and everything that belonged to him, and he helped them cross the river. But Jacob stayed apart by himself, and a man wrestled with him until dawn broke. When the man saw that he couldn't defeat Jacob, he grabbed Jacob's thigh and tore a muscle in Jacob's thigh as he wrestled with him. The man said, "Let me go be-cause the dawn is breaking."

But Jacob said, "I won't let you go until you bless me."

He said to Jacob, "What's your name?" and he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name won't be Jacob any longer, but Israel, because you struggled with God and with men and won."

Jacob also asked and said, "Tell me your name."

But he said, "Why do you ask for my name?" and he blessed Jacob there. Jacob named the place Peniel, "because I've seen God face-to-face, and my life has been saved." The sun rose as Jacob passed Peniel, limping because of his thigh.

**SECOND LESSON: Psalm 17:1-7, 15**

Listen to what's right, Lord; pay attention to my cry!

Listen closely to my prayer; it's spoken by lips that don't lie!

My justice comes from you; let your eyes see what is right!

You have examined my heart, testing me at night.

You've looked me over closely, but haven't found anything wrong. My mouth doesn't sin.

But these other people's deeds? I have avoided such violent ways by the command from your lips.

My steps are set firmly on your paths; my feet haven't slipped.

I cry out to you because you answer me. So tilt your ears toward me now—listen to what I'm saying!

Manifest your faithful love in amazing ways because you are the one who saves those who take refuge in you, saving them from their attackers by your strong hand.

But me? I will see your face in righteousness; when I awake, I will be filled full by seeing your image.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21**

When Jesus heard about John, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. When the crowds learned this, they followed him on foot from the cities. When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion for them and healed those who were sick. That evening his disciples came and said to him, "This is an isolated place and it's getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

But Jesus said to them, "There's no need to send them away. You give them something to eat."

They replied, "We have nothing here except five loaves of bread and two fish."

He said, "Bring them here to me." He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them and broke the loaves apart and gave them to his disciples. Then the disciples gave them to the crowds. Everyone ate until they were full, and they filled twelve baskets with the leftovers. About five thousand men plus women and children had eaten.