

وَسَأَلُوهُ قَائِلِينَ أَطَلَقَ هَذِهِ الْأَمْرَةَ. لِأَنَّهَا
تَصِيحُ فِي إِثْرِنَا. فَاجَابُ وَقَالَ لَهُ ارْسَلْ



لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الضَّالَّةُ مِنْ بَيْتِ إِسْرَائِيلَ. فَانْتَهَتْ
وَسَجَدَتْ لَهُ قَائِلَةً يَا رَبِّ اعْنِي. فَاجَابُ وَقَالَ

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

August 20, 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: "Just as a circle embraces all that is within it, so does God embrace all. No one has the power to divide this circle, to surpass it, or to limit it."

~ Hildegard Of Bingen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: This is a Sabbath dedicated to our God.

Let this gathering place be a home for all people.

ALL: **May God be gracious to us and bless us.**

May God's face shine over all the earth's people.

ONE: Let all the people praise the God of all nations.

Let us give thanks and enjoy the blessings God gives.

ALL: **May God grant us understanding and courage.**

May faith grow beyond our doubts.

ONE: The earth has yielded its blessing.

Let all the ends of the earth revere our Creator.

ALL: **God brings us together in unity of purpose.**

May our circle grow as we welcome newcomers.

Bulletin Cover Attribution: Bazzi Rahib, Ilyas Basim Khuri. The Canaanite Woman asks for healing for her daughter, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55922>. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ilyas_Basim_Khuri_Bazzi_Rahib_-_Jesus_and_the_Canaanite_Woman_-_Walters_W59243A_-_Full_Page.jpg.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Forgive us, O God, for the sin we recognize in ourselves and the wounds we do not see. Show us how we have hurt one another and grant us courage to seek forgiveness and reconciliation. Reveal to us our disobedience to you and keep us from leading others into our sin. We seek your mercy for the times we have willfully offended. Help us to put all actions and comments that defile. Cleanse us for new life in Christ. 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 45:1-15

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:10-28

HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

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SERMON

HYMN

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

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Words: 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Company; Music: 1987 Hope Publishing Company

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*)

As you have blessed us, O God, we are eager to share. May we offer more than crumbs from your table. May none be sent away from the blessings you intend for all. We want our offerings to preserve and extend life to your children, here in this place and wherever our influence can reach. What is in the offering plates is only a part of what we dedicate ourselves to do and be that your reign of unity and peace may come. 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**

Jesus Shall Reign

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Carol Kynion
Liturgist	Kay Guse
Accompanist	Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Sandy Autry, Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Lola Kelley,
Carolyn Masterson, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jamie Runion,
Jane Schmidt, Sara Schreiber, the family of JoAnn Swip,
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

-DuQuoin St. John's UCC, Rev. Robert Morwell

-East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith, Pastor Norma Patterson

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Allen and Lynn Reiter, Hamel, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Marie & Gene Gansmann, 57 years, Aug. 21

Nancy McCaw, Aug. 22

Evagene Gusewelle, Aug. 23

Rusty Schiefer, Aug. 24

Ron Rujawitz, Aug. 26

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, August 13, 2023

St. John's – 9

St. Jacob – 20

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 TUESDAY

St. Jacob UCC will host a Red Cross blood drive from 1-5 p.m., Tuesday at Heritage Hall. The goal for the blood drive is 24 pints, currently there are still 15 appointments remaining. You may schedule your appointment on-line at: RedCrossBlood.org and enter: **StJacob** or you can call the office at 618-644-2142.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 45:1-15

Joseph could no longer control himself in front of all his attendants, so he declared, "Everyone, leave now!" So no one stayed with him when he revealed his identity to his brothers. He wept so loudly that the Egyptians and Pharaoh's household heard him. Joseph said to his brothers, "I'm Joseph! Is my father really still alive?" His brothers couldn't respond because they were terrified before him.

Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me," and they moved closer. He said, "I'm your brother Joseph! The one you sold to Egypt. Now, don't be upset and don't be angry with yourselves that you sold me here. Actually, God sent me before you to save lives. We've already had two years of famine in the land, and there are five years left without planting or harvesting. God sent me before you to make sure you'd survive and to rescue your lives in this amazing way. You didn't send me here; it was God who made me a father to Pharaoh, master of his entire household, and ruler of the whole land of Egypt.

"Hurry! Go back to your father. Tell him this is what your son Joseph says: 'God has made me master of all of Egypt. Come down to me. Don't delay. You may live in the land of Goshen, so you will be near me, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and everyone with you. I will support you there, so you, your household, and everyone with you won't starve, since the famine will still last five years.' You and my brother Benjamin have seen with your own eyes that I'm speaking to you. Tell my father about my power in Egypt and about everything you've seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his shoulder. He kissed all of his brothers and wept, embracing them. After that, his brothers were finally able to talk to him.

(continued from inside cover)

SECOND LESSON: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

So I ask you, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not! I'm an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God hasn't rejected his people, whom he knew in advance.

God's gifts and calling can't be taken back. Once you were disobedient to God, but now you have mercy because they were disobedient. In the same way, they have also been disobedient because of the mercy that you received, so now they can receive mercy too. God has locked up all people in disobedience, in order to have mercy on all of them.

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-28

Jesus called the crowd near and said to them, "Listen and understand. It's not what goes into the mouth that contaminates a person in God's sight. It's what comes out of the mouth that contaminates the person."

Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended by what you just said?"

Jesus replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father didn't plant will be pulled up. Leave the Pharisees alone. They are blind people who are guides to blind people. But if a blind person leads another blind person, they will both fall into a ditch."

Then Peter spoke up, "Explain this riddle to us."

Jesus said, "Don't you understand yet? Don't you know that everything that goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what goes out of the mouth comes from the heart. And that's what contaminates a person in God's sight. Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adultery, sexual sins, thefts, false testimonies, and insults. These contaminate a person in God's sight. But eating without washing hands doesn't contaminate in God's sight."

From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, "Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession." But he didn't respond to her at all.

His disciples came and urged him, "Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us."

Jesus replied, "I've been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel."

But she knelt before him and said, "Lord, help me."

He replied, "It is not good to take the children's bread and toss it to dogs."

She said, "Yes, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters' table."

Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish." And right then her daughter was healed.