



Burning Bush 4, Annette B. Faust 2000

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

September 3, 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: "The love of Christ is unchangeable and everlasting! His love is invincible, and irresistible as death... All earth and heaven together would be ineffectual to cool or quench His mighty love!" ~ **Horatius Bonar, 1868**

ANNOUNCEMENTS RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

- ONE: Why have we gathered on this holy day?
What has drawn us to this time and place?
- ALL: We have been drawn to a flame burning here.
We sense the glory of God in this place.
- ONE: God calls us to this time of worship.
The place where we are standing is holy ground.
- ALL: Give thanks to God: sing praises.
Give attention to the voice of God.
- ONE: Out of a burning bush, God spoke to Moses.
In the rhythms of worship, God speaks to us.
- ALL: We will listen for God's message to us.
Surely God's strength will supply our needs.
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Bulletin Cover Attribution:

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O God, we have wavered in our faith in the midst of suffering, and we have not persevered in prayer. We have claimed to be wiser than we are, and have even tried to correct you. We make excuses for ourselves rather than listening for your direction and heeding your call. Our days are so filled with the busyness of this world that we cannot see your reign among us. We are so weighed down by our own concerns that we have no energy to serve in your realm. Send your cleansing fire among us, forgiving God. 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:

Exodus 3:1-15;
Romans 12:9-21;
Matthew 16:21-28

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*)

May our offerings be an expression of genuine love that reflects your love for us, O God. We seek to honor you as we serve one another in Christ's name. We reach out to overcome evil with good. Direct our use of resources you entrust to us that we may not only contribute to the needs of the saints but also devote our lives to the building of a peaceable worldwide community in which all are valued. Amen.

HYMN

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

698

Words: 1975 Hope Publishing Company; Music: 1975 Hope Publishing Company

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.

* HYMN

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

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Words and Music © 1977 Scripture in Song (a div. of Integrity Music)

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 Ty Gansmann
Accompanist Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Wally Foxworthy, Cindy Roll, Roy Roll 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, Jerry 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

-Farina Friedens UCC

-Fairview Heights St. John UCC, Rev. Rosemary Captain

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Russell and Doris Miller, Metropolis, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Haylee Petchulat, Sept. 3
Melinda & Rusty Schiefer, 40 years, Sept. 3
Diane & Sam Frey, 41 years, Sept. 4
Paul Baer, Sept. 5
Don Koenig, Sept. 6
Dianne Doll, Sept. 7

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, August 27, 2023

St. John's – 10

St. Jacob – 31

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): pasta sides, rice sides, chili, chili beans, pasta sauce, tomatoes, scalloped potatoes, Hamburger Helper, & egg noodles

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. JACOB UCC RALLY DAY SEPT. 10

For the first time since the start of the pandemic we will have a church pot luck for Rally Day! Come for worship Sept. 10 and stay for Rally Day lunch. Pork burgers and hot dogs will be provided, and we will have lawn games and bingo after lunch.

ST. JACOB UCC SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS SEPT. 10

St. Jacob UCC Sunday School begins at 9 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 10. Class will be held from 9-10 a.m. every second and fourth Sunday thereafter. All children ages 3 and up are invited to join the fun. For more information, or to volunteer to help, contact the church office at 618-644-2142; or email: stjucc@hometel.com

PIZZA FUNDRAISER ORDER DEADLINE SEPT. 24

St. Jacob UCC is sponsoring a pizza fundraiser along with Papa Murphy's. We receive a percentage of the total order -- if we sell 100 or more pizzas, our profit is 30 percent; if we sell less than 100 pizzas we get 25 percent. Order forms will be available on the table in the Narthx Sept. 10 and must be returned by Sept. 24. Your order form and payment can be dropped off at the office or placed on the collection plate. Pizzas will be available for pick-up following service at St. Jacob Oct. 1.

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. The Lord's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up.

When the Lord saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

Moses said, "I'm here."

Then the Lord said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground." He continued, "I am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

(continued from inside cover)

But Moses said to God, “Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

God said, “I’ll be with you. And this will show you that I’m the one who sent you. After you bring the people out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain.”

But Moses said to God, “If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they are going to ask me, ‘What’s this God’s name?’ What am I supposed to say to them?”

God said to Moses, “I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, ‘I Am has sent me to you.’” God continued, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, Abraham’s God, Isaac’s God, and Jacob’s God, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 12:9-21

Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. Don’t hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you’re in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. Contribute to the needs of God’s people, and welcome strangers into your home. Bless people who harass you—bless and don’t curse them. Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. Consider everyone as equal, and don’t think that you’re better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don’t think that you’re so smart. Don’t pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good.

If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people. Don’t try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath. It is written, Revenge belongs to me; I will pay it back, says the Lord. Instead, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon his head. Don’t be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and legal experts, and that he had to be killed and raised on the third day. Then Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him: “God forbid, Lord! This won’t happen to you.” But he turned to Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan. You are a stone that could make me stumble, for you are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.”

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? For the Human One is about to come with the majesty of his Father with his angels. And then he will repay each one for what that person has done. I assure you that some standing here won’t die before they see the Human One coming in his kingdom.”