



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

September 17, 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: "If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

~ Mother Teresa

ANNOUNCEMENTS RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God.

Let us remember God's marvelous works.

ALL: Surely God has saved us in difficult times.

How can we forget God's guiding hand?

ONE: When evil surrounds us and we have been wronged,

God helps us turn the evil to good.

ALL: We need not be afraid whatever happens.

We are in God's care wherever we go.

ONE: Sing the praises of God, our strength.

Know that God is majestic and holy.

ALL: How great is God's mercy for all who worship!

We sense among us God's kindness and patience.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Toros Roslin, 13th century. Passage of the Red Sea, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55812>. Original

source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Red_sea_passage.jpg.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

We bow before your judgment seat, O God. We have ranked our sisters and brothers by the faulty standards of our society to decide who is worthy of our attention. We have rejected those whom we dislike and have been harsh with those we think do not measure up. We have been quite willing to overlook our own faults as we look down on other people. O God, you have shown us a better way. Save us from the pain we inflict and help us to discover the blessing of forgiveness. 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 14:19-31

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

HYMN *Go Down, Moses* 618

SERMON

HYMN *Lord, Speak to Me* 593

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*)

We honor you, O God, as we give. We know we do not live or die to ourselves but are a part of a large community, linked in ways beyond our knowing with you and all generations of your children. We are accountable to you and share in responsibility for one another and for the care of this planet. Thus, we dedicate our resources and our lives to you for the work of your realm. Receive our gifts and draw us to yourself. 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** *Help Us Accept Each Other* 596

Words: 1975 Hope Publishing Company; Music: 1977 Hope Publishing Company

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Audrey Yann
Liturgist	Beth Frank
Accompanist	Melissa Anderson Taylor

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, Carol Zweck and the family of Brandon Thomas and the family of Dawn, a friend 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

-Freeburg St. Paul's UCC, Rev. Andrew Lovins

-Pension Board-UCC National Staff, Rev. Krista Betz. Belleville, IL

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Nancy Spier-Lee and Kevin Lee, Dupo, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Cathy Frutiger, Sept. 18

Audrey Yann, Sept. 18

Amy Sullivan, Sept. 19

Cathy & Ken Frutiger, 50 years, Sept. 22

Richard Schmidt, Sept. 23

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, September 10, 2023

St. John's – 10

St. Jacob – 34

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): Canned chili, tomatoes, and beans (kidney, pinto, great northern, black), cereal, juice, canned fruit, boxed Jello or pudding, Ramen noodles, mac & cheese, boxed potatoes, white rice, canned chicken, canned stew, peanut butter, & jelly

Requested items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited): pasta sides, rice sides, chili, chili beans, pasta sauce, tomatoes, scalloped potatoes, Hamburger Helper, & egg noodles

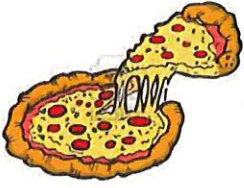
CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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 are available on the table in the Narthx 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.



ST. JACOB UCC SUNDAY SCHOOL 2ND & 4TH SUNDAYS

St. Jacob UCC Sunday School will be held from 9-10 a.m. every second and fourth Sunday through the school year. 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

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 14:19-31

God's messenger, who had been in front of Israel's camp, moved and went behind them. The column of cloud moved from the front and took its place behind them. It stood between Egypt's camp and Israel's camp. The cloud remained there, and when darkness fell it lit up the night. They didn't come near each other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord pushed the sea back by a strong east wind all night, turning the sea into dry land. The waters were split into two. The Israelites walked into the sea on dry ground. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians chased them and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and cavalry. As morning approached, the Lord looked down on the Egyptian camp from the column of lightning and cloud and threw the Egyptian camp into a panic. The Lord jammed their chariot wheels so that they wouldn't turn easily. The Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites, because the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt!"

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the water comes back and covers the Egyptians, their chariots, and their cavalry." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. At daybreak, the sea returned to its normal depth. The Egyptians were driving toward it, and the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the cavalry, Pharaoh's entire army that had followed them into the sea. Not one of them remained. The Israelites, however, walked on dry ground through the sea. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left.

The Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians that day. Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the amazing power of the Lord against the Egyptians. The people were in awe of the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 14:1-12

Welcome the person who is weak in faith—but not in order to argue about differences of opinion. One person believes in eating everything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Those who eat must not look down on the ones who don't, and the ones who don't eat must not judge the ones who do, because God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servants? They stand or fall before their own Lord (and they will stand, because the Lord has the power to make them stand). One person considers some days to be more sacred than others, while another person considers all days to be the same. Each person must have their own convictions. Someone who thinks that a day is sacred, thinks that way for the Lord. Those who eat, eat for the Lord, because they thank God. And those who don't eat, don't eat for the Lord, and they thank the Lord too. We don't live for ourselves and we don't die for ourselves. If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to God. This is why Christ died and lived: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you look down on your brother or sister? We all will stand in front of the judgment seat of God. Because it is written,

As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will give praise to God.

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?"

Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. Because the servant didn't have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, 'Please, be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

"When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, 'Pay me back what you owe me.'

"Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

"When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. His master called the first servant and said, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. Shouldn't you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

"My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don't forgive your brother or sister from your heart."