



# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

September 24, 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:** "Everything we do should be a result of our gratitude for what  
God has done for us." ~ **Lauryn Hill**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

#### PRELUDE

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

**ONE:** Call on God with praise and thanksgiving.  
Tell of God's wonderful works.

**ALL:** Today we open ourselves to God's presence.  
Let the hearts of all who seek God rejoice.

**ONE:** When we eat, we are reminded of God's provision.  
When we drink pure water, we give thanks.

**ALL:** Surely God has blessed us with food and drink.  
Daily we are strengthened for tasks we face.

**ONE:** We are guided by God's laws and statutes.  
We benefit from God's generosity.

**ALL:** Let all the people worship with joy!  
Let all whom God has chosen sing together.

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#### Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Tissot, James, 1836-1902. Gathering of the Manna, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56580>. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tissot\\_The\\_Gathering\\_of\\_the\\_Manna\\_\(color\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tissot_The_Gathering_of_the_Manna_(color).jpg).

**CALL TO CONFESSION****PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

O God, we are people of the flesh more than people of the spirit. Our lives are not worthy of the gospel of Christ. We admit our resentment when some people we deem unworthy benefit from your generosity. We confess our lack of attention to your laws, your living Word, your prompting Spirit. You alone are our salvation, our healing, our high opportunity to serve. We choose to belong to you. Accept and change us, we pray. 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 16:2-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45

Matthew 20:1-16

HYMN

*O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

589

SERMON

HYMN

*Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

575

Words: 1988 Oxford University Press; Music: 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (Admin. Augsburg Fortress)

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*)

Receive our tithes and offerings to your honor and glory, loving God. May fruitful results occur through and beyond our sharing. Call us all into the vineyard of meaningful labor and constructive leisure, that your Word, living through us, may call our neighbors to joyous reunion with you. May we help one another to live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, in whose name we pray. 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

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

748

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

### SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Kay Guse

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, Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Lola Kelley, Carolyn  
Masterson, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, Jerry Schmitt,  
Carol Zweck, the family of Jamie Runion, 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

-Godfrey Evangelical UCC, Rev. Jerry (Lori) McCaskey

-Granite City St. John UCC, Rev. Karla (Rev. Charles Preston) Frost

#### Retired Pastor

-Rev. Michael and Elizabeth Marx, Sr., Owensboro, KY

### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Audrey & Don Yann, 47 years, Sept. 25

Diane Frey, Sept. 28

Gina & Robert Willie, 25 years, Sept. 29

Don Yann, Sept. 29

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE, September 17, 2023

St. John's – 9

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):** 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

**SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 3:** Pastor Phil will be vacation. Rev. Louis Fluck will provide pulpit supply Oct. 1.

**OCTOBER 1:** Holy Sunday. Donuts will be available in Heritage Hall.

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### **PIZZA FUNDRAISER ORDER DEADLINE TODAY**

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 TODAY. 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 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> 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.

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#### **FIRST LESSON: Exodus 16:2-15**

The whole Israelite community complained against Moses and Aaron in the desert. The Israelites said to them, "Oh, how we wish that the Lord had just put us to death while we were still in the land of Egypt. There we could sit by the pots cooking meat and eat our fill of bread. Instead, you've brought us out into this desert to starve this whole assembly to death."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I'm going to make bread rain down from the sky for you. The people will go out each day and gather just enough for that day. In this way, I'll test them to see whether or not they follow my instruction. On the sixth day, when they measure out what they have collected, it will be twice as much as they collected on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "This evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt. And in the morning you will see the Lord's glorious presence, because your complaints against the Lord have been heard. Who are we? Why blame us?" Moses continued, "The Lord will give you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning because the Lord heard the complaints you made against him. Who are we? Your complaints aren't against us but against the Lord."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole Israelite community, 'Come near to the Lord, because he's heard your complaints.'" As Aaron spoke to the whole Israelite community, they turned to look toward the desert, and just then the glorious presence of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

The Lord spoke to Moses, "I've heard the complaints of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat. And in the morning you will have your fill of bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening a flock of quail flew down and covered the camp. And in the morning there was a layer of dew all around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the desert surface were thin flakes, as thin as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" They didn't know what it was. Moses said to them, "This is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

**SECOND LESSON: Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45**

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.

Then God brought Israel out, filled with silver and gold; not one of its tribes stumbled.  
 Egypt celebrated when they left, because the dread of Israel had come upon them.

God spread out clouds as a covering; gave lightning to provide light at night.  
 The people asked, and God brought quail; God filled them full with food from heaven.  
 God opened the rock and out gushed water— flowing like a river through the desert!  
 Because God remembered his holy promise to Abraham his servant,  
 God brought his people out with rejoicing, his chosen ones with songs of joy.  
 God gave them the lands of other nations; they inherited the wealth of many peoples—  
 all so that they would keep his laws and observe his instructions.

Praise the Lord!

**GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion, he sent them into his vineyard.

“Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing. He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I’ll pay you whatever is right.’ And they went.

“Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you just standing around here doing nothing all day long?’

“‘Because nobody has hired us,’ they replied.

“He responded, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to the first.’ When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarion. When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ‘These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.’

“But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn’t I agree to pay you a denarion? Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I’m generous?’ So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last.”