



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

October 8, 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: "I have chosen the positive approach - instead of stressing the bad things which I am against, I stress the good things which I am for."

~ Peace Pilgrim

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The God who frees us invites us to worship.

The God of law welcomes our loyal response.

ALL: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

ONE: God is present with us, eager to speak to us.

Our Creator is here to test us and to keep us from sin.

ALL: The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.

God's decrees are sure, making wise the simple.

ONE: We tremble before God, yet are not afraid.

We are ready to listen to God's word.

ALL: May our awe before God be pure and enduring.

May our thoughts and our words be acceptable to God.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Ten Commandments - illustrative wood relief carving from a Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Paszym, Poland. From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55124>. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/feargal/5096148585/> - CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O God, we have no righteousness of our own. We have bent and ignored your law. Your commandments inform us but do not transform. We give lip service to your law but seek to avoid its implication for our lives. We recognize some of our errors, but many are hidden from us. We devote our energies to accumulating possessions that function as idols in our lives. We depend on them more than we honor you. Save us, we pray, from great transgressions and help us to reorder our days. 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.

SCRIPTURE:

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Psalm 19

Matthew 21:33-46

HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

405

SERMON

HYMN

All Who Love and Serve Your City

625

Words: 1969 Stainer & Bell Ltd; Music: 1965 Abingdon Press

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*)

Ruler of all space and time, we want to be faithful stewards in your vineyard. All that we have is yours. Our lives are in your hands. Help us to use well all that we here devote to the work of your church. Help us to manage well, to your honor and glory, all that we retain for ourselves. May we know heaven on earth because you hold first place in our priorities and our daily goal is to serve you. 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**

We Are God's People

547

Words: 1976 Fred Boeck Music Company; Music: 1976 Fred Boeck Music Company

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Donna Lowe
Liturgist	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, Carolyn Masterson, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, Jerry Schmitt, Carol Zweck, and the family of Lola Kelley

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

- Highland Evangelical UCC, Rev. Bill (Sally) Kapp
- Hecker Friedens UCC, Rev. Ivan (Vivian) Horn

Retired Pastor

- Rev. James Langdoc, Clermont, FL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Kay & Paul Guse, 35 years, Oct. 8

Beth Hanser, Oct. 9

Kevin Hollis, Oct. 13

John Lowe, Oct. 13

Gail Miller, Oct. 13

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, October 1, 2023

St. John's – 9

St. Jacob – 23

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

WEDNESDAY: ELFs meeting, 10 a.m.

OCTOBER 17: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

OCTOBER 18: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING PIZZA FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who supported our pizza fundraiser. A total of 85 pizzas were purchased, in addition to many other items, with sales totaling \$1,392. The church received 25 percent back, which netted the church \$350 profit.

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 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You must have no other gods before me.

Do not make an idol for yourself—no form whatsoever—of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth.

Do not use the Lord your God's name as if it were of no significance; the Lord won't forgive anyone who uses his name that way.

Remember the Sabbath day and treat it as holy. Six days you may work and do all your tasks,

Honor your father and your mother so that your life will be long on the fertile land that the Lord your God is giving you.

Do not kill.

Do not commit adultery.

Do not steal.

Do not testify falsely against your neighbor.

Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's house. Do not desire and try to take your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox, donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the horn, and the mountain smoking, the people shook with fear and stood at a distance. They said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we'll listen. But don't let God speak to us, or we'll die."

Moses said to the people, "Don't be afraid, because God has come only to test you and to make sure you are always in awe of God so that you don't sin."

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 19

Heaven is declaring God's glory; the sky is proclaiming his handiwork.

One day gushes the news to the next, and one night informs another what needs to be known.

Of course, there's no speech, no words—their voices can't be heard—

but their sound extends throughout the world; their words reach the ends of the earth.

God has made a tent in heaven for the sun.

The sun is like a groom coming out of his honeymoon suite; like a warrior, it thrills at running its course.

It rises in one end of the sky; its circuit is complete at the other. Nothing escapes its heat.

The Lord's Instruction is perfect, reviving one's very being.

The Lord's laws are faithful, making naive people wise.

The Lord's regulations are right, gladdening the heart.

The Lord's commands are pure, giving light to the eyes.

Honoring the Lord is correct, lasting forever.

The Lord's judgments are true. All of these are righteous!

They are more desirable than gold—than tons of pure gold! They are sweeter than honey—even dripping off the honeycomb!

No doubt about it: your servant is enlightened by them; there is great reward in keeping them.

But can anyone know what they've accidentally done wrong?

Clear me of any unknown sin and save your servant from willful sins. Don't let them rule me.

Then I'll be completely blameless; I'll be innocent of great wrongdoing.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart

be pleasing to you, Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a tower. Then he rented it to tenant farmers and took a trip. When it was time for harvest, he sent his servants to the tenant farmers to collect his fruit. But the tenant farmers grabbed his servants. They beat some of them, and some of them they killed. Some of them they stoned to death.

"Again he sent other servants, more than the first group. They treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said.

"But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come on, let's kill him and we'll have his inheritance.' They grabbed him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

"When the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?"

They said, "He will totally destroy those wicked farmers and rent the vineyard to other tenant farmers who will give him the fruit when it's ready."

Jesus said to them, "Haven't you ever read in the scriptures, *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. The Lord has done this, and it's amazing in our eyes?* Therefore, I tell you that God's kingdom will be taken away from you and will be given to a people who produce its fruit. Whoever falls on this stone will be crushed. And the stone will crush the person it falls on."

Now when the chief priests and the Pharisees heard the parable, they knew Jesus was talking about them. They were trying to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, who thought he was a prophet.