

Sepulchrum S. Catharine.

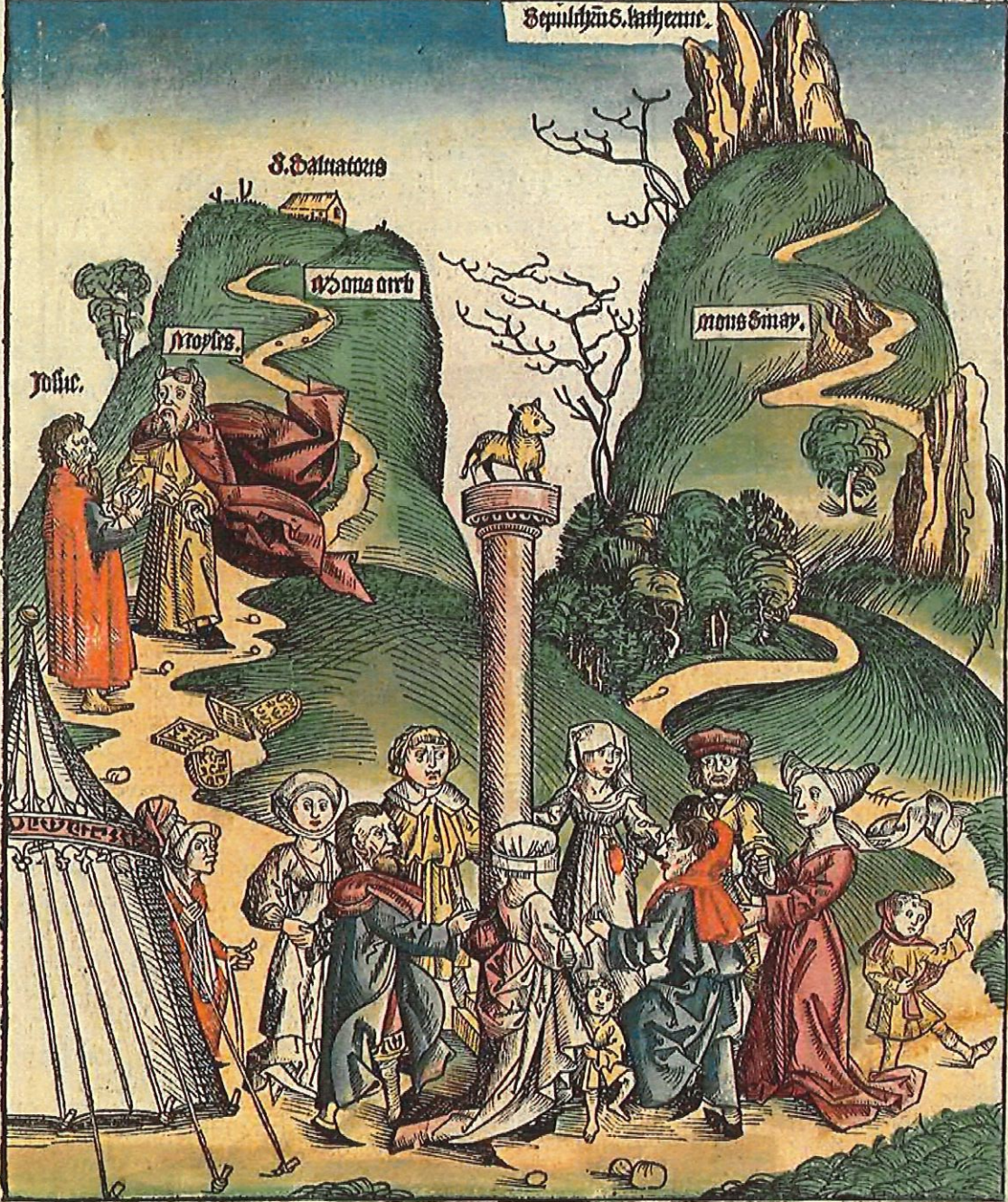
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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

October 15, 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: "This is what God's kingdom is like: a bunch of outcasts and oddballs gathered at a table, not because they are rich or worthy or good, but because they are hungry, because they said yes." ~ Rachel Held Evans - "Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come away from the valleys of misplaced loyalty.
Come, seeking to meet the God of all worlds.

ALL: **We have come to praise God and give thanks.**
We believe God's steadfast love endures forever.

ONE: We come together that our faith might be strengthened.
We seek the strength to live by all we profess.

ALL: **God's awesome deeds saved our ancestors.**
Surely God's steadfast love continues with us.

ONE: God continues to deliver us in times of distress.
God's steadfast love endures forever.

ALL: **We rejoice that God is near and available to us.**
We hear God welcoming us to this time of prayer.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

The Golden Calf from The Nuremberg Chronicle (1493), from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54273>. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nuremberg_chronicles_-_Golden_calf.png.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of all mercy, you have planted within us a desire to observe justice and do righteousness. We want to be fair and honorable, delighting in life shared openly and honestly with family, friends, and co-workers. Instead, we are often defensive, fearful, and distracted. We spend more time with our toys than with your truth. We seek temporary thrills rather than lasting meaning. Then we are disappointed when our “golden calves” bring no fulfillment. We return to you, loving God, intent on following the guidance we are receiving from you. Save us from ourselves. 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 32:1-14
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

SERMON

HYMN

Sanctuary

INSERT

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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 help to prepare many to feast at your banquet table. May our generosity reflect the amazing abundance you entrust to our care. As we find joy in giving, may others be inspired to give their best, and may all of us realize your peace, dwelling within and among us as we serve in Christ's name. 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

Trust and Obey

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Words: 1976 Fred Boek Music Company; Music: 1976 Fred Boek Music Company

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Donna Lowe
Liturgist	Beth Frank
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, Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Carolyn Masterson, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, Carol Zweck, the family of Lola Kelley, and the family of Kenneth Staley

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

-Hookdale St. Peter UCC, Rev. P. Jerry Bennett

-Hoyleton Zion Evangelical UCC, Rev. Sharon Patton

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Gustav and Suzanne Kuether, Belleville, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dash Zobrist, Oct. 15

Donna Lowe, Oct. 19

Carol & Onis Zweck, 50 years, Oct. 20

Rick Ritter, Oct. 21

Kaitlin Woods, Oct. 21

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, October 8, 2023

St. John's – 7

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

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

ST. JACOB TOWNSHIP FLU IMMUNIZATIONS OCT . 26

St. Jacob Township annual free flu immunizations will be administered from 3-6 p.m., Oct. 26 at Heritage Hall and is for residents of St. Jacob Village and Township ONLY (proof of residency required, and you must be 18 years or older). For more information contact Diane Frey at 618-644-9319.

HIGHLAND MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Highland Meals on Wheels needs several volunteers to deliver noon meals to a few residents in St. Jacob and Marine. The meals are picked up at St. Joseph's Hospital in Highland at approximately 10:50 a.m., Monday - Friday. If you have an hour one day a week to help it will be greatly appreciated. For more information or to volunteer call Mary, the coordinator at 618-954-0356.

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 32: 1-14

The people saw that Moses was taking a long time to come down from the mountain. They gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come on! Make us gods who can lead us. As for this man Moses who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we don't have a clue what has happened to him."

Aaron said to them, "All right, take out the gold rings from the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took out the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. He collected them and tied them up in a cloth. Then he made a metal image of a bull calf, and the people declared, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"

When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf. Then Aaron announced, "Tomorrow will be a festival to the Lord!" They got up early the next day and offered up entirely burned offerings and brought well-being sacrifices. The people sat down to eat and drink and then got up to celebrate.

The Lord spoke to Moses: "Hurry up and go down! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, are ruining everything! They've already abandoned the path that I commanded. They have made a metal bull calf for themselves. They've bowed down to it and offered sacrifices to it and declared, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The Lord said to Moses, "I've been watching these people, and I've seen how stubborn they are. Now leave me alone! Let my fury burn and devour them. Then I'll make a great nation out of you."

(continued from inside cover)

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, “Lord, why does your fury burn against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and amazing force? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘He had an evil plan to take the people out and kill them in the mountains and so wipe them off the earth’? Calm down your fierce anger. Change your mind about doing terrible things to your own people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, whom you yourself promised, ‘I’ll make your descendants as many as the stars in the sky. And I’ve promised to give your descendants this whole land to possess for all time.’” Then the Lord changed his mind about the terrible things he said he would do to his people.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters whom I love and miss, who are my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord.

Loved ones, I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to come to an agreement in the Lord. Yes, and I’m also asking you, loyal friend, to help these women who have struggled together with me in the ministry of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the scroll of life.

Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. Don’t be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus responded by speaking again in parables: “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding party for his son. He sent his servants to call those invited to the wedding party. But they didn’t want to come. Again he sent other servants and said to them, ‘Tell those who have been invited, “Look, the meal is all prepared. I’ve butchered the oxen and the fattened cattle. Now everything’s ready. Come to the wedding party!’” But they paid no attention and went away—some to their fields, others to their businesses. The rest of them grabbed his servants, abused them, and killed them.

“The king was angry. He sent his soldiers to destroy those murderers and set their city on fire. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding party is prepared, but those who were invited weren’t worthy. Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town and invite everyone you find to the wedding party.’

“Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding party was full of guests. Now when the king came in and saw the guests, he spotted a man who wasn’t wearing wedding clothes. He said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ But he was speechless. Then the king said to his servants, ‘Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.’

“Many people are invited, but few people are chosen.”

Sanctuary

482

F#m/A Em/A D A

1. Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y,

G Em7 D A F#m/A Em/A D

pure and ho - ly, tried and true; with thanks - giv - ing,

A G F#m/A G/A D

I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

2. Lead Me on Lord from temptation,
Purify me from within.
Fill my heart with your Holy Spirit,
Take away all my sin.

3. Lord, teach your children to stop the fighting,
And start uniting all as one.
Let's get together, loving forever,
A sanctuary for You.

Repeat Verse 1

