



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

October 22, 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: "Each of us has a soul, but we forget to value it. We don't remember that we are creatures made in the image of God." ~ Teresa of Avila

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We are drawn to worship by a Reality unseen.
The One we call God is beyond human description.

ALL: God is more than we can ever imagine.
We sense God's presence as we meditate.

ONE: We gather in awe to bring our songs of praise.
The Creator of all things has given us life

ALL: We are amazed by the wonders around us.
We feel God's presence as we sing together.

ONE: We are summoned by One who is just and merciful.
The Ruler of all worlds expects us to respond.

ALL: How amazing that God chooses us as messengers.
We know God is with us as we work for justice.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. The Hand of God is My Refuge, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59261>. Original source: Estate of Frank Wesley, http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main_page.htm.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Awesome God, how puny is our cleverness before the magnitude of your reality! How fleeting are our days measured against the far reaches of eternity! Yet we set our limited knowledge and restricted purposes against your will for us and presume to direct our own affairs and those of the whole world. O God, we are trapped in our pretensions. Turn us from our need for proof to extravagant praise. Turn us inside out so our self-interest becomes a concern for all your neglected children. Suppress in us the sinful ways we find so difficult to manage on our own, that we may joyously render to you all that is already yours. 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 33:12-23

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

HYMN

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

INSERT

SERMON

HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

572

Words: 1961, Renewed 1989 The Hymn Society; Music: Public Domain

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*)

O God, we sense that you are calling us to manage well all the things that belong to you. The empires of this world have no claim on the resources you have provided except as they are used for the common good. The offerings we receive as a church are not for our private benefit or to buy services for ourselves. Thus we here dedicate the gifts you have provided in our money and our abilities and our time to extend a helping hand and joyous welcome to every people on the face of the earth. May our efforts find favor with 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

God Be With You

716

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person/Liturgist
Accompanist

Donna Lowe
Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Wally Foxworthy, Cindy Roll, Roy Roll and
Margie Foxworthy's son Sean and stepson Dustin

St. Jacob: Sandy Autry, Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Carolyn Masterson, Gail
Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, Carol Zweck, 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

-Irvington Friedens UCC, Rev. Stacy (Mark) Tate

-O'Fallon HSHS, Chaplain Rev. Dr. Chance (Christopher Guelbert) Beeler

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Kevin (Shellie) Strobe, Carlinville, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Lowe, Oct. 22

Jerry Schmitt, Oct. 23

Mikayla Bloemker, Oct. 24

Charissa & John Hill, 31 years, Oct. 24

Troy Gansmann, Oct. 26

Denise & Paul Baer, 51 years, Oct. 27

Kathy Ritter, Oct. 27

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, October 15, 2023

St. John's – 6

St. Jacob – 38

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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are to the glory of God and in honor of our precious granddaughter, Mikayla Bloemker on the celebration of her 23rd birthday, Oct. 24, from Grandpa Charlie and Grandma Carol Kynion.

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.

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

VOLUNTEER LITURGISTS AT ST. JACOB

We are looking for volunteers willing to read scripture, no long-term commitment, just one Sunday at a time. Everyone from the congregation is invited to take part in helping lead worship. There is a sign-up sheet located on the table in the Narthx.

*** **THE UPPER ROOM** (Nov-Dec) magazines are available on the table in the Narthx at St. Jacob.

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 33:12-23

Moses said to the Lord, "Look, you've been telling me, 'Lead these people forward.' But you haven't told me whom you will send with me. Yet you've assured me, 'I know you by name and think highly of you.' Now if you do think highly of me, show me your ways so that I may know you and so that you may really approve of me. Remember too that this nation is your people."

The Lord replied, "I'll go myself, and I'll help you."

Moses replied, "If you won't go yourself, don't make us leave here. Because how will anyone know that we have your special approval, both I and your people, unless you go with us? Only that distinguishes us, me and your people, from every other people on the earth."

The Lord said to Moses, "I'll do exactly what you've asked because you have my special approval, and I know you by name."

Moses said, "Please show me your glorious presence."

The Lord said, "I'll make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I'll proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord.' I will be kind to whomever I wish to be kind, and I will have compassion to whomever I wish to be compassionate. But," the Lord said, "you can't see my face because no one can see me and live." The Lord said, "Here is a place near me where you will stand beside the rock. As my glorious presence passes by, I'll set you in a gap in the rock, and I'll cover you with my hand until I've passed by. Then I'll take away my hand, and you will see my back, but my face won't be visible."

SECOND LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy.

To the Thessalonians' church that is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace to all of you.

We always thank God for all of you when we mention you constantly in our prayers. This is because we remember your work that comes from faith, your effort that comes from love, and your perseverance that comes from hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father. Brothers and sisters, you are loved by God, and we know that he has chosen you. We know this because our good news didn't come to you just in speech but also with power and the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know as well as we do what kind of people we were when we were with you, which was for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord when you accepted the message that came from the Holy Spirit with joy in spite of great suffering. As a result you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The message about the Lord rang out from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place. The news about your faithfulness to God has spread so that we don't even need to mention it. People tell us about what sort of welcome we had from you and how you turned to God from idols. As a result, you are serving the living and true God, and you are waiting for his Son from heaven. His Son is Jesus, who is the one he raised from the dead and who is the one who will rescue us from the coming wrath.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees met together to find a way to trap Jesus in his words. They sent their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to him. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are genuine and that you teach God's way as it really is. We know that you are not swayed by people's opinions, because you don't show favoritism. So tell us what you think: Does the Law allow people to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

Knowing their evil motives, Jesus replied, "Why do you test me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used to pay the tax." And they brought him a denarion. "Whose image and inscription is this?" he asked.

"Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." When they heard this they were astonished, and they departed.

Luke 18:35-43

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915); alt.

1 Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;
 2 Let me at your throne of mer - cy find a sweet re - lief;
 3 Trust - ing on - ly in your mer - it, would I seek your face;
 4 Be the Spring of all my com - fort, more than life to me;

While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.
 Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion, help my un - be - lief.
 Heal my wound - ed, bro - ken spir - it, save me by your grace.
 Not just here on earth be - side me, but e - ter - nal - ly.

Refrain

Sav - ior, Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;

While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.

Fanny Crosby was already a successful writer when she became associated with gospel hymnists Sankey, Sweney, Root, and others. She directed her talent to gospel songs in her early forties, and collaborated with William Doane on many hymns.

Tune: PASS ME NOT 8.5.8.5. with refrain
 William H. Doane (1832-1915)

