

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

November 26, 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: "When we see social relationships controlled everywhere by the principles which Jesus illustrated in life -- trust, love, mercy, and altruism -- then we shall know that the kingdom of God is here." ~ **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come, God is seeking to gather us together.

Like a shepherd searching for lost sheep, God calls us.

ALL: **Something or someone has summoned us here.**

Dare we believe that God knows and welcomes us?

ONE: God reaches out to rescue all who have strayed.

Scattered, weak, and injured ones are drawn to God.

ALL: **We come, in need of healing, seeking a blessing.**

Our faith draws us here, in spite of our doubts.

ONE: Come, above all else, to worship and give thanks.

Make a joyful noise to the Creator of all worlds.

ALL: **God's steadfast love becomes real to us here.**

We are reminded of God's immeasurable greatness.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Word cloud of Psalm 100 & Ephesians 1:15-23 by Pastor Phil via wordclouds.com

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

All-knowing God, you are aware of our comfort-seeking weakness. We ignore strangers in need as if they were no concern of ours. We resist programs that might threaten our privileges. We do only enough good to keep us from feeling guilty. We give grudgingly of our time and resources, instead of overflowing with thanksgiving and joyous sharing. We treat the church as our possession rather than letting Christ rule as head of the body. O God, we pray we have not wandered beyond your reach. 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:

Psalm 100

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

HYMN *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

480

SERMON

HYMN *The Church's One Foundation*

544

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)*

God of steadfast love, receive these expressions of our thanks for the glorious inheritance entrusted to us. We hereby enlist ourselves and our resources toward the realization of your eternal purpose for all humanity. May this congregation become more and more a source of hope for each of us and for all we meet. 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 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

317

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person Ty Gansmann
Liturgist George Anderson
Accompanist Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Don Koenig, Cindy Roll, Roy Roll, Kelly Weyant, 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, Jerry Schmitt, and Carol 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

-Marissa Friedens UCC, Rev. Brett (Carolyn) Palmer

-Mascoutah St. John UCC, Rev. Bob (Rev. Jan Dashner) Goddard, Interim Pastor

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Libby and Jane Feagans-King, Springfield, IL

ISC SEEKS PART-TIME COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

With the retirement of the Illinois South Conference's communication director (Lynnette Schuepbach) at the end of the year, the Conference is looking to fill this part-time position immediately. If you or someone you know is passionate about the mission of our Conference, has experience in creating and designing communication materials such as newsletters, websites, and social media posts, is committed to helping the Conference stay up on the current technology tools and trends, and would be an asset to the Illinois South Conference team, please send your resume and a portfolio of your work to our Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson at sjohnson@iscucc.org or our Executive Administrator, Debbie Kesner at dkesner@iscucc.org for the job description, qualifications we are looking for in the right candidate, and more information about this exciting ministry opportunity.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, November 19, 2023

St. John's – 18 St. Jacob – 31

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

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

As we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the need for food assistance always grows. In preparation for this holiday season, below are updated lists of items needed by our local food pantries. Donation baskets are in the sanctuary at St. John's & St. Jacob.



Requested items for St. John's (For Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries): Canned goods including: vegetables, fruit, beans, soups, stews, pasta, chili, and tuna. Boxed goods including: pasta & noodles, rice, mashed potatoes, cereal, oatmeal, stuffing, and mac & cheese. Other pantry staples including: flour, sugar, peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce, BBQ sauce, ramen, cake mix, Jello, and pudding. Nonfood items including: trash bags, storage bags, paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, toiletries.

Requested items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited): Jiffy corn muffin mix, yams, pie filling, Jiffy pie crust mix, peanut butter, pasta, chili beans, instant potato packets, rice 1-pound bags, & instant rice

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

DECEMBER 3: Holy Sunday, St. John's & St. Jacob

ON-LINE GIVING OPTION

An on-line giving option has been added to St. Jacob's web site. Currently you may select this option by visiting the web site at: <https://stjacobucc.org/> and clicking on "RESOURCES" and then "DONATE." In the future, there will be an option to choose to donate on the main banner/page as well.

ST. JACOB NEEDS COUNCIL MEMBERS

St. Jacob needs members to serve on the church council. Currently we have only 10 of the 12 positions filled. Three of those 10 members will finish their term at the end of this year, which will leave us with five positions vacant for 2024. Please consider volunteering, it's really a small commitment of your time, as the council meets just once a month for about an hour, and then serves as the council person for one month to assist at worship. The success of our church depends on volunteers like you. For more information call the church office, 618-644-2142.

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.

SNOW SHOVELING

Winter weather will be here before you know it. Please volunteer to shovel the church sidewalks. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthx. Thank you!

BEST CHOICE LABEL COLLECTION

The ELF's organization is collecting Best Choice labels/UPC portion (proof of purchase). There is a box on the table in the Narthx to place the labels.

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

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 100

Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with celebration! Come before him with shouts of joy!

Know that the Lord is God – he made us; we belong to him. We are his people, the sheep of his own pasture. Enter his gates with thanks; enter his courtyards with praise! Thank him! Bless his name!

Because the Lord is good, his loyal love lasts forever; his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 1:15-23

Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

"Now when the Human One comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left.

"Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.'

"Then those who are righteous will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

"Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. I was hungry and you didn't give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn't give me anything to drink. I was a stranger and you didn't welcome me. I was naked and you didn't give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

"Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't do anything to help you?' Then he will answer, 'I assure you that when you haven't done it for one of the least of these, you haven't done it for me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment. But the righteous ones will go into eternal life."