



# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

January 7, 2024

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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:** "O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams."

~ Saint Augustine of Hippo

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

### PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**ONE:** The powerful voice of God created all worlds.  
That same voice calls us to worship.

**ALL:** Ascribe to our God glory and strength.  
Come before God's glorious majesty.

**ONE:** God's strength shakes the wilderness.  
That same strength is offered to people of faith.

**ALL:** The flames of God penetrate our cold hearts.  
May God bless all people with true peace.

**ONE:** Come together to remember your baptism.  
Gather to celebrate the Spirit's gifts.

**ALL:** The heavens open to us at the Word of God.  
Surely God forgives and makes whole.

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#### Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Cover: John baptizes Jesus, Avondale Pattillo United Methodist, Decatur, Georgia, Church from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58027>. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/apmethodist/4354911272>.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

Creator God, you have created us, but we have chosen to go our own way. You have reclaimed us, but we have, by our arrogant attitudes and actions, rejected the claim. You have sent your Holy Spirit to break into our controlled and unimaginative routines, and we have not appreciated that burst of creative energy. We are ready now, ready to admit that our ways are full of dangerous byways. Our mistakes and failures have often come because, in our false pride, we have not listened to you. Save us again by your forgiving love. 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 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

**SERMON**

**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*)

Mighty God, you have given us everything we have. You have granted us life. You have poured out abiding love on our behalf. You have made us rich. We share out of this awareness, and because we care about people who do not know you, people who have not shared your abundance, people who have defied your commandments, people who need your love. Bless our gifts to do the work you intend. Amen.

**HYMN**      *Loving Spirit*

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** (*insert*)

**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**      *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*



## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION

ONE: Jesus said: I am the bread of life.  
You who come to me shall not hunger;  
you who believe in me shall never thirst.

ALL: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food,  
we come to this table to know the risen Christ  
in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

### COMMUNION PRAYER

ONE: God be with you

ALL: **And also with you**

ONE: Lift up your hearts

ALL: **We lift them to God.**

ONE: Let us give thanks to the God Most High.

ALL: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

...

ONE: For your ever present grace and for all your mercies toward us,  
we join your people on earth and all the company of heaven in pro-  
claiming your praise:

ALL: **Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the Highest!  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the Highest!**

...

ONE: In remembrance and in thanks for your beloved Son and all his actions on our behalf, we bring our whole selves to you, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ONE: Holy one, send your Spirit to bless the food that has been gathered here for your people. May it nourish their bodies as well as their souls and bring them closer to you.

And pour out your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup, and on us, your children. Claim us as your own, and bless all of us that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

ALL: Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

### SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person      Patti Woods  
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, Carol Zweck, and the family of Jerry Schmitt

**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

-Pana United in Faith Church, Rev. Leon (Kay) Goff  
-Pinckneyville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Jason (Pettrice) Eisele

#### Retired Pastor

-Rev. Jerry and Lori McCaskey, Alton, IL

### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Lauren Hill, Jan. 8  
Sara Schreiber, Jan. 8  
Brian Meyer, Jan. 9  
Jerid Ahrens, Jan. 12  
Katie Prange, Jan. 12  
Sandy Rujawitz, Jan. 12

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE, December 31, 2023

St. John's – No Service    St. Jacob – 25

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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: [stjacobbucc.org](http://stjacobbucc.org)

Pastor Phil Barbier: Phone: 314-312-2347 / E-mail: [pastor@hometel.com](mailto:pastor@hometel.com)

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### 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):** mixed vegetables, carrots, spam, canned ham, macaroni and cheese, pasta, paper towels, shampoo, body wash, and toilet bowl cleaner

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## CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY:** Holey Sunday, St. John's & St. Jacob

**WEDNESDAY:** ELF's meeting, 10 a.m.

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### **ST. JOHN'S & ST. JACOB ANNUAL MEETINGS**

**St. John's:** Annual meeting will be held at noon, Jan. 21 with lunch. The deadline to get reports into the church office is noon, Jan. 16.

**St. Jacob:** Annual meeting will be held following worship Jan. 28, followed by pot-luck lunch. The deadline to get reports into the church office is noon, Jan. 23.

### **ST. JACOB NEEDS COUNCIL MEMBERS**

St. Jacob still needs three people to serve on the Church Council, as we currently only have 9 of the 12 positions filled for 2024. Please consider volunteering, it's really a small commitment of your time, as the Council meets just once a month (every third Monday at 7 p.m.) for about an hour, and then serves as the council person for one month to assist at worship. We welcome **Patti Woods** and **Beth Frank** who have volunteered to serve this year; and a big thank you to outgoing members: **Andy Schreiber**, **Duane Woods**, and **John Zweck** for the time they served on the Council. The success of our church depends on volunteers like you. For more information call the church office, 618-644-2142.

### **ST. JACOB 2023 ENVELOPE BOOKLETS AVAILABLE**

The St. Jacob 2023 envelope booklets are available for you to pick up on the table in the Narthx.

### **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.

### **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!

**FIRST LESSON: Psalm 29**

You, divine beings! Give to the Lord – give to the Lord glory and power!  
Give to the Lord the glory due his name! Bow down to the Lord in holy splendor!

The Lord's voice is over the waters; the glorious God thunders; the Lord is over the mighty waters.  
The Lord's voice is strong; the Lord's voice is majestic.  
The Lord's voice breaks cedar trees – yes, the Lord shatters the cedars of Lebanon.  
He makes Lebanon jump around like a young bull, makes Sirion jump around like a young wild ox.  
The Lord's voice unleashes fiery flames; the Lord's voice shakes the wilderness – yes, the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.  
The Lord's voice convulses the oaks, strips the forests bare, but in his temple everyone shouts, "Glory!"  
The Lord sits enthroned over the floodwaters; the Lord sits enthroned – king forever!

Let the Lord give strength to his people! Let the Lord bless his people with peace!

**SECOND LESSON: Acts 19:1-7**

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul took a route through the interior and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you came to believe?"

They replied, "We've not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

Then he said, "What baptism did you receive, then?"

They answered, "John's baptism."

Paul explained, "John baptized with a baptism by which people showed they were changing their hearts and lives. It was a baptism that told people about the one who was coming after him. This is the one in whom they were to believe. This one is Jesus." After they listened to Paul, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in other languages and prophesying. Altogether, there were about twelve people.

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:4-11**

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."