



EF

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

February 4, 2024

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: "Love God, serve God; everything is in that."

~ Clare of Assisi

ANNOUNCEMENTS RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Worship God, who is from everlasting to everlasting!

The God of creation does not faint or grow weary.

ALL: **How good it is to sing praises to our God!**

How expansive is God's understanding of us!

ONE: The whole universe is subject to God's power.

Creation continues as the universe expands.

ALL: **God rules all time and space, yet cares about us.**

God is pleased with all who reflect steadfast love.

ONE: Sing to God with great thanksgiving.

Praise God with the best you have to offer.

ALL: **We lift up our eyes to see God's wonders.**

We open our ears to receive God's message.

Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, 1606-1669. The Healing of the Mother-in-Law of Saint Peter - late 1650s, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57481>. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rembrandt_Heilung_der_Schwiegermutter_des_Petrus.jpg.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Who are we to claim equality with you, Ruler of all worlds? Yet we try to order you around when it is we who should be taking orders. At times, we act as if we can get along without you. In our church, we often pretend that we don't need other congregations. We hoard the gospel as if it were our own possession, and thus we do not follow its mandates. We bend your law to our own whims and then excuse our disobedience. Forgive us, God. We are not worthy to carry the name of Christ. Restore us to yourself, we pray. 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:

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

Mark 1:29-39

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*)

Thank you, God, for showing us a better way to live than we are able to devise for ourselves. Thank you for reaching out to win our hearts. Thank you for Jesus Christ, for the ministry that extended your love to the least and the lost, for the powerful presence that offered wholeness to those who were sick or brokenhearted, for the prayers that demonstrated how we, too, can be in communion with you. In gratitude, we dedicate this offering. Amen.

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.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person Audrey Yann
Accompanist Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Don Koenig, Sharon Koenig, Cindy Roll, Roy Roll, Dave Williams,
and Margie Foxworthy's son Sean and stepson Dustin

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

-Summerfield St. John UCC, Rev. Philip (Kate) Barbier
-Tower Hill St. Paul UCC, Pastor Neil Kaiser

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Robert E. Lee, Swansea, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAY

Austin Becker, Feb. 10

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, January 28, 2024

St. John's – 9 St. Jacob – 30

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.

Items for St. John's (For Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries): Canned goods including: vegetables, fruit, beans, soups, stews, pasta, chili, sloppy Joe, beef, sausage, chicken, salmon, 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.

Items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited): Pop-tarts, oatmeal, cheese cracker sandwiches, beef jerky, fruit cups, Vienna sausages, ketchup, mustard, broth, cooked ham, pasta sauce, jelly, pancake mix, & syrup

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY: Holy Sunday, St. John's & St. Jacob

FEB. 11: Sweetheart Sunday

FEB. 14: Ash Wednesday, 7 p.m., worship, St. Jacob

FEB. 14: ELFs meeting, 10 a.m.

FEB. 19: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

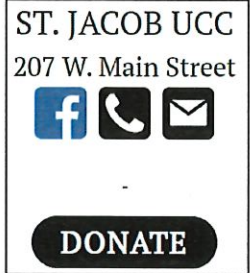
FEB. 20: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

ST. JACOB 2024 ENVELOPE BOOKLETS

The St. Jacob 2024 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. There are two ways to access the on-line giving option on our web site (<https://stjacobucc.org/>), the first is the "DONATE" button located on the top-right corner of the "Home Page," and the second is by clicking on "RESOURCES" and then "DONATE." In you have any issues using the on-line giving option, please contact the church office at (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 is here. Please volunteer to shovel the church sidewalks. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthx at St. Jacob. Thank you!

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

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40:21-31

Don't you know? Haven't you heard? Wasn't it announced to you from the beginning? Haven't you understood since the earth was founded?

God inhabits the earth's horizon – its inhabitants are like locusts – stretches out the skies like a curtain and spreads it out like a tent for dwelling. God makes dignitaries useless and the earth's judges into nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely is their shoot rooted in the earth when God breathes on them, and they dry up; the windstorm carries them off like straw.

So to whom will you compare me, and who is my equal? says the holy one.

Look up at the sky and consider: Who created these? The one who brings out their attendants one by one, summoning each of them by name. Because of God's great strength and mighty power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, Jacob, and declare, Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, my God ignores my predicament"?

Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He doesn't grow tired or weary. His understanding is beyond human reach, giving power to the tired and

reviving the exhausted. Youths will become tired and weary, young men will certainly stumble; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary.

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Praise the Lord! Because it is good to sing praise to our God! Because it is a pleasure to make beautiful praise!

The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem, gathering up Israel's exiles. God heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds. God counts the stars by number, giving each one a name. Our Lord is great and so strong! God's knowledge can't be grasped! The Lord helps the poor, but throws the wicked down on the dirt!

Sing to the Lord with thanks; sing praises to our God with a lyre! God covers the skies with clouds; God makes rain for the earth; God makes the mountains sprout green grass. God gives food to the animals – even to the baby ravens when they cry out. God doesn't prize the strength of a horse; God doesn't treasure the legs of a runner. No. The Lord treasures the people who honor him, the people who wait for his faithful love.

Praise the Lord!

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

After leaving the synagogue, Jesus, James, and John went home with Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed, sick with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she served them.

That evening, at sunset, people brought to Jesus those who were sick or demon-possessed. The whole town gathered near the door. He healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases, and he threw out many demons. But he didn't let the demons speak, because they recognized him.

Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer. Simon and those with him tracked him down. When they found him, they told him, "Everyone's looking for you!"

He replied, "Let's head in the other direction, to the nearby villages, so that I can preach there too. That's why I've come." He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and throwing out demons.