



# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

February 11, 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:** "Remember that vision on the Mount of Transfiguration; and let it be ours, even in the glare of earthly joys and brightnesses, to lift up our eyes, like those wondering three, and see no man any more, save Jesus only."  
- Alexander MacLaren - "Sermons Preached in Union Chapel, Manchester" (1859)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

#### PRELUDE

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God summons us from the sun's rising to its setting.

Listen, for the mighty One speaks to us.

**ALL: Our God comes and does not keep silence.**

**Through fire and tempest, God is with us.**

ONE: God gathers those faithful to the covenant.

Be quick to respond to God's invitation.

**ALL: We seek a double share of the prophet's spirit.**

**We look for a vision to claim our souls.**

ONE: Open your eyes to the good news of the gospel.

Open your eyes to the glory of God.

**ALL: We have come to share knowledge of Jesus Christ.**

**We gather, seeking transformation and empowerment.**

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#### Bulletin Cover Attribution:

Theophanes the Greek. Transfiguration, circa 1400-1425, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59721>. Original

source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Transfiguration\\_by\\_Feofan\\_Grek\\_from\\_Spaso-Preobrazhensky\\_Cathedral\\_in\\_Perestlav-Zalessky\\_\(15th\\_c.\\_Tretyakov\\_gallery\).jpeg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Transfiguration_by_Feofan_Grek_from_Spaso-Preobrazhensky_Cathedral_in_Perestlav-Zalessky_(15th_c._Tretyakov_gallery).jpeg).

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

When the gospel is veiled from us, mighty God, we feel alone. How easy it is to lose our direction and go the wrong way! At times, we feel as if we are perishing under the demands of our day, unable to see clearly what is most important. We become enslaved to our routines and enticed by shallow distractions. We fill all our hours with doing so there is no time for reflection and prayer. Forgive us, O God, and restore balance to our lives. 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:

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

Mark 9:2-9

**HYMN*****We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding***

245

Words: 1988 Hope Publishing Company; Music: 2001 Hope Publishing Company

**SERMON****HYMN*****You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd***

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Words © 1991 GIA Publications

**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*)

Use our gifts, mighty God, to bring light where there is gloom, hope where there is despair, peace where there is turmoil. May Jesus Christ be proclaimed among us and around your world. May righteousness and justice prevail in spite of differences. May we inherit a double portion of the prophets' spirit to discern clearly the ways you would have us go. We dedicate ourselves and our offering to these ends. 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*****Shine, Jesus, Shine***

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## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

### SERVING YOU TODAY

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Council Person | Audrey Yann             |
| Liturgist      | Carol Kynion            |
| Accompanist    | Melissa Anderson Taylor |

### 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

-Trenton St. John UCC, Rev. Christy Smith

-Troy Friedens UCC, Rev. Tim (Danielle) Harrison

### Retired Pastor

- Rev. Robert (Doris) Utke, Falcon Heights, MN

### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

DiAnn Rufer, Feb. 11

Terri Barnhart, Feb. 14

Karen Steinkoenig, Feb. 16

Carol Zweck, Feb. 17

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE, February 4, 2024

St. John's – 13 St. Jacob – 32

### 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: [stjacobucc.org](http://stjacobucc.org)

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



## CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY:** Sweetheart Sunday

**WEDNESDAY:** Ash Wednesday, 7 p.m., worship, St. Jacob

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

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

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

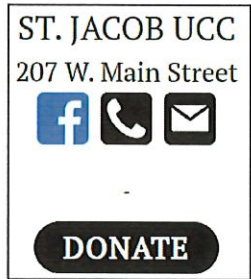
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### **ST. JACOB 2024 ENVELOPE BOOKLETS**

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.

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#### **FIRST LESSON: 2 Kings 2:1-12**

Now the Lord was going to take Elijah up to heaven in a windstorm, and Elijah and Elisha were leaving Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, because the Lord has sent me to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives and as you live, I won't leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

The group of prophets from Bethel came out to Elisha. These prophets said to Elisha, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master away from you today?"

Elisha said, "Yes, I know. Don't talk about it!"

Elijah said, "Elisha, stay here, because the Lord has sent me to Jericho."

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*(continued from inside)*

But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives and as you live, I won't leave you." So they went to Jericho.

The group of prophets from Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master away from you today?"

He said, "Yes, I know. Don't talk about it!"

Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, because the Lord has sent me to the Jordan."

But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives and as you live, I won't leave you." So both of them went on together. Fifty members from the group of prophets also went along, but they stood at a distance. Both Elijah and Elisha stood beside the Jordan River. Elijah then took his coat, rolled it up, and hit the water. Then the water was divided in two! Both of them crossed over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "What do you want me to do for you before I'm taken away from you?"

Elisha said, "Let me have twice your spirit."

Elijah said, "You've made a difficult request. If you can see me when I'm taken from you, then it will be yours. If you don't see me, it won't happen."

They were walking along, talking, when suddenly a fiery chariot and fiery horses appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went to heaven in a windstorm.

Elisha was watching, and he cried out, "Oh, my father, my father! Israel's chariots and its riders!" When he could no longer see him, Elisha took hold of his clothes and ripped them in two.

### **SECOND LESSON: Psalm 50:1-6**

From the rising of the sun to where it sets, God, the Lord God, speaks, calling out to the earth.

From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines brightly.

Our God is coming; he won't keep quiet.

A devouring fire is before him; a storm rages all around him.

God calls out to the skies above and to the earth in order to judge his people:

"Bring my faithful to me, those who made a covenant with me by sacrifice."

The skies proclaim his righteousness because God himself is the judge.

### **GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9**

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain where they were alone. He was transformed in front of them, and his clothes were amazingly bright, brighter than if they had been bleached white. Elijah and Moses appeared and were talking with Jesus. Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus, "Rabbi, it's good that we're here. Let's make three shrines—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He said this because he didn't know how to respond, for the three of them were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice spoke from the cloud, "This is my Son, whom I dearly love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Human One had risen from the dead.



## "SWEETHEART" SUNDAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

In honor of "Sweetheart" Sunday, we would like to recognize those couples who are celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries throughout this year (50 years and up, and those in 5-year increments). If you see them, please take a moment to congratulate them. Congratulations to all our happy couples!

### ST. JACOB

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| George and Myrna Anderson | 66 |
| Sandy and Nancy Autry     | 52 |
| Ken and Cathy Frutiger    | 51 |
| Gene and Marie Gansmann   | 58 |
| Rick and Sharon Hanford   | 60 |
| Carol and Charlie Kynion  | 53 |
| Donna and John Lowe       | 40 |
| Mary and Zach Lowe        | 5  |
| DiAnn and Gary Rufer      | 50 |
| Sandy and Ron Rujawitz    | 50 |
| David and Jane Schmidt    | 57 |
| Richard and Susan Schmidt | 63 |
| Karen and Joe Schultze    | 54 |
| Gary and Marilyn Warren   | 53 |
| Carla and Darik Zobrist   | 15 |
| Debbie and Duane Zobrist  | 50 |
| Onis and Carol Zweck      | 51 |

### ST. JOHN'S

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Paul and Denise Baer      | 52 |
| Don and Sharon Koenig     | 56 |
| Larry and Marlene Robison | 55 |
| David and Glenda Williams | 58 |

