



*“With all
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I rejoice
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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 22, 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: "My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" ~ **Bob Hope**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We come to glorify God, to rejoice in the One who saves us.

ALL: God comes so we might believe, so we might be blessed.

ONE: Our hearts leap for joy! For God is coming to us in a child.

ALL: God comes for those who hunger for hope, for those who thirst for grace.

ONE: Holy is the One who comes in God's name, who fulfills every promise of God.

ALL: God comes to walk with those who follow in faith, to bring peace to a shattered world.

* HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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THE ADVENT WREATH – LOVE

ONE: Let us call upon the name of the Lord.

ALL: Restore us, O Lord God Almighty.

ONE: May God's face shine upon us,

ALL: That we may feel the warmth of God's everlasting love.

Lighting the Candle

Advent Song

1. Light the advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun;
We have started on our way, time to think of Christmas day.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.
2. Light the advent candle, two Think of humble shepherds, who
filled with wonder at the sight of the child of Christmas night.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.
3. Light the advent candle, three: Think of heavenly harmony;
Angels singing "Peace on earth" at the blessed Savior's birth.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.
4. Light the advent candle, four: Think of joy forevermore;
Christ Child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O God, we confess that we are not the people you hope us to be. Rather, those you favor are often the ones we ignore, or worse, ridicule. Those who you knock off their pedestals are often the ones we admire, seeking to emulate their ways. And instead of turning to you to fulfill us, we choose the bustle of the world that leads us to seek more and more material possessions. Forgive us, Mighty God who arrives in the weakness of a baby. Look upon us with grace so we might see your love shining down. And help us to welcome your son, Jesus Christ, into our hearts and into 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:

Micah 5:2-5a

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-55

HYMN *My Soul Proclaims with Wonder*

170

Text: © 1989, Hope Publishing Company; Music © 1991 The Hymnal Project (Admin. Brethren Press)

SERMON

HYMN *My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout*

Insert

Text and Music Arr. © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him
above, ye heavenly hosts; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

Thank you, God, for your mercy and protection, for feeding us physically and spiritually, for caring for us like a shepherd. We present our offerings as an act of gratitude. What we can never repay we pause to appreciate. In the name of generosity we cannot match, we seek to be generous toward others. May these offerings do far more than support our church. We dedicate ourselves and these gifts to honor Christ through ministry in the world.

PRAYERS OF OUR CHURCH/SILENT PRAYERS/LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE Into My Heart 485

Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

Come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

* HYMN *In the Bleak Midwinter* 196

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person Kevin Hollis
Accompanist Melody Hollis

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Lauren Gansmann, Dec. 22

Zach Mueller, Dec. 25

Jack Bittle, Dec. 26

Melissa Anderson Taylor, Dec. 26

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, December 15, 2024

St. John's – 18 St. Jacob – 27

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor's office hours: Tuesday through Thursday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Sherry Christ, Don Koenig, Christy Lanning, Fred Lanning,
and Sean and Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Marvin Docter, Lori Foley, Norma Logsdon,
Jackie Miller, and Kathleen Ritter

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

- Breese St. John's UCC

- Brighton St. John's UCC - Rev. John (Jackie Jordan-Pawloski) Pawloski

Retired Pastor

- Rev. Jack (Barbara Van Ausdall) Spratte

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Come, Let Us Adore Him: Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2024 by Lisa Hancock used with permission.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024>.

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TUESDAY: CHRISTMAS EVE services -- 4 p.m. and 10 p.m., St. Jacob

TUESDAY: CHRISTMAS EVE service -- 7 p.m., St. John's

WEDNESDAY: CHRISTMAS no worship service

DEC. 25 - JAN. 1: Pastor Phil will be out of office.

DEC. 29: Christmas hymns (service), St. Johns, 8:45 a.m. & St. Jacob, 10:15 a.m.

RETURN OF SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST. JACOB

After a hiatus, Sunday School will return in January and is open to all children kindergarten through 6th grade. Classes will be held before worship (9-10 a.m.) the 2nd & 4th Sundays from January through May. For more details and registration information visit the St. Jacob UCC Facebook page (facebook.com/stjacobucc).

ADULT BIBLE STUDY AT ST. JACOB

A short, four-week adult Bible Study on the 10 Commandments will be offered every other Wednesday (Jan. 15 & 29, and Feb. 5 & 19). Each session will offer two options to attend, beginning at either 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. For more information call the office at 618-644-2142.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

This year's Lenten Bible Study will be held each Wednesday, March 5 - April 9 at 7 p.m., and we'll be using the book *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects* by Jill Duffield. If you are interested in joining us for the study, let Pastor Phil know by Jan. 18th so we can order enough books.

ST. JACOB 2025 ENVELOPE BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

The St. Jacob 2025 envelope booklets are available for you to pick up on the table in the Narthex.

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION

In case of inclement weather, we have implemented the following procedure: No later than 8 a.m., Sunday morning there will be a message on the church answering machine (618-644-2142) stating whether church will be cancelled. Also, the cancellation of service will be posted on our Facebook page and Channel 5.

FIRST LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a

As for you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah, though you are the least significant of Judah's forces, one who is to be a ruler in Israel on my behalf will come out from you. His origin is from remote times, from ancient days.

Therefore, he will give them up until the time when she who is in labor gives birth. The rest of his kin will return to the people of Israel.

He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

They will dwell secure, because he will surely become great throughout the earth; he will become one of peace.

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 10:5-10

Therefore, when he comes into the world he says,

You didn't want a sacrifice or an offering,

but you prepared a body for me;

you weren't pleased with entirely burned offerings or a sin offering.

So then I said,

"Look, I've come to do your will, God.

This has been written about me in the scroll."

He says above, *You didn't want and you weren't pleased with a sacrifice or an offering or with entirely burned offerings or a purification offering*, which are offered because the Law requires them. Then he said, *Look, I've come to do your will*. He puts an end to the first to establish the second. We have been made holy by God's will through the offering of Jesus Christ's body once for all.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

Mary said,

"With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior."

He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name. He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God.

He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations. He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, just as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."