



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

May 4, 2025

We welcome all who are visiting with us today.

It is good to have you in worship with us. Please introduce yourself to Rev. Julie Kies this morning and let us know if there is any way we might be of service to you or your family.

WELCOME TO REV. JULIE KIES

We welcome Rev. Julie Kies who serves as our pulpit supply pastor today. Please greet her following worship. Pastor Phil will be back in the pulpit next Sunday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Sing praises to God, O you saints of God.
Give thanks to God's holy name.

ALL: Praise God for the joyous gift of a new day.
Thank God for healing and ever-present help.

ONE: Extol the one who lifts us up from defeat.
Praise the one who upholds us when we are discouraged.

ALL: God sees and hears our weeping.
God lifts our souls from the pit of despair.

ONE: Give thanks to God who turns mourning into dancing.
Praise God who hears our cries and answers our prayers.

ALL: We have cried to you in our need, O God.
We believe you are working to make us whole.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Loving God, we admit to attitudes that exclude rather than embrace. We prefer to associate with others who think and act as we do. We turn away from those who are different from us. We identify some as enemies to be avoided or even destroyed. Forgive us, God, for seeking to limit your family. Awaken us to the limits of our understanding and the narrowness of our dealings. Show us the better ways you intend and make us bold to respond, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

734

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 30

John 21:1-19

Acts 9:1-20

HYMN

Open My Eyes, That I May See

480

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)*

We bring offerings to feed your lambs and tend your sheep, gracious God. May these gifts extend love in the form of food, pure water, shelter, and acceptance. Let them provide outreach to the world and opportunities for growth within this congregation. Help us focus on what is important, that we may work together to make a difference in the world. Amen.

HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together*

699

Music: Arr. © 1965 Abingdon Press

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

May the God of morning joy be with you!

May the God of gracious moments be with you!

Lift your hearts to God, people of love and hope!

We offer them to the One who fills us with life!

Let us sing glad praises to our God!

Our voices join all creation in glad songs!

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

PRAYER RESPONSE *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*

490

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;
Incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person/Liturgist

Beth Frank

Accompanist:

Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Sean and Dustin, sons of Margie & Wally Foxworthy

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Gracie Emmerich, Lori Erwin, Lori Foley,
Sylvia Hoerschler, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller, Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer,
and Darik Zobrist

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

- Lenzburg St. Peter's UCC - Rev. Earl (Johanna) Crecelius

- Maeystown St. John UCC - Rev. Patrick (Kathy) Poole

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Diane Grohmann

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Tiffany & Vic Duncan, 23 years, May 4

Ann Becker, May 8

Pat & Steve May, 49 years, May 8

Carla & Darik Zobrist, 16 years, May 9

Harvey Steinkoenig, May 10

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, April 27, 2025

St. John's – 8 St. Jacob – 25

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

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS

Volunteers and donations are needed for the free school lunch program this summer. We're accepting monetary donations to purchase lunch supplies. Lunches will be provided each day, however, St. Jacob UCC is only responsible for Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lunches will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St. Jacob Elementary School (outdoor classroom). Volunteers are needed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., to allow time to assemble lunches, as well as clean-up afterward. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex. For more information, or to volunteer contact Audrey Yann, 618-567-8013 or Carol Kynion, 618-401-8805.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

We are preparing for our 41st anniversary Strawberry Festival and are seeking volunteer workers for preparations on Saturday, May 17th and for the event on May 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park. Sign-up forms are located on the table in the Narthex. For more information contact a festival committee member or call the church office, 618-644-2142.

WALK WITH GOD

St. Jacob UCC is planning a walking group called "Walk with God." Anyone who likes to take walks, be in nature and share in unity is encouraged to join us. We hope to get members of the church together a couple times a week to walk and be visible in the community. We will meet at the church and decide from there where we would like to walk. Days and times are to be determined by the participants. If you're interested in participating and would like more information, contact the church office at 618-644-2142 or e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com.

LESSON 1: Psalm 30

I exalt you, Lord, because you pulled me up;
you didn't let my enemies celebrate over me.
Lord, my God, I cried out to you for help, and you healed me.
Lord, you brought me up from the grave,
brought me back to life from among those going down to the pit.
You who are faithful to the Lord, sing praises to him; give thanks to his holy name!
His anger lasts for only a second, but his favor lasts a lifetime.
Weeping may stay all night, but by morning, joy!
When I was comfortable, I said, "I will never stumble."
Because it pleased you, Lord, you made me a strong mountain.
But then you hid your presence. I was terrified.
I cried out to you, Lord. I begged my Lord for mercy:
"What is to be gained by my spilled blood, by my going down into the pit?
Does dust thank you? Does it proclaim your faithfulness?
Lord, listen and have mercy on me! Lord, be my helper!"
You changed my mourning into dancing.
You took off my funeral clothes and dressed me up in joy
so that my whole being might sing praises to you and never stop.
Lord, my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

GOSPEL: John 21:1-19

Later, Jesus himself appeared again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. This is how it happened: Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's sons, and two other disciples were together. Simon Peter told them, "I'm going fishing."
They said, "We'll go with you." They set out in a boat, but throughout the night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples didn't realize it was Jesus.
Jesus called to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?"
They answered him, "No."
He said, "Cast your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some."
So they did, and there were so many fish that they couldn't haul in the net. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard it was the Lord, he wrapped his coat around himself (for he was naked) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they weren't far from shore, only about one hundred yards.
When they landed, they saw a fire there, with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you've just caught." Simon Peter got up and pulled the net to shore. It was full of large fish, one hundred fifty-three of them. Yet the net hadn't torn, even with so many fish. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples could bring themselves to ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

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(Continued from inside cover)

When they finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" Simon replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." Jesus asked a second time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Simon replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep." He asked a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was sad that Jesus asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" He replied, "Lord, you know everything; you know I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. I assure you that when you were younger you tied your own belt and walked around wherever you wanted. When you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and another will tie your belt and lead you where you don't want to go." He said this to show the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. After saying this, Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me."

LESSON 2: Acts 9:1-20

Meanwhile, Saul was still spewing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest, seeking letters to the synagogues in Damascus. If he found persons who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, these letters would authorize him to take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. During the journey, as he approached Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven encircled him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice asking him, "Saul, Saul, why are you harassing me?" Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

"I am Jesus, whom you are harassing," came the reply. "Now get up and enter the city. You will be told what you must do."

Those traveling with him stood there speechless; they heard the voice but saw no one. After they picked Saul up from the ground, he opened his eyes but he couldn't see. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind and neither ate nor drank anything.

In Damascus there was a certain disciple named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, "Ananias!" He answered, "Yes, Lord."

The Lord instructed him, "Go to Judas' house on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias enter and put his hands on him to restore his sight."

Ananias countered, "Lord, I have heard many reports about this man. People say he has done horrible things to your holy people in Jerusalem. He's here with authority from the chief priests to arrest everyone who calls on your name."

The Lord replied, "Go! This man is the agent I have chosen to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites. I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

Ananias went to the house. He placed his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord sent me – Jesus, who appeared to you on the way as you were coming here. He sent me so that you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Instantly, flakes fell from Saul's eyes and he could see again. He got up and was baptized. After eating, he regained his strength.

He stayed with the disciples in Damascus for several days. Right away, he began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues. "He is God's Son," he declared.