



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

DECEMBER 7, 2025

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: "While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart." ~ **Francis of Assisi**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We gather in this comfortable place, to prepare for a new day:
ALL: a day when the wolf and the lamb will get an apartment together.
ONE: So prepare your hearts for the day when peace will rule the earth:
ALL: when the leopard and the young goat will share a mat at nap time.
ONE: Prepare the way, the way where old notions are overturned:
ALL: when the cow and bear will have coffee, their children playing in the backyard.
ONE: Get ready! Prepare the way!

* HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

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<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/toda-la-tierra-espera-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2025>.

THE ADVENT WREATH – PEACE *(Insert)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

We long for you to come to us, Heavenly Creator. But too often we do not share your vision of how the world should be or how we should live. You dream of enemies sitting down together, but we feast on bitterness. You would have us sing with one voice, but we prefer to be soloists. You call us to serve one another, but we stand aside, expecting you to fix the world without our involvement. Forgive us, O God, and help us to welcome you with open arms. May we prepare for your coming by opening our hearts to that healing hope and surprising mercy which is given to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

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A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US *(Skip if no children are in attendance)*

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 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

HYMN

Hope of the World

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SERMON

HYMN

I Come With Joy

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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)*

What a joy to give! What a delight to join our efforts to your purposes, amazing God! You inspire us to oppose wickedness, to stand up for the oppressed, to work for harmony among all your children. Lead us, together, to your holy mountain, where all are valued and no one is excluded. May our offerings spread the knowledge of your ways across this earth, widening the circle of inclusion to embrace all your children, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION – Insert

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

Make Me a Servant

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*Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord let me lift up those who are weak;
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.*

* HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

THE ADVENT WREATH – PEACE

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.

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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: May the God of Advent wonder be with you.

ALL: And also with you

ONE: People of God, lift up your hopeful hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the One who fills us with joy and peace.

ONE: Blessed be the One who comes to speak for the poor, to set free those imprisoned by despair.

ALL: May the glory of God welcome all to this Table, filling our sisters and brothers throughout creation.

ONE: God of Wonder, your Spirit did not rest, but transformed chaos into creation, the mountains crying "Glory!" with one voice, the hills echoing the glad refrain. You welcomed us into your garden of peace and hope, but we flocked to sin and death, those charlatans who seduce us with their temptations and tricks. The prophets were sent to help us to understand our brokenness, but we turned our backs when they sang of your hopes for us. And so, you prepared Jesus to come to us, so we might know the very nearness of your kingdom.

Therefore, we would join our voices with those of every time and place, who sing of your glory:

**ALL: Blessed be the God of Advent, who alone showers us with grace!
O come, people of God, let us walk in the hope which paves the path to the Kingdom!**

ONE: Holy are you, God of all creation, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your child, who became our servant to save us. He came so that those who could only speak in anger to one another, might sing songs of peace at your Table. He came to shower the living waters of grace upon our hope-parched souls. He came to sweep death from the bottoms of our hearts, so we might dance in your life forever.

Even now, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, and ache for his return, we sing of that mystery we call faith:

**ALL: Christ died, scattering sin from our heart's imagination.
Christ rose, knocking death off its throne.
Christ will come again, according to the promise made to our ancestors.**

ONE: Come to us in these moments, God of Advent, pouring your blessings upon this food we have gathered for your people; that those who receive it might be filled with your grace and peace.

And may the gift of your Spirit, Advent's hope and peace, be poured out on these simple gifts of bread and cup, and on all of those who come seeking your healing love. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table 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

Host are gluten free.

Juice in the center ring and wine in the outer rings.

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.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE, November 30, 2025

St. John's – No worship St. Jacob – No worship

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

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Dian/Ty Gansmann

Liturgist

Angela Imming

Accompanist:

Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Kenzie Barker, Nancy McCaw, and Sean and Dustin,
sons of Margie, Bobby Mikeals & Wally Foxworthy

St. Jacob: Carol Casperson, Lori Foley, Norma Logsdon, Jackie Miller,
Vernon Mendrip, Joanne Meyer, Kathy Ritter, Sandy Rujawitz,
and Olin 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

- Friedens UCC, Hecker

- Evangelical UCC, Highland - Rev. Bill (Sally) Kapp

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Dr. Don (Nancy) Wagner

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

TJ Roberts, Dec. 7
Roger Baer, Dec. 8
Dian & Ty Gansmann, 30 years, Dec. 8
Donna & John Lowe, 41 years, Dec. 8
Sam Frey, Dec. 9
Peggy Bohnenstiehl, Dec. 10
Barbara & Roger Baer, 43 years, Dec. 11
Bradley Goetter, Dec. 13

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY: Every Ladies Fellowship meeting, 10 a.m., Heritage Hall

DECEMBER 15: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

DECEMBER 16: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Poinsettia order forms for Christmas Eve worship are available on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob. Paul has additional order forms for St. Johns. Return the forms, along with payment, to the St. Jacob Church office or drop in the offering plate at your church by **noon Tuesday, Dec. 16**. Poinsettia's may be taken home following worship service on Christmas Eve.

ST. JACOB UCC SUNDAY SCHOOL

St. Jacob UCC Sunday School will be held from 9-10 a.m., Dec. 14 and 21. All children pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join the fun. To register, fill out the online form at: <https://forms.gle/eW6KTtPzSm4DkVtx5> or call 618-644-2142.

WALK WITH GOD

Come join our St. Jacob UCC 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 or for more information, contact the church office at 618-644-2142.

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 Narthex. Thank you!

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.

ON-LINE GIVING OPTION

An on-line giving option is available on St. Jacob UCC's web site (<https://stjacobucc.org/>). There are two ways to access the on-line giving option: 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." If you have any issues using the on-line giving option, contact the church office at (618) 644-2142.

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: green beans, corns, carrots, mixed vegetables, stew, chili, soup, fruit, spaghetti sauce, diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, potatoes (boxed/bags), Rice a Roni, macaroni and cheese, pasta, Ramen noodles, Jello, pudding, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, oatmeal, powdered sugar, brown sugar, oil, Crisco, dish soap, laundry detergent (quart bottles/sheets/pods), dryer sheets, paper towels, toilet paper, baggies (sandwich/qt./gal.) plastic wrap, toilet bowl cleaner, and cleaning solution

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

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.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse; a branch will sprout from his roots.

The Lord's spirit will rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding,

a spirit of planning and strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.

He will delight in fearing the Lord.

He won't judge by appearances, nor decide by hearsay.

He will judge the needy with righteousness, and decide with equity for those who suffer in the land.

He will strike the violent with the rod of his mouth; by the breath of his lips he will kill the wicked.

Righteousness will be the belt around his hips, and faithfulness the belt around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;

the calf and the young lion will feed together, and a little child will lead them.

The cow and the bear will graze. Their young will lie down together, and a lion will eat straw like an ox.

A nursing child will play over the snake's hole; toddlers will reach right over the serpent's den.

They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain.

The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, just as the water covers the sea.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction so that we could have hope through endurance and through the encouragement of the scriptures. May the God of endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude toward each other, similar to Christ Jesus' attitude. That way you can glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ together with one voice.

So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God's glory. I'm saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, in order to confirm the promises given to the ancestors, and so that the Gentiles could glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

Because of this I will confess you among the Gentiles, and I will sing praises to your name.

And again, it says,

Rejoice, Gentiles, with his people.

And again,

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and all the people should sing his praises.

And again, Isaiah says,

There will be a root of Jesse, who will also rise to rule the Gentiles. The Gentiles will place their hope in him.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said:

The voice of one shouting in the wilderness,

"Prepare the way for the Lord;

make his paths straight."

John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey.

People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John. He said to them, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire. I baptize with water those of you who have changed your hearts and lives. The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I'm not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out."