



Be
patient, therefore,
beloved, until the coming
of the
Lord

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 11, 2022

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.

WELCOME TO ANGIE HAUSMANN

We welcome Angie Hausmann who is serving as our pulpit supply leader 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: Come away from haste and frantic busyness.

This is the season for quiet waiting.

ALL: It is hard to still our souls when we are so busy.

It is hard to be patient with ourselves or others.

ONE: Receive God's mercy and strengthen your hearts.

A Savior is coming; God's love is near.

ALL: We want to hear and believe God's promises.

We want to become patient, loving seekers.

ONE: God presents us with a high and holy way.

Come before God now with praise and singing.

ALL: We sense the joy God offers to us.

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

Rise in body or spirit as you are able for our first hymn...

* HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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THE ADVENT WREATH – JOY

Dawn & Dalton Mersinger

ONE: Rejoice greatly! Shout for joy!

ALL: For we will see the glory of the Lord.

ONE: We walk with excitement towards God's promise.

ALL: Our sorrow and sighing shall flee away!

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.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Come into our emptiness, gracious God. We feel empty because we have shut you out of our lives. Break through our pretensions, Holy One. We pretend to be powerful because we have not claimed the peace that is available deep within then you dwell with us. Quiet our grumbling and complaining. We are impatient because we have focused on things, not on you. Enter our lives with the forgiveness you have promised to all who are truly sorry for their unfaithfulness. Release us from our self-created prison. 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.*

SCRIPTURES:

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

HYMN

My Soul Proclaims with Wonder

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Carl P. Drew, Jr. | J. Harold Moyer Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company Music © 1991 The Hymnal Project (Admin. Brethren Press)

SERMON

HYMN

All Earth Is Hopeful

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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*)

Majestic God, thank you for inviting us to share the blessings you pour out on us. We want to extend the healing ministry of Jesus who gave sight to those who were blind and new insight to some who only pretended to see. Use our resources to heal attitudes as well as bodies, to bring wholeness, not just cures. Help us to address the inequities of the earth that leave so many without food or shelter or hope. Lead us into your realm in the midst of our daily living. 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

Blessed Be the God of Israel

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Kevin Hollis

Liturgist

Donna Lowe

Accompanist

Melissa Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Ella Boggy, Wally Foxworthy, Margie Foxworthy's son Sean, Cindy Roll, Jeffrey Thornton

St. Jacob: Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Erica Kynion, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, JoAnn Swip, 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

-Freeburg St. Paul's UCC, Rev. Andrew (Brenda) Lovins

-Godfrey Congregational Church

Retired Pastor

Rev. Nancy Spier-Lee and Kevin Lee, Dupo, IL

CHURCH ATTENDANCE Sunday, December 4, 2022

St. John's – 19

St. Jacob – 38

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: stjacobbucc.org

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

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Roger & Barbara Baer, 40 years, Dec. 11

Bradley Guetter, Dec. 13

Brittany Frank, Dec. 17

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.

Requested items for St. John's (Lebanon Matthew 25:40 Ministries Food Pantry): long shelf-life fresh produce such as apples, oranges, celery, onions, potatoes, carrots, etc.

Requested items for St. Jacob (Ministries Unlimited): Toilet paper, paper towels, peanut butter, jelly, baked beans, crackers, peas, canned potatoes, canned yams, pasta sides, rice sides, mac-n-cheese, Ramen noodles, Hamburger Helper, & cake mixes

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday: ELFs meeting, 10 a.m.

Dec. 18: Christmas caroling, following service, St. Jacob

Dec. 24: **Christmas Eve** services -- 4 p.m. and 10 p.m., St. Jacob

Dec. 24: **Christmas Eve** service -- 7 p.m., St. John's

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Please join us for Christmas caroling, immediately following service at St. Jacob UCC, Dec. 18. Everyone is welcome to participate. We will be caroling at nursing homes, and to shut ins. If you have someone you would like us to carol to, please let Dawn Mersinger know, or contact the church office at 618-644-2142, or e-mail: stjucc@hometel.com with their name and location/address.



BLESSING BOX INSTALLED AT ST. JACOB

Dalton Mersinger recently installed a "Blessing Box" on the East side of St. Jacob UCC for his Eagle Scout project. Anyone can donate items to the "Blessing Box," recommended items include non-perishable food, hygiene products, and other items that could bless someone in need. Items are anonymously given and received. Please consider donating to help others in our community, and if you are in need, please feel free to stop by.

VOLUNTEER LITURGISTS AT ST. JACOB

We are looking for volunteers willing to read scripture during Advent, 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 for anyone interested located on the table in the Narthx.

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 Narthx. Thank you!

***** THE UPPER ROOM** (January - February) magazines are available on the table in the Narthx at St. Jacob UCC.

DECEMBER 11, 2022

(A)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST LESSON. Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

SECOND LESSON. James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL. Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

