



The
Lord himself will
give you a *sign*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 18, 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.

Silent Reflection: "Jesus loved people others rejected - even people who rejected him. This is how God loves." ~ Gregory A. Boyd

ANNOUNCEMENTS RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come away from times of weariness.

Dare to accept the energy God offers you.

ALL: Restore our energy, O Source of all power.

Let your goodness flow through us.

ONE: Come away from all your insignificant distractions.

Dare to let God show you a larger picture.

ALL: Help us to examine the flow of our lives.

Reveal to us what is really important.

ONE: Come away from the scorn of enemies.

Dare to laugh with those who have laughed at you.

ALL: Lead us to think of others in new ways.

Let us find grace and peace in Emmanuel.

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

*** HYMN**

Lift Up Your Head, O Mighty Gates

176

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THE ADVENT WREATH – LOVE

Don & Audrey Yann

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, you have called us to be apostles of your grace, but we have been judgmental instead of gracious. We condemn in others what is also, all too often, in us. We refuse to listen to others' pain or to understand the source of their tears. We avoid those who are angry or scornful or embittered. It is easier to dismiss the feeling of others than to offer true empathy. We would rather reject than encounter them. Yet you come to us, Emmanuel, and we want to repent. You reach out to us, and our hearts melt. We want to embrace this new life. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

SCRIPTURES:

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (insert)

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

HYMN

Jesus Name Above All Names

INSERT

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*)

Loving God, we would not weary you with empty words or with routine tips of obligation. You have granted us life with such abundant possibilities that we can never do enough to express our gratitude. You have honored us by calling us saints and apostles. Therefore we offer ourselves and our abundance in the confidence that you will continue to provide for us in whatever circumstances we face. Use us as ministers of your grace. 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.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

HYMN	O Little Town of Bethlehem (First 2 verses)	180
HYMN	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (First Verse)	185
HYMN	We Wish You a Merry Christmas	(insert)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person	Kevin Hollis
Liturgist	Don Yann
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

-Godfrey Evangelical UCC, Rev. Jerry (Lori) McCaskey

-Granite City St. John UCC, Rev. Karla (Rev. Charles Preston) Frost

Retired Pastor

Rev. Michael and Elizabeth Marx, Owensboro, KY

CHURCH ATTENDANCE Sunday, December 11, 2022

St. John's – 15

St. Jacob – 44

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: stjacobucc.org

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

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Germain Rehg, Dec. 18

Tiffany Duncan & Cameron Woods, Dec. 19

Carol Casperson, Dec. 20

Lauren Gansmann, Dec. 22

Zach Miller, Dec. 25

Melissa Anderson Taylor & Jack Bittle, Dec. 26

Andy Schreiber, Dec. 28

Sarah & Andy Schreiber, 37 years, Dec. 28

Myrna Anderson, Dec. 29

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: apples, oranges, celery, onions, potatoes, and 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

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Wednesday: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.

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

Dec. 25: No Sunday worship on **Christmas** morning

Dec. 26-28: Pastor Phil will be out of office

Jan. 1, 2023: Worship at normal times at St. John's (8:45) & St. Jacob (10:15)

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Please join us for Christmas caroling, immediately following service at St. Jacob UCC, today. Everyone is welcome to participate. We will be caroling at nursing homes, and to shut-ins.

BLESSING BOX INSTALLED AT ST. JACOB

Thank you to those who have helped stock the "Blessing Box" (located on the east side of St. Jacob UCC). 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 and if you are in need, please feel free to stop by.

ST. JACOB 2023 ENVELOPE BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

The St. Jacob 2023 envelope booklets are available for you to pick up on the table in the Narthx.

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.

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 18, 2022

(A)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST LESSON. Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

SECOND LESSON. Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL. Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.



Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (First Lesson)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name. Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

57 Jesus, Name Above All Names

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. Phil. 2:10

NAIDA HEARN

NAIDA HEARN

Je - sus, name a - bove all names: beau - ti - ful

Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Em - man - u - el, God is

with us, bless - ed Re - deem - er, Liv - ing Word.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef for the voice part and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) for the piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 12/8. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, name a - bove all names: beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Em - man - u - el, God is with us, bless - ed Re - deem - er, Liv - ing Word." The score includes various musical notations such as chords, single notes, and rests.

2. Jesus, Lord God Almighty, wonderful counselor, light of the world,
the Prince of Peace, Hope of Glory, man of sorrow, Lamb of God.

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

1. **“We Wish You a Merry Christmas!
We Wish You a Merry Christmas!
We Wish You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**
2. **We Wish You Joy.
We wish you good cheer.
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**
3. **We Wish You a Merry Christmas!
We Wish You a Merry Christmas!
We Wish You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!”**

