



*Do not doubt
but believe.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

April 24, 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:

"'Thank you' is the best prayer that anyone could say. I say that one a lot. Thank you expresses extreme gratitude, humility, understanding." ~ Alice Walker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God is our strength and our salvation;
let everything that breathes praise our God!

**ALL: This is the day God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it!**

ONE: Praise God for mighty deeds and extravagant love.
Praise God for loving care and answered prayer.

**ALL: We will give thanks this day, for God is good.
The steadfast love of God endures forever.**

ONE: Grace to you and peace from the one who is
and who was and who is to come.

**ALL: We are witness to the God who acts.
We are here to offer our worship and praise.**

* HYMN

I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of our ancestors, how easily we have made you a relic of the past. We act as if you were unreal, or at least irrelevant. By our inattention, we have rejected you and the one whom you sent to teach us. We are ruled by fears more than faith, by hostility more than peace, by a sense of failure more than feelings of accomplishment and victory. Forgive our misuse of the precious days you have entrusted to us. Help us to see the signs of your presence and to witness with joy to our Leader and Savior, Jesus Christ. 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:

Acts 5: 27-32

Psalm 118: 14-29 (*Insert*)

John 20: 19-31

HYMN

We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight

INSERT

SERMON

HYMN

How Can I Keep from Singing?

424

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INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

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*)

For the breath of life, for eyes to see, for insight to believe, for courage to witness, we give thanks, gracious God. The signs of your presence are everywhere. Your glory and dominion are forever and ever. May this offering witness to your grace and peace. Grant your Spirit as a transforming power among us that inspires and enables our service. 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.

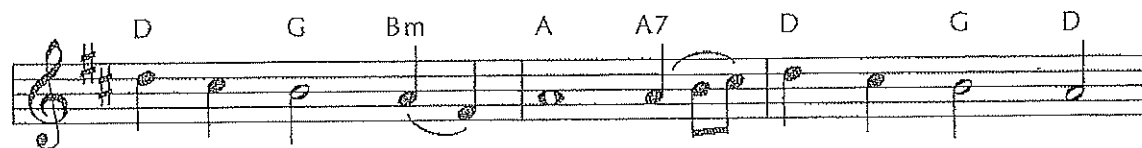
Psalm 118: 14-29 (Second Lesson)

The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. ¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; ¹⁶ the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.” ¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. ¹⁸ The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. ¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³ This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.^[a] ²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success! ²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.^[b] We bless you from the house of the LORD. ²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.^[c] ²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you. ²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

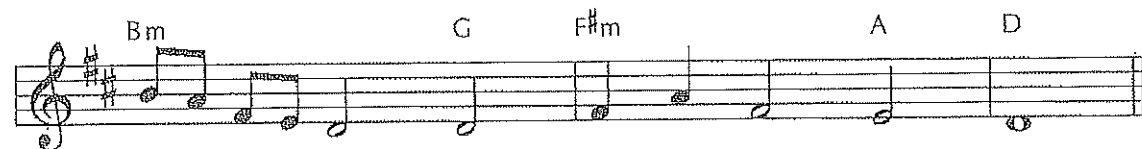
817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

*** HYMN**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Kay Guse

Accompanist

Melissa Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Ella Boggy, Chad Cruthis, Nancy McCaw, Cindy Roll

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

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

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

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Dr. Robert E. and Jay Lee, Swansea, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Gary & Marilyn Warren, 51 years, April 24

Brice Ahrens, April 25

CHURCH ATTENDANCE Sunday, April 17, 2022

St. John's – 23

St. Jacob – 19 (7 a.m.) & 74 (10:15 a.m.)

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Secretary's office hours: Tuesday & Thursday: 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

PASTOR PHIL OFF APRIL 25 - MAY 1

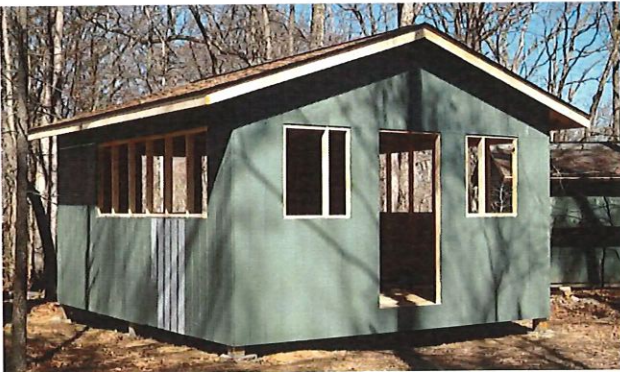
Pastor Phil will be on vacation from April 25-May 1 and will be back in the pulpit May 8. Rev. Louis Fluck will serve as our pulpit supply pastor May 1. Please take time to greet Reverend Fluck following worship next Sunday.

LAWN MOWING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please volunteer to mow the church lawn. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthx.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar were donated by Denis Porter and family for Margaret Kirscher, and Bill and Robert Porter, and families.



NEW CABIN -- A new Fish Ridge Cabin was built by volunteers last week at Camp DuBois. The frame is finished, the roof set, and the inside wiring complete. Thanks to those who have donated to this and the other projects for DuBois 6.0, as well as the volunteers who worked on this project.

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday: Fellowship breakfast, 8 a.m., St. Jacob

STRAWBERRY FEST NEEDS WORKERS & DONATIONS

We are preparing for our 38th Annual Strawberry Festival and are seeking volunteer workers for the event, as well as raffle donations. The event will be held May 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. Jacob Township Park & St. Jacob UCC parking lot. Sign-up forms to work the event are located on the table in the Narthx. For more information or to provide a raffle donation contact a festival committee member or call the church office at 618-644-2142.

STRAWBERRY FEST T-SHIRT ORDERS

Strawberry Festival T-Shirts are ready to order. Thanks to Kelly Tracy for the awesome design. Thank you to all our great sponsors. You may place your order at the following link. <https://stores.inksoft.com/strawberryfest/shop/home>

STRAWBERRY FEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to make potato salad for Strawberry Festival. We will provide the eggs and potatoes, that will need to be boiled and peeled ahead of time. Volunteers can pick up the eggs and potatoes on Mother's Day following the service. Potatoes and eggs need to be returned boiled and peeled to the church by 9 a.m., Thursday, May 12. We will begin preparing the potato salad at 9 a.m., May 12, and we still need volunteers to help with that as well.

CAKE DONATIONS NEEDED FOR STRAWBERRY FEST

We need cake donations for Strawberry Festival; they may be homemade, or store bought. Please drop them off at the church from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 14, or by 9 a.m. Sunday, May 15.

STRAWBERRY FEST RAFFLE TICKETS

There are envelopes labeled for each family with Strawberry Festival raffle tickets in the Narthx. If you have family members who are not here, but you could drop off the envelope to them, it would be appreciated as it will help save on postage. If you know any businesses who would like to still donate a prize for the raffle, have them reach out to DiAnn Rufer or call the office at 618-644-2142. An updated list of all prizes will be available at the Strawberry Festival.

STRAWBERRY FEST SHUTTLE NEEDED

We are still in need of a tractor, flat bed, or some other type of wagon for us to use at the Strawberry Festival? We will consider listing you as a sponsor if you are able to provide this service. For more information contact Dawn Mersinger at 618-792-4316.

APRIL 24, 2022

(C)

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST LESSON. Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

SECOND LESSON. Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

GOSPEL. John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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