

*I am about
to do a new thing;*



now it springs forth

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

April 3, 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: "Self-care is never a selfish act - it is simply good stewardship of the only gift I have, the gift I was put on earth to offer others. Anytime we can listen to true self and give the care it requires, we do it not only for ourselves, but for the many others whose lives we touch."

~ Parker Palmer, *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God's spirit is moving among us; give thanks!

Our God is about to do a new thing in our midst.

ALL: How good it is to be chosen by God;

we gather to sing our praises and thanks.

ONE: God has done great things for us; we are glad!

Now God is pointing us toward new goals.

ALL: We are waiting to hear what God would have us do;

we are ready to risk new behaviors to be faithful.

ONE: Into the wilderness of our lives comes living water.

Into the sorrow of our days comes reason for joy.

ALL: Forgetting what lies behind, we greet our future;

we press on, responding to the upward call of Christ.

CALL TO CONFESSION**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*unison*)

O God, whose upward call in Christ Jesus we have so often chosen to ignore, we confess that we settle for lesser goals while you summon us to embrace the realm of heaven. We seldom look beyond our own interests to the well-being of our sisters and brothers. We can see the wasteful acts of other people but not our own selfish habits. We exaggerate the contributions we make but ignore the sacrifices of others. We need forgiveness, O God. Do a new thing within and among us. 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 43: 16-21

Psalms 126 (INSERT)

John 12: 1-8

HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

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SERMON

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)*

Beneficent God, we are glad for all the good things you have done for us. We count everything as loss before the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ. Receive our costly offerings and our best efforts, here dedicated for your use. May Christ be proclaimed and the poor be saved from the terrors of suffering and neglect. Fill the hearts of all your children with laughter and joy. To that end, bless our offerings. Amen.

HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

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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: God be with you

ALL: And also with you

ONE: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them to God.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the God Most High.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

ONE: God of the Covenant, you saved those on the ark through the flood and gave them your sign of Covenant, the rainbow. Through repentance and baptismal waters, we too have been saved, and made signs of your New Covenant in Jesus Christ.

ALL: Led us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation.

ONE: After Jesus was baptized in the Jordan, your Spirit drove him out into the wilderness. Like Jesus, we too are tempted. Yet he showed us how to resist evil.

ALL: Led us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation.

ONE: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news."

ALL: Led us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation.

ONE: As sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ.

On his final evening with his disciples, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper Jesus did the same with the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

In remembrance of these mighty acts on our behalf, we bring our whole selves to you, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

ONE: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and cup. Bring your reign near to us in this meal, Mighty Spirit. Draw us together in the ark of your church, that we may be signs of your covenant in the world.

ALL: Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE WINE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

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.

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

My Jesus, I Love Thee

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Kay Guse

Accompanist

Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Ella Boggy, Chad Cruthis, Nancy McCaw, Cindy Roll, Carolyn Scheibel, and the family of Linda Noltkampter

St. Jacob: George & Myrna Anderson, Peggy Bohnenstiehl, Ross Busher, Cheryl Byrnes, Carol Casperson, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Carol Schmitt, 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

-Irvington Friedens UCC, Rev. Stacy (Mark) Tate

-Rev. Tarrah (Jasen) Vaupel, Shiloh, IL

Retired Pastors

- Rev. Kevin and Shellie Strobe, Carlinville, IL

CHURCH ATTENDANCE Sunday, March 27, 2022

St. John's – 12

St. Jacob – 33

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

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Duane Zobrist, April 3

Patti & Duane Woods, 36 years, April 5

Steve Mersinger, April 7

Carol Schmitt, April 9

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY FRIDAY APRIL 15 -DELIVERY APRIL 16

DON'T WAIT! ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF YARDS WILL BE EGGED

**CALL/EMAIL/TEXT
DAWN: SMDZ@HOMETEL.COM
618-792-4316
BRITTANY: BFRANK@HOMETEL.COM
618-792-5191**

**\$20 FOR 20 EGGS
\$30 FOR 40 EGGS
\$40 FOR 60 EGGS
\$60 FOR 100 EGGS**

HELP SUPPORT THE ST. JACOB UCC YOUTH GROUP

ORDER CANDY FILLED EGGS TO BE DELIVERED BY EASTER

The advertisement features a central image of several white eggs in a cardboard egg carton, each wrapped with a colorful, polka-dotted paper band. The text is arranged around this image, providing contact information, pricing, and a call to action for supporting the youth group.

***** DONATIONS OF CANDY AND EGGS ARE NEEDED *****

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CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday: Lenten Study, 7 p.m., St. Jacob UCC, theme is "*Lent as a time of growth.*"

PIZZA FUNDRAISER ORDER DEADLINE TODAY

St. Jacob UCC is sponsoring a pizza fundraiser along with Papa Murphy's. We receive a percentage of the total order -- if we sell 100 or more pizzas, our profit is 30 percent; if we sell less than 100 pizzas we get 25 percent. Order forms are available on the table in the Narthx and must be returned by today. Your order form and payment can be dropped off at the church office, or in the collection plate. Pizzas will be available for pick-up following service at St. Jacob April 10.

ELFS LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT

Our ELF group has adopted a mission project in conjunction with our Lenten season. The ELFs will be collecting and distributing items to the Samaritan House in Granite City, which is a shelter for women and children, and to Highland Health Care. There is a board set up in the vestibule with needed items. Deadline to donate is April 10. Items collected will be delivered before Easter.

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 SHUTTLE NEEDED

Do you have a business that has a tractor, flat bed, or some other type of wagon you would be willing to provide 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 3, 2022

(C)

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

FIRST LESSON. Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

SECOND LESSON. Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL. John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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