
et tu esto super decem civitates
Domine mina tua decem minas acquisivit
et tu esto super quinque civitates
Domine mina tua quinque acquisivit
ho quidam nobilis abiit in regionem longinquam accipere sibi regnum

WELCOME TO WORSHIP
NOVEMBER 15, 2026

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 may be of service to you or your family.

Silent Reflection: "It doesn't matter whether you're a Muslim, a Christian, or a Jew. When you believe in God, you should believe that all people are part of one family. If you love God, you can't love only some of his children." ~ **Muhammad Ali**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: This is the Lord's Day, the day of wonder and grace.
ALL: This is the day to worship the One who calls us together.
ONE: This is the Lord's Day, the day we are given joy and peace.
ALL: This is the day promised to us, the day of healing and renewal.
ONE: This is the Lord's Day, the day, and it has come just in time!
ALL: This is the day we gather with hope, with faith, with love!

HYMN *This is the Day* 652

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Again, we must confess, O Lord, our struggle to be faithful disciples. Entrusted with all your gifts, we become fearful of misusing them, missing the chance to be a blessing to others. Invited to dance in the light of your love, we stand against the wall keeping company with our old friend, sin. Called to be emptied for those who struggle in life, we fill ourselves with scorn for the poor choices they make. Have mercy on us, O God. Open our eyes to your kingdom in our midst, so we might discover that your day of hope and grace has come to us through Jesus Christ, our savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI 734

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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:

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
Matthew 25:14-30

HYMN ***Near the Cross*** 479

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED – Insert

HYMN ***Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord*** 455

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)*

There is no escape from your judgment, O Lord, but neither can we flee beyond your limitless love. We offer an accounting of our stewardship in and beyond the offering of this day. Reshape our lives for joyous, responsive participation in work that builds up the body of Christ. Use what we offer here to bring encouragement and hope to many who have lost a sense of meaning for their lives. Bless us and our offerings. Amen.

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

PRAYER RESPONSE **Into My Heart** 485

Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.
Come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

*** HYMN** ***Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*** 475

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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CHURCH ATTENDANCE, NOVEMBER 8, 2026

St. John's – 9 St. Jacob – 28

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	Rich Erwin
Accompanist:	Melissa Anderson Taylor

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

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

St. Jacob: Cheryl Byrnes, Carol Casperson, Jackie Miller, Bridgette & JP

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

- **Zoar UCC, New Hanover** - Rev. R.J. Morgan
- **O'Fallon UCC** - Rev. Dr. Martha Thierheimer

Retired Pastors

- Rev. David (Kathryn) Riebeling

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Alyson Brown, Nov. 15
Marie Gansmann, Nov. 20

CALENDAR/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY: St. Jacob Council meeting, 7 p.m.
THUURSDAY: St. John's Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.
NOVEMBER 22: "Hanging of the Greens," following worship at St. Johns
NOVEMBER 22: "Hanging of the Greens," following worship at St. Jacob, potluck lunch

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HOYLETON'S HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS DRIVE

St. Jacob: This year we are providing gifts for children in residential care and foster care through Hoyleton. At last count there were still four slips in the basket on the table in the Narthex. Each slip lists possible gifts and has a number at the top. There is a sheet next to the basket with the same number on it. Please put your name next to the slip you take. The gifts are due to the church by Sunday, Nov. 29, and we'll get them to Hoyleton that week. Please include the top half of the slip with the child's name on the gift.

St. John's: Again, this year the council will be coordinating the purchase of gifts for the children in residential care and foster care through Hoyleton through their on-line wish-list. Please place your donation in the envelope on the bulletin board by Sunday, Nov. 22.

VOLUNTEER LITURGISTS AT ST. JACOB

We are looking for volunteers willing to read scripture, 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 located on the table in the Narthex.

BEST CHOICE LABEL COLLECTION

The ELFs organization is collecting Best Choice labels/UPC portion (proof of purchase). There is a box on the table in the Narthex to place the labels.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING CAMPAIGN

This Christmas season, the St. Jacob UCC is teaming up with the Highland Area Christian Service Ministry in support of the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Campaign. The Highland Area Food Pantry will receive 80% of the donations collected to feed our neighbors. Details about the Highland Area Food Pantry:

- **Service Area:** Highland, Grantfork, Alhambra, New Douglas, Pierron, Marine, and St. Jacob
- **Monthly Reach:** 463 unduplicated individuals (January–September 2025 average)
- **Monthly Visits:** 684 total pantry visits per month (households can visit up to twice monthly)
- **Additional Services:** SNAP assistance, LIHEAP, emergency rent and utility help, and seasonal programs like Adopt-A-Family.

For information about volunteering or to donate to the campaign, contact Angela Imming at bellsforfood@gmail.com or call 618-977-5819.

*** **THE UPPER ROOM** (November-December) magazines are available on the table in the Narthex at St. Jacob.

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):

November Shopping list: Syrup, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, pancake mix, oatmeal, granola bars, cereal, pudding cups, toilet bowl cleaner, & Mr. Clean

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: Judges 4:1-7

After Ehud had died, the Israelites again did things that the Lord saw as evil. So the Lord gave them over to King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, and he was stationed in Harosheth-ha-goiim. The Israelites cried out to the Lord because Sisera had nine hundred iron chariots and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was a leader of Israel at that time. She would sit under Deborah's palm tree between Ramah and Bethel in the Ephraim highlands, and the Israelites would come to her to settle disputes. She sent word to Barak, Abinoam's son, from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "Hasn't the Lord, Israel's God, issued you a command? 'Go and assemble at Mount Tabor, taking ten thousand men from the people of Naphtali and Zebulun with you. I'll lure Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, to assemble with his chariots and troops against you at the Kishon River, and then I'll help you overpower him.'"

SECOND LESSON: Psalm 123

I raise my eyes to you – you who rule heaven.
Just as the eyes of servants attend to their masters' hand,
just as the eyes of a female servant attend to her mistress' hand –
that's how our eyes attend to the Lord our God until he has mercy on us.

Have mercy on us, Lord! Have mercy because we've had more than enough shame.
We've had more than enough mockery from the self-confident, more than enough shame from the proud.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant's ability. Then he left on his journey.

"After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

"Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, 'Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I've gained five more.'

"His master replied, 'Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'

"The second servant also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I've gained two more.'

"His master replied, 'Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'

"Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven't sown. You gather crops where you haven't spread seed. So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what's yours.'

"His master replied, 'You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven't sown and that I gather crops where I haven't spread seed? In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don't have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them. Now take the worthless servant and throw him out into the farthest darkness.'

"People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

From the Common English Bible Copyright © 2011

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the universal Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.