



For
salvation
is nearer to us now

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

November 27, 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: "We should ask God to increase our hope when it is small,
awaken it when it is dormant, confirm it when it is wavering, strengthen it when it
is weak, and raise it up when it is overthrown." ~ John Calvin

ANNOUNCEMENTS RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Awaken to a season of anticipation.

God is offering peace within and among us.

ALL: How good it is to gather in God's house!

God draws us together for this time of worship.

ONE: God calls us to celebrate our diversity.

Differences shall no longer divide us.

ALL: We want to see one another through God's eyes.

We will look for the good in our neighbors.

ONE: Seek the highest and best for each other.

Come to the mountain of God's love.

ALL: We will follow in the paths where God leads.

Our ears are open to hear God's instructions.

* HYMN

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

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THE ADVENT WREATH – HOPE

Sara & Andy Schreiber

ONE: Rejoice with me and say

ALL: “Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

ONE: We are standing on holy ground

ALL: For this is where we praise God.

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.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Eternal God, you have brought us to this moment of confrontation. We cannot escape your judgment of our hidden deceits. You know when we are jealous of others. You observe our quarrels with one another. You see how we seek self-gratification rather than the ways you intend for us. Our physical desires are more important to us than the spiritual hungers we suppress. Come among us now to turn us toward the paths where you want to lead 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 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

HYMN

Because He Lives

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SERMON

HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

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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*)

Thank you, God, for the privilege of sharing your bounty with those in need. Thank you for prospering our work and witness. We seek to walk in your light and follow the pathways where you lead. We want to share the good news of salvation through these gifts and by the way we live. May all your people be made ready for Christ's coming. 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.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SERVING YOU TODAY

Council Person

Beth Hanser

Liturgist

The Schreiber's

Accompanist

Melody Hollis

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

St. John's: Ella Boggy, Wally Foxworthy, Margie Foxworthy's son Sean, Mary Kay Richter, Cindy Roll, Jeffrey Thornton, and to the family of Tom McCaw

St. Jacob: Ross Busher, Carol Casperson, Erica Kynion, Gail Miller, Ronald Rujawitz, Jane Schmidt, Carol Zweck, and to the family of Gary Frutiger

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

-Fairview Heights St. John UCC, Rev. Rosemary Captain

-Farina Friedens UCC, Dr. Jerry (Cathy) Gesell, Sr.

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Russell and Doris Miller, Metropolis, IL

UPCOMING BIRTHDAY

Loretta Tague, Dec. 3

CHURCH ATTENDANCE Sunday, November 20, 2022

St. John's – 17

St. Jacob – 39

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

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): Canned stew, canned meat (tuna & chicken), canned chili, Manwich (sloppy joe), Hamburger Helper, pie crust mix, evaporated milk, juice, beans (pork & beans or kidney), sugar (small), Zip-lock bags, & feminine hygiene products

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

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

HOYLETON HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS DRIVE

St. Jacob: Gifts for Hoyleton's Hope for the Holidays drive needs to be dropped off at church today. If you didn't bring your gift today, please bring it by the office on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

St. John's: The money for gifts to Hoyleton's Hope for the Holidays drive is due today. Please place your donation in the envelope on the bulletin board.

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.

ST. JACOB SUNDAY SCHOOL

St. Jacob Sunday School will be held from 9-10 a.m. every first and third Sunday through the school year. All children ages 3 and up are invited to join the fun. For more information, or to volunteer to help, contact the church office, phone: 618-644-2142; or email: stjucc@hometel.com.

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** (Nov.-Dec.) magazines are available on the table in the Narthx at St. Jacob UCC.

NOVEMBER 27, 2022

(A)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST LESSON. Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

SECOND LESSON. Romans 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL. Matthew 24:36-44

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

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