

Welcome to Worship at
Joyful Harvest Church
Growing Together for Christ
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5050 N. Johnsburg Rd, Johnsburg, IL 60051
Congregation Website – www.joyfulharvest.org



August 13, 2023

11th Sunday after Pentecost

This week we will be worshipping in-person and on-line through Zoom and Facebook. There will be a link on our website to watch on Zoom, or you can watch the live-stream on Facebook! Stay safe and God bless!

Gathering

Welcome/Greeting/Announcements

Call to Worship

Here, in this place, God welcomes all the dreamers, as well as the doubters: **here, the worriers and wanderers can call on God by name.**

Here, in this time, we can remember all the ways God has graced us:

here, in these moments, we are reminded that God is with us, always!

Here are gathered those daring enough to step out of comfort into the unknown:

here, in this faith space, we will find the courage to cry out, 'God, save us!' in every situation.

Gathering Songs

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Prayer of the Day

Word

FIRST READING: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 (NRSV)

¹Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ²This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him. ¹²Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." ¹⁴So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, ¹⁵and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" ¹⁶"I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." ¹⁷The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." ²¹But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²²Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. ²³So when Joseph came to his brothers, they

stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; ²⁴and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. ²⁵Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. ²⁸When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b (NRSV)

¹O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

²**Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.**

³Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

⁴**Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.**

⁵Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

⁶**O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

¹⁶When he summoned famine against the land, and broke every staff of bread,

¹⁷**he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.**

¹⁸His feet were hurt with fetters, his neck was put in a collar of iron;

¹⁹**until what he had said came to pass, the word of the Lord kept testing him.**

²⁰The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free.

²¹**He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his possessions,**

²²to instruct his officials at his pleasure, and to teach his elders wisdom.

^{45b}**Praise the Lord!**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15 (NRSV)

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." ¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have

never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?
¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written,
“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33 (NRSV)

²²He made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side...

This is the gospel of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Message

Prayers of Intercession

Meal

Offering/Offering Song

Friends, while our programs and in-person worship are temporarily modified, our responsibilities for our regular bills (mortgage, utilities, payroll, etc.) continue. Please send your gifts to the church office: 5050 N. Johnsbury Rd., Johnsbury, IL 60051 or you may give online at www.joyfulharvest.org.

Call to Reconciliation

Too often when life threatens us, we trust the world to save us, finding it easy to believe the empty promises of seduction and doubt. But our God offers us forgiveness and healing, if we will but trust and follow. Let us begin, by confessing our sins together,

It seems so easy to get into the boat and set sail on our journey, God of Promises. But when the winds of change begin to blow, we want to turn around and head back to the past's safe harbor. When sin's waves crash over the side, we try to wrap ourselves in the cloak of pride thinking we will not get wet. When Jesus calls to us to get out and follow in faith, we look around, hoping he is not speaking to us. Swamped by our fears, and sinking in doubt, we long for someone to help us - so save us, Holy One, save us! Stretch out your hand, so we might be lifted from our despair to hope, from our worries to trust, from our foolishness to faithful living. Then, we will dare to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, even if it means getting out of the sheltered lives we have built for ourselves. Amen

Silence is kept...

In confessing that Christ is Lord, we let go of the past, and turn to God's future. We step out of our fears, and walk into the light and life offered by our God.

In trusting Christ's resurrection, we trust all of God's promises, letting the Spirit work in and through us, healing and making us whole. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

Lord's Supper

All are welcome to come to communion; if you believe that Christ is truly present here today, we invite you to join us at the Lord's Table. We will give you the bread and ask that you take a small cup of red wine or white grape juice. Gluten-free elements are available. Please indicate if you prefer gluten-free when you are served.

Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Communion Song

Sending

Sending Song

Sending and Benediction

Go now, to be the love of God for others.

Let us go to wander with all the worriers and weary.

Go now, to be the grace of Jesus for all.

Let us dare to step out of worship's comfort to serve the doubters and dreamers.

Go now, to be the peace of the Spirit to all.

Let us remember our calling to be God's presence in every moment.

Commissioning

At Joyful Harvest Church, **our mission is growing together for Christ.**

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we value: **Family Worship, Relying on Prayer, Unity in Christ, Instruction in the Word, Telling Others, and Service to God's Community.** Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Order of service may change to accommodate the Holy Spirit...

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Announcements

If you are looking for a place to worship with your family, join us any Sunday at 9:00 am! Thank you for worshipping with us today.

St. Jude Children's Ranch: **We are collecting cards!** Please bring in the whole card Juanita will separate the front from the back. Save your used holiday and all-occasion cards, bring them to the church, and we'll ship them off to St. Jude's!

Men's Group: We meet on **Saturday mornings at 7 a.m.** at the church for fellowship and learning more about God's call on our lives. All men are invited to attend.

Cross Keys Village Stampers: Cut used postage stamps from the mail you receive at home, bring it to the church and we'll make sure the Cross Keys folks receive them.

First Wednesday Fellowship - (FWF) is a group of active adults who meet for fellowship and entertainment at Joyful Harvest on the first Wednesday of every month. Our programs are open to all members of the community and there is no charge to attend. *Invite your friends & neighbors!* On Wednesday September 6 at 1 p.m. Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge will connect the dots of land conserved by local county, state and private agencies and organizations in southeast Wisconsin and northeast Illinois and will eventually improve or restore more than 11,000 acres of wetland basins, historic prairie and forest habitats. The purpose of Hackmatack is to contribute to the mission and goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System by protecting and enhancing habitats of federal trust species and species of management concern, with special emphasis on migratory birds and species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. This program is in-person and on Zoom, Facebook and dial in. It will be archived for later viewing on YouTube. For links go to www.joyfulharvest.org. Coffee and cookies are served at 12:30 preceding the program.

Donate for Tijuana Mission Project! - Toys and school supplies! When our volunteers go to Tijuana this year, they would like to take some items that the kids can use. *If you should see a backpack on sale for the kids, we can fill it with school supplies. Soccer balls or footballs can be deflated and taken. Jump ropes, small toys, T-shirts for kids would be good, too.* There is a box in the narthex for donations. **See Ray Pratscher or Theresa Ancona for info.**

Joyful Readers Book Club: Do you like to read and are looking for a way to connect with other women? Consider joining the ladies of Joyful Harvest as they embark on a new fellowship opportunity. The next meeting will be October 21 at 9:00 a.m. They're reading *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. Contact Kim DuBois for more info!



Donate to help the ministries of Joyful Harvest! Scan the QR code on the left with your mobile device or visit the giving kiosk in the narthex. You'll go straight to our online giving page to set up a one-time or recurring gift through your debit/credit card processed through PayPal. Your generous gift will support our many outreach ministries. ***Thank you for making so much possible!***

Weekly Calendar

Tue. Aug 15	Breakfast Club at Midwest Breakfast, Spring Grove	8:00 a.m.
Tue. Aug 15	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	4:00-6:30 p.m.
Wed. Aug 16	Versiti Blood Drive	1:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Thur. Aug 17	Food Pantry Service Opportunity	4:00-6:30 p.m.
Sat. Aug 19	Men's Group <u>In-Person & Live Streaming</u>	7:00 a.m.
Sun. Aug 20	Sunday Morning Worship	9:00 a.m.

AUGUST 13, 2023
ELEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Beautiful are those who bring good news!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 14:22-33	Jesus walks on water
Monday	1 Kings 19:9-18	The Lord appears to Elijah
Tuesday	Romans 10:5-15	Anyone can be saved
Wednesday	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28	Joseph is sold by his brothers
Thursday	Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b	God's faithfulness to Israel
Friday	1 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Timothy brings good news
Saturday	Psalm 85:8-13	Restoration of God's favor
Sunday	Matthew 15:21-28	A woman's faith

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" **Romans 10:15 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, just as you saved Peter from the stormy waves, we praise you for saving us from the things that overwhelm us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

You who walked upon the sea, come and join our meal, we plea. Thank you for your care this day; lead us, Jesus, in your way. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you what is good and make a path for your steps. (Psalm 85:12-13)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life. Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Would you use the word beautiful to describe feet? Why or why not?
- Describe something you think is beautiful. What makes it beautiful?
- The Apostle Paul quotes an Old Testament passage about someone who is beautiful because he or she brings good news. What is beautiful to you about the message of Christ?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Romans 10:5-15.

Paul continues an intricate dance of balancing the covenant given to Abraham, Moses, and the larger Jewish community with the new covenant given in Jesus. Finally, it is the same God and the same promise: salvation is meant for all (v. 10). Therefore, our job is not to judge (vv. 6-7) but to proclaim the good news that Christ is the fulfillment of the law. That message only helps if it is heard (vv. 8 and 14). What is so beautiful is not really people's feet—perhaps the least attractive part of a person's body—but the person him/herself. People cannot receive this message of salvation without hearing. We are those sent to share good news with others. We are the beautiful souls not because of feet or noses or eyes, but because of the good news of Christ told to others. Who in your life is beautiful because of his or her sharing Christ with you? *Pray:* **Living God, may we see the beauty of the gospel and the beauty of those who share your saving message with others through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Serving others reminds us of the breadth of the Kingdom of God and that our faith is personal but not private. Faith motivates us to serve the world in love. In what ways do you serve in your home, your congregation, and in the community?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Jesus died for us. That is how much God loves us. This is good news! "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). Trace your foot on a piece of paper. Write a list of ways you can use your feet to tell others about the good news of Jesus. On another piece of paper draw lips. Write a list of ways you can use your lips to tell others about the good news of Jesus. Keep your drawings as a visual reminder of the good news.



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Join us for worship: Sundays 9 am!