

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

Online Worship
July 19, 2020
10:15 AM
(Sunday School at 9:15 AM)

Watch/Participate online: lovejoyupc.org/live
Participate by phone: +1 (312) 626-6799 and enter the meeting ID: 611 784 858#

Gathering

Gathering Song 288 - Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me;
fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

Call to Worship

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is
your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
**Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.**

Prayer of the Day

Hymn 306 - *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

2 Before our *Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes;
our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

4 When we are called to part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

5 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,
your creatures cry—creation groans—
but we turn away;
we surround ourselves with noise.
We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility:
we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy.
It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference.
Life-giving God,
wash us clean.
Restore our imaginations and our hearts.
Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins
until we love with abandon
and our hands reach out in blessing,
for the creation waits with eager longing
for the revealing of the children of God.**

Silent Prayers

Assurance of Forgiveness

Word

Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

The Inescapable God

To the leader. Of David. A Psalm.

- 1 O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
- 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
- 3 You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
- 5 You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
- 7 Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
- 9 If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
10 even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
- 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
12 even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
- 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
- 24 See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Parable of Weeds among the Wheat

24 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' 28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' 29 But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the

weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Weeds

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." 37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, 42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Homily

Affirmation of Faith *From A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for
blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen**

Offering

Though we cannot “pass the plate” at this time, we invite you to continue your giving. Our congregation’s ministries and expenses continue during this time when we cannot meet together in-person. If this situation has impacted your finances, please be assured that it is ok to adjust your giving. We are in this together. Consider what other ways you can make an offering to God: calling a neighbor, running an errand for a friend, thanking your deacon, etc.

Give: <https://lovejoyupc.org/give>

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Sending

Hymn 714 - *God of the Fertile Fields*

1 God of the fertile fields,
shaper of earth that yields
our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand
come gifts your love has planned,
that all in every land
be clothed and fed.

2 We would be stewards true,
holding in trust from you
all that you give;
help us in love to share,
teach us like you to care
for people everywhere,
that all may live.

3 As grows the hidden seed
to fruit that serves our need,
so your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used,
no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused
your love bestows.

4 God of the countryside,
dear to the Christ who died
to make us one:
we pledge our lives anew
in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do.
Your will be done.

Charge

Benediction

Announcements

We continue to worship on Sundays together!

Connect to all services by phone / online

Join Zoom Meeting: go to <https://lovejoyupc.org/live> and click 'connect via zoom'

For Smartphone Tap here:

+13126266799,,611784858# US

For Regular phone Dial:

+1 312 626 6799 and enter the Meeting ID: 611 784 858#

Sunday School online/by phone - Sundays at 9:15 AM

Join us for Adult Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 9:15, using the same information as worship to dial in via phone or internet. Join us as we continue learning the faith.

Courageous Conversations on Race and Justice: Wed. July 22 at 7 PM via Zoom - We want to hear from you!

At our next Courageous Conversation we want to address YOUR questions about race, racism, and justice. Click this link and fill out the form with a question about race, racism, or justice that you have. You may choose to submit your question anonymously. <https://forms.gle/jLjAWJRmW7uN7tU88>

Update on Church office and Activities

The church office is not currently open to in-person visits; however, you may call at 618.254.5880. Food Pantry is still under operation with special procedures on the 2nd and 4th Monday from 9–10 AM. For pastoral care, please reach out to your deacon, the church office, or call Pastor Daniel. Daniel is generally available Tuesday–Friday and Sunday, unless it's an emergency. Thanks for praying for and caring for one another during this time. Daniel's cell is 704-380-0498.

Evening Prayer by phone/online - Sunday and Wednesday nights at 7 PM

Join Pastor Daniel as we do the ancient practice of Evening prayer using technology of phone and internet. We will pray for our community, world, and have a chance to check in with one another.

Online/Video

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://lovejoyupc.org/live> and click 'connect Via Zoom.' You'll need to download the zoom app...

For Smartphone Tap here:

+13126266799,,611784858# US

For Regular phone Dial:

+1 312 626 6799 and enter the Meeting ID: 611 784 858#

Giving

Please continue your giving by mail or online at our website: lovejoyupc.org/give. If your financial situation has been impacted by this virus, please be assured that it is ok to adjust your giving.

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church
2550 Rock Hill Rd.
Wood River, IL 62095

Prayer Concerns

Please keep these people in your prayers and contact those you know to extend a message of support and love.

Prayer Concerns: JoAnn Moss, Scott Shelton's Mother, Carol, & his sister, Tina, Mary Trudell, Pat Fletcher, Cameron Gurley (6 year old boy with ongoing health issues), Bob Howe, Kate Trudell, Lexie Suerig (Debbie Suerig's daughter), Jim White, Rachel, Ralph Thompson, Kara Carmack, Terry Allen, Ron Franke, Judy Ballard, Alma Cooper, Judy Luck, Mike Harvey (Russ & Lois Thompson's son-in-law), Marian Twigg, Cheryl Strohbeck, Shelly Devore (Brenda & Debbie's niece), Pat Slayden, Jim Laux, Barbara Schultz, (Martha Schultz's mother-in-law), Sebastian Panyik, John Lindquist, Leroy Duncan, Herbert Peel, Darlene Kratz (Carl Day's niece), Terry Tiller (Leukemia), Glenna Donohoo, Katie Davis, Bill Myers, Jama McPeak.

Food Pantry prayer list: Gary, Carolyn, Herbert, Cynthia, Stephanie, Marisa, Tonya

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS: Rosewood Care Center, Alton *Betty Rain, Ron Franke,*

Highland Healthcare, Alma Cooper

RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS: Integrity Healthcare, Wood River – *Herbert Peel,* Evergreen Place, Alton – *Shirley Martin,* Villa Rose, Bethalto – *Beth Forrester;* Aspen Creek, Troy – Susanne Randall, Cedarhurst, Bethalto – Cliff & Mary Barnes, Shirley Burris.