

## Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Resonet in Laudibus

Simone

\* Gathering Song 100

Canticle of the Turning, Refrain 2x  
*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.*

\* Candle Litany

As we light our fourth Advent candle,  
**we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.**  
Come now, O Child of Mary.  
**Come now, O Prince of Love.**

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 121

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Prayer of Confession

**O God, giver of all good gifts,  
we come before you as children  
in need of your wisdom and grace.  
Our fears and our hopes are braided together  
in the rhythm of daily life.  
Our visions of the future depend on our own hands and ability.  
Our expectations remain reasonable  
and within our control.  
Break into this tangle of fear and hope,  
bringing peace to our souls.  
Break into our vision of the future,  
returning us to your hands.  
Break into our expectations,  
awakening us with curiosity and wonder;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Silent Prayers)**

Assurance of God's Forgiveness & Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!  
**And also with you!**

\* Glory to God 582

## Word

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:39-55

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

## Responding

\* Affirmation of Faith

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967*

**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.  
His faith and obedience were the response  
of the perfect child of God.  
He was the fulfillment  
of God's promise to Israel,  
the beginning of the new creation,  
and the pioneer of the new humanity.  
He gave history its meaning and direction  
and called the church to be his servant  
for the reconciliation of the world. Amen**

\* Hymn 100

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

Announcements

Offering our Gifts

*Give at [lovejoyupc.org/give](http://lovejoyupc.org/give)*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever.  
Amen.**

## Sending

\* Hymn 102                      *Savior of the Nations, Come*

\* Charge & Benediction

Postlude                      Wondrous Tidings                      Simone

## Worship Notes

Ann French is our Director of Music. Thanks to Michael and Robert Musgrave-Perkins for their technology gifts. Thanks also to our song leader and liturgist for the day.

## Announcements

Announcements marked with  are opportunities that relate to our Matthew 25 commitment.

### \*\*2021 Annual Report Submissions

Friday, January 7th is the deadline for Annual Report submissions. All submissions can be emailed to Tabitha at [Admin@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:Admin@lovejoyupc.org). Please have all submissions turned in by this date.

### Advent and Christmas Opportunities

**Sunday, December 19 at 6 PM, Relax and Remember Love with Harpist Amy Camie, In-Person or Zoom**  
Amy Camie, a certified clinical musician, is offering Relax and Remember Love, a solo harp journey of traditional Advent and Christmas melodies. This 60-minute healing experience will help us slow down, quiet our thoughts, and remember the love within.

**Friday, December 24 at 7:30 PM, Christmas Eve Service by Candlelight, In-Person and Zoom**  
Join us as we welcome the Christ Child with song, communion, and firelight.

**Christmas Eve Offering:** COVID-19 has impacted Pendo Presbyterian Church (the Kenyan Church in St. Louis) and the people of Kenya as it has all of us. Of particular need in Kenya at this time is support for high school education. During the pandemic, many students are dropping out of school each year because they cannot pay the small fee associated with attending school. By participating in this offering, LoveJoy United is joining the whole Presbytery to contribute \$15,000 over the next three years to support our Kenyan siblings. You can also give online: [lovejoyupc.org/give](http://lovejoyupc.org/give)

**Sunday, December 26 at 10:15 AM, Service of Lessons and Carols**

### Christmas Joy Offering

The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. Memo your offering check with "Christmas Joy Offering" or give online: [lovejoyupc.org/give](http://lovejoyupc.org/give).

### YouthQuest Children, Youth, and Parent Planning Meeting on Dec 28 at 7 PM.

YQ parents, grandparents and facilitators are invited to discuss how to progress with COVID surging during winter months and how to best establish sound programming appealing to children and youth. Participants may come in-person to the Fellowship Hall or participate on ZOOM.

### George and Lynn Humbert are collecting plastic lids and bottle caps.

Our friend, a Hartford police officer's wife, is collecting plastic lids and bottle caps to build a bench at the Hartford Dog Park as a memorial to Tyler Timmons. Tyler lived and worked in Hartford before he joined the Pontoon Beach police

force. There will be a "tub" outside the fellowship hall door. There will also be a picture that shows what is acceptable. If you can help with this project -- thank you in advance.

**Join the LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club** as we enter the New Year with a bang! On January 19 at 7:15 we'll be discussing Margaret Murie's "[Two In The Far North](#)." Naturalist Murie's life encompassed years exploring the wilderness in Wyoming and Alaska, leading her to become one of the earliest and most outspoken defenders of the natural world, which she saw coming under increasing threat from modern life. On February 16 at 7:15 we'll discuss Kent Nerburn's highly-recommended portrayal of modern Native American life, "[Neither Wolf Nor Dog](#)."

### **The Nominating Committee is seeking to fill a vacancy for deacon**

If you feel called to this ministry, or know someone who might be gifted for this work, please reach out to Julie Spurgeon, moderator of the Nominating Committee.


### **Fall Stewardship Campaign**

Thank you to all of you who have already made your pledge for 2022. If you have not yet done so, we encourage you to pledge online [lovejoyupc.org/give](https://lovejoyupc.org/give), fill out a pledge card, or call the church and pledge over the phone. No gift is too great or too small to glorify God. Gifts of every kind are necessary to do Christ's work at LoveJoy United.

### **Adult Education Café, Sundays at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall or Zoom.**

Pour yourself a cup of coffee and join a group of adults in an informal conversation around the themes of Christian Practices. We're currently talking about what it means to "Welcome All." Join in the Fellowship Hall or via Zoom (<https://lovejoyupc.org/live> and click "connect via Zoom").

### **Wednesdays at LoveJoy United**

 • **Lectionary Bible Study in Fellowship Hall OR Zoom at 10:15 AM** - Join pastor Daniel and a number of others as we discuss the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.

- **Lunch Bunch at 11:30 AM** - Pack a lunch and gather for a time of fellowship.
- **Zoom Evening Prayer at 7 PM**

### **Zoom Participation & Tech Deacons**

Zoom has enabled us to make more of our gatherings accessible to those who cannot be present in person. The best way to connect via Zoom is go to [lovejoyupc.org/live](https://lovejoyupc.org/live) and click "Connect Via Zoom." You may also call in via Phone: (312) 626-6799 and enter meeting ID: 611-784-858. If you need help setting up technology at home, call the church office and we'll connect you with a tech deacon: (618) 254-5880.



## **LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church**

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