

## Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

O Come and Sing Unto the Lord

Blake

\* Call to Worship

The boy Samuel heard God's voice in the night.

**We come listening for God's voice.**

God knew us before we knew ourselves.

**We come listening for God's voice.**

Our minds, bodies, and souls belong to God.

**We come listening for God's voice.**

We come to this place to listen and follow.

**Let us worship God!**

Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 410

*God Is Calling through the Whisper*

*1 God is calling through the whisper  
of the Spirit's deepest sighs,  
through the thrill of sudden beauties  
that can catch us by surprise.*

*Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;  
hush of stillness, rush of wonder:  
God is calling—can you hear?  
God is calling—can you hear?*

*2 God is calling through the voices  
of our neighbors' urgent prayers,  
through their longing for redemption  
and for rescue from despair.*

*Place of hurt or face of needing;  
strident cry or silent pleading:  
God is calling—can you hear?  
God is calling—can you hear?*

*3 God is calling through the music  
of sublime and human arts,  
through the hymns of earth and angels,  
and the carols of our hearts.*

*Lift of joy and gift of singing;  
days and nights our praises bringing:  
God is calling—and we hear!  
God is calling—and we hear!*

Prayer of Confession

**God of abundant mercy,**

**you embodied love for us in the life of Jesus Christ.  
You ate with sinners and shared with outcasts.  
You loved with boldness and healed with grace.  
Forgive us, O God, when we do not trust your love:  
when we doubt whether we are worthy of your care.  
Forgive us, O God, when we try to cheapen love:  
when we limit it to shallow feelings instead of bold actions.  
Help us, O God, when we cannot feel your love,  
when we are isolated, afraid, and unable to see your  
presence.  
Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short.  
Free us to try again,  
and let your love lead the way...**

### Assurance of Forgiveness

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

\* Hymn 582

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

*1 Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*2 World without end, without end. Amen.*

*World without end, without end. Amen.*

*World without end, without end. Amen.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

## Word

Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

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.

13

For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

14

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.

15

My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

16

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.

17

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

18

I try to count them—they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end<sup>[a]</sup>—I am still with you.

## Second Reading

1 Samuel 3:1–10

**3** Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

**2** At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; **3** the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. **4** Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!"<sup>[a]</sup> and he said, "Here I am!" **5** and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. **6** The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." **7** Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. **8** The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. **9** Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

**10** Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

\* Affirmation of Faith

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967*

**God's sovereign love is a mystery  
beyond the reach of the human mind.  
Human thought ascribes to God  
superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.  
But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ  
by showing power in the form of a servant,  
wisdom in the folly of the cross,  
and goodness in receiving  
sinful men and women.  
The power of God's love in Christ  
to transform the world  
discloses that the Redeemer  
is the Lord and Creator  
who made all things  
to serve the purpose of God's love.**

\* Hymn 722

*Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*

*1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone.*

*As you have sought, so let me seek  
your erring children lost and lone.*

*2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
the wandering and the wavering feet.  
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed  
your hungering ones with manna sweet.*

*3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
the precious truths which you impart.  
And wing my words that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.*

*4 O fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
until my very heart o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.*

*5 O use me, Lord, use even me,  
just as you will, and when, and where  
until your blessed face I see,  
your rest, your joy, your glory share.*

**Responding**

## Commissioning for Matthew 25 Summit

*We commission Cindy Mayhew and Rev. Aline Russell (who is unable to be with us in-person) to attend the first national Matthew 25 Summit in Atlanta, GA this week. Please hold them in your prayers and upon their return, ask them what they've learned!*

## Announcements

### Offering our Gifts

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

*Loose cash offerings benefit our Good Samaritan fund, which helps our neighbors with essential needs on an emergency basis.*

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

### Sung call to Prayer

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Hymn 469

*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.*

## 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 726

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

*1 "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?*

*Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?*

*Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;*

*will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"*

*2 "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?*

*Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?*

*Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?*

*Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"*

*3 "Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?"*

*Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"*

*4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"*

*5 Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude                      The Thankful Heart Rejoices                      Smith

## Worship Notes

Ann French is our Director of Music. Thanks to Michael & Robert Musgrave-Perkins and Alice Buzzard for their technology gifts. Thanks also to our liturgist for the day. Parts of today's service are adapted from *The Book of Common Worship* and *Call to Worship*.

## Land Acknowledgment

The LoveJoy United community gathers on the traditional land of the Tamaroa People, who have been its faithful stewards for generations. We acknowledge and honor the past, present, and future of the Tamaroa and other Indigenous peoples who have been displaced from their ancestral homelands.

## Announcements

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

**DISMANTLING STRUCTURAL RACISM** is one of the foci of being a Matthew 25 congregation, which LoveJoy United is. Recognizing and honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. is one way we can do this. On Sunday, January 14, at 3 pm, several of us will participate in a service at the Greater St. James Baptist Church in Alton. Please sign up in the narthex so we know who will be joining us. We will meet at the old College Avenue PC at 2:30 pm to carpool.



### Food Pantry

The food pantry needs canned soups and chili. Your donations are always appreciated.

### Administrative Announcements

Please turn your 2023 Annual Reports in to Tabitha at [admin@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:admin@lovejoyupc.org) by Friday, January 19.

Tabitha will be printing the 2024 Directory in the next few weeks. Please let the office know if any changes are needed to the directory, or you may log in to the online directory and make changes to your address if you prefer.

### LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club

Lyceum Book Club's current book is THE COVENANT OF WATER by Abraham Verghese. It is a 2-month read therefore we ZOOM the first half on 01/17 @ 7:15p.



### Sunday Morning Live (Adult Christian Education), Sundays at 9 AM in-person and on Zoom.

Pour yourself a cup of coffee and join a group of adults in an informal conversation around the themes of Christian Practices. Join in the Fellowship Hall or via Zoom (<https://lovejoyupc.org/live> and click "connect via

Zoom").

### **Sewing and Craft Circle**

Join our new social gathering on Wednesday afternoons from 2–4 p.m. We have a lot of talented people in our church. Let's get together and work on our projects in a relaxing environment. You can bring your own drink and snacks if desired. If you have any questions, ask Paula Blair or Janet Barringer. We'll be moderating this fellowship time to make sure we don't get off track.



### **Wednesdays at LoveJoy United**

- **Lectionary Bible Study In-Person 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 gathers on Wednesdays at 11:30 AM**
- **Zoom Evening Prayer at 7 PM**

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

JoAnn Moss, Pat Fletcher, Katie Davis, Jessica Elledge, John Gremlí & the Gremlí Family, Connor, JoAnn Lamar, Trans folks in KY, TN, FL, MO, Mason Inlow, Kenny Slayden, Connie, Ched, Carol Foraker, Landon Stockhoff, Annabel Gibson, Mark Carter (Alice Carter's husband, back surgery), Spencer Slayden (Jack and Dottie Kleinert's grandson, Scott and Kelly Slayden's oldest son, deployed to Middle East), Wendy Shugert (John and Linda Shugert's Sister-in-Law), Jack Jenkins (Friend of Linda Allen - Surgery), Paula Blair, Nina and Harold Bertolis (friends of Mag Paddock), Brandy Cunningham (The King's granddaughter), Bob Vandalia.

### **NURSING & RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS**

**Integrity Healthcare, Wood River** – Herbert Peel

**The Cottages of Carlinville, Carlinville** – Shirley Martin

**Villa Rose, Bethalto** – Beth Forrester

**Cedarhurst, Bethalto** – Shirley Burris and Mary Barnes



**NEXT STEPS  
& SIGNUPS**

## **LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church**

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Tabitha Nail, Admin | [admin@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:admin@lovejoyupc.org)

Ann French, Director of Music

Lisa Hemphill, Custodian