

## Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Were You There?

Angerman

Bell Choir

\* Call to Worship

We are here with a vision of what can be  
as God calls us to worship.

**We have journeyed this far,  
and we pause in gratitude.**

Our endurance builds a spirit of understanding and,  
even in our weariness, joyful praise.

**Hear our thanks as our hearts dance and voices sing.**

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 401

### *Here in This Place*

*1 Here in this place the new light is streaming;  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken;  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*2 We are the young; our lives are a mystery.  
We are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;  
give us the courage to enter the song.*

*3 Here we will take the wine and the water;  
here we will take the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away:  
here in this place the new light is shining;  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.*

*Gather us in and hold us forever;  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

Prayer of Confession      **O Christ who chased the money changers from the temple,  
chase the greed from our lives and our hearts.  
As you overturned the tables, O Lord,  
overturn the systems in our world  
that contribute to cycles of poverty and oppression.  
Forgive us, O God, of the ways we contribute to the world's  
brokenness.  
Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy.  
Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

\* Hymn 447                      *We Are Forgiven*  
*We are forgiven.*  
*We are forgiven.*  
*Thanks be to God.*  
*Thanks be to God.*

## Word

Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading                      Exodus 20:1-17  
**20** Then God spoke all these words:  
**2** I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; **3** you shall have no other gods before<sup>[a]</sup> me.  
**4** You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. **5** You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, **6** but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation<sup>[b]</sup> of those who love me and keep my commandments.  
**7** You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.  
**8** Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. **9** Six days you shall labor and do all your work. **10** But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. **11** For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the

LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

**12** Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

**13** You shall not murder.[c]

**14** You shall not commit adultery.

**15** You shall not steal.

**16** You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**17** You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

**18** For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19** For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." **20** Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21** For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. **22** For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, **23** but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, **24** but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25** For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

## Anthem

Hearts of Gratitude

Lloyd Larson

## Gospel Reading

John 2:13-22

**13** The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **14** In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. **15** Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. **16** He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" **17** His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." **18** The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" **19** Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." **20** The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" **21** But he was speaking of the temple of his body. **22** After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

## Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

## \* Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I Believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His Only  
Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born  
of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell;  
the third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the  
quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the  
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the  
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

\* Hymn 766

*The Church of Christ Cannot be Bound*

*1 The church of Christ cannot be bound  
by walls of wood or stone.  
Where charity and love are found  
there can the church be known.*

*2 True faith will open up the door  
and step into the street.  
True service will seek out the poor  
and ask to wash their feet.*

*3 True love will not sit idly by  
when justice is denied.  
True mercy hears the homeless cry  
and welcomes them inside.*

*4 If what we have we freely share  
to meet our neighbor's need,  
then we extend the Spirit's care  
through every selfless deed.*

*5 The church of Christ cannot be bound  
by walls of wood or stone.  
Where charity and love are found,  
there can the church be known.*

## Responding

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.*

## The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Sanctus Hymn 552

*Holy, Holy, Holy  
1 Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
2 Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna in the highest.*

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.**

Communion

*Please come down the center aisle and receive a piece of bread and a cup of juice. If you wish to receive bread in your pew, the servers will assist you. If you're joining us online, please have bread and juice/wine available to celebrate with us. All who wish to know Jesus more deeply are invited to the table.*

Communion Meditation

Adagio

Bach/Smith

## Sending

\* Hymn 547

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

1 *“Go, my children, with my blessing,  
never alone.*

*Waking, sleeping, I am with you,  
you are my own.*

*In my love’s baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever.*

*Go, my children, with my blessing,  
you are my own.”*

2 *“Go, my children, sins forgiven,  
at peace and pure.*

*Here you learned how much I love you,  
what I can cure.*

*Here you heard my dear Son’s story;  
here you touched him, saw his glory.*

*Go, my children, sins forgiven,  
at peace and pure.”*

3 *“Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
closer to me.*

*Grow in love and love by serving,  
joyful and free.*

*Here my Spirit’s power filled you;  
here my tender comfort stilled you.*

*Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
joyful and free.”*

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

Epilogue

Baylor

## 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.

 **Poverty Lunch & Learn Today! (sponsored by the Adult Ed. Committee)**

Join us for this experiential meal and conversation around our lenten focus on Poverty. The cost of the meal is free.

### **Interested in Membership at LoveJoy United? Learn more on March 10 at 2 PM**

If you are interested in learning more about membership at LoveJoy United, you're invited to an informal gathering on March 10 at 2 pm at Pastor Daniel's house in Edwardsville. Please RSVP to Daniel ([daniel@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:daniel@lovejoyupc.org)).

### **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering & Fish Banks**


The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. We will collect the fish banks on Easter. Other gifts can be made at [lovejoyupc.org/give](http://lovejoyupc.org/give).

### **Lenten Focus on Poverty - Sundays at 6 PM Starting on February 18 at 6 PM**

As we work towards eradicating systemic poverty, you're invited to join us in reading "Poverty, by America," by the Pulitzer Prize winning author and poverty researcher, Matthew Desmond. Books are free to those who participate. We'll meet on Sunday evenings at 6 PM (in-Person and Zoom) from February 18 – March 24. Sign up at [lovejoyupc.org](http://lovejoyupc.org) or in the Narthex.

### **Church Women United invites you to Wednesday Lenten Services & Lunch around Alton**

Lenten services begin at noon and last 30 minutes, followed by lunch served at the Host Church. The lunch is homemade soup, sandwiches, dessert and a drink. A donation of \$5 helps to cover the cost of the lunch. An offering will be collected at the end of the service to be split between two charities in the community, The Crisis Food Center and The Oasis Women's Center. Here is their schedule: <http://bit.ly/3OPHUjC>

 Food Pantry - The Food Pantry needs peanut butter and spaghetti sauce. Your donations are always appreciated.

### **LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club**

Lyceum Book Club's current book is THE AGE OF AI by Henry Kissinger. We ZOOM it 03/20 @ 7:15p. Our next book is HORSE by Geraldine Brooks. We ZOOM it on 04/17 @ 7:15p.

### **Per Capita Giving in the Presbyterian Church**

LoveJoy United will pay \$36 per member in 2024 to fund the work of the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery that serves the churches in its care, the national Office of General Assembly that brings us together to discern the Spirit's leading, the Office of Stated Clerk that provides leadership for Presbyterians nationwide and the Presbyterian Mission Agency that oversees the work of the Presbyterian church for others here and around the world.

To help the congregation meet this financial obligation, many members of LoveJoy United choose to help offset the cost of Per Capita for themselves or family members. **Per Capita for 2024 is \$36/person.** You can send a check or pay online at [lovejoyupc.org/give](http://lovejoyupc.org/give).

### **Thank you**

"A great big THANK YOU to everyone who made my 90th birthday such a special occasion. Your warm welcome to my family, the good wishes, the birthday cards, the singing of Happy Birthday and the help with the party are all deeply appreciated. The perfect way to be launched into the next decade." - Edie Chappell

### **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").

### **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 Gremler & the Gremler 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), Paula Blair, Brandy Cunningham (The King's granddaughter), Bob Vandalia, Becky (friend of Mary Trudell), Kathi Walker (Jack & Dottie Kleinert's daughter) recovering from surgery, Abby Cotter, Linda Andrus.

**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 Burriss and Mary Barnes



**NEXT STEPS  
& SIGNUPS**

**LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church**

2550 Rock Hill Rd, Wood River, IL 62095

[www.lovejoyupc.org](http://www.lovejoyupc.org) | (618) 254-5880

Rev. Daniel Ervin, Pastor | [daniel@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:daniel@lovejoyupc.org)

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

Ann French, Director of Music

Lisa Hemphill, Custodian