

Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

An American Folk Hymn

Wilson

* Call to Worship

Let us join our voices with the saints whose lives inspire.

We are here today, aspiring to claim the life of faith with courage.

We are ready to worship and give thanks for whose we are.

In our worship, we share God's message with the world.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 215

What Wondrous Love Is This

*1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!*

*What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

*2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!*

*3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing!*

*4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.*

Prayer of Confession

Through the season of Lent, O God,

we have prayed for clean hearts and right spirits.

**Forgive us, O Lord, if we have prayed with our words
but failed to pray with our actions.**

Forgive us of what we have done

that has contributed to the suffering of another,

and forgive us of what we have failed to do that could have

**lightened a neighbor's burden.
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 Jeremiah 31:31-34
31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. **32** It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband,^[a] says the LORD. **33** But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **34** No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Second Reading Hebrews 5:5-10
5 So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,
"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you";
6 as he says also in another place,
"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."
7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus^[a] offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. **8** Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through

what he suffered; **9** and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, **10** having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Anthem

Tree of Life

R.E. Schram

Gospel Reading

John 12:20-33

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. **21** They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." **22** Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. **23** Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24** Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. **25** Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **26** Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

27 "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. **28** Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." **29** The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." **30** Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. **31** Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. **32** And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people^[a] to myself." **33** He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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 220

Go to Dark Gethsemane

*1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see;
watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.*

*2 Follow to the judgment hall;
view the Lord of life arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
learn from him to bear the cross.*

*3 Calvary's mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete;
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
learn from Jesus Christ to die.*

*4 Early hasten to the tomb
where they laid his breathless clay:
all is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken him away?
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.*

Responding

Announcements

Offering our Gifts

Give at 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

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.

Hymn 469

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 826

Lift High the Cross

Refrain:

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

*1 Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]*

*2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. [Refrain]*

*3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally. [Refrain]*

*4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory. [Refrain]*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

Praise God, the Lord

Walther

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.

Holy Week at LoveJoy United

- Palm Sunday | March 24 at 10:15 a.m. | Worship will begin in the Fellowship Hall
- Maundy Thursday | March 28 at 6 p.m. | Worship & Supper in Fellowship Hall
- Easter Sunday | March 31 at 10:15 a.m. | Worship with Communion

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.

Thank-you

Much appreciative of Luke, Conner, Ethan, Lucy and Charlie last Sunday afternoon for their hard work at Operation Blessing. They saved our regular volunteers a lot of time. Also, appreciation for Uriyah, Lucy and Charlie for help at Saturday Café earlier this month. Thanks a bunch! Karen

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 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>

CALLING ALL GRADUATES The Christian Education for Children & Youth Committee is gathering the names of High School and College graduates to be honored in May. If you know any graduates who have had a participating connection to LUPC or one of the former merged churches, contact Tabitha Nail, Tacoma Monroe, or Ken Webster.

 **Food Pantry** - The Food Pantry needs shampoo and deodorant. 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.

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 Gremli & the Gremli 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 (Alice Carter's Granddaughter), Bob Vandalia, Becky (friend of Mary Trudell), Kathy Walker (Jack & Dottie Kleinert's daughter) starts chemo in April, Abby Cotter, Linda Andrus, Hadley Gvillo (Julie Gvillo's granddaughter), Jenny Brueggeman (friend of Lisa) placed on Hospice, Laura Feltenstein- friend of Deb Goskie.

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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Ann French, Director of Music

Lisa Hemphill, Custodian