

Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

In the Garden/What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Linda Allen: clarinet

Brant Adams

* Call to Worship

We live in the radiance of your glory.

**Our worship comes from
the gladness you have put in our hearts.**

We give you thanks for the peace of your salvation.

**Oh, hear the joy of our praise
for your grace and mercy.**

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 232

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

*1 Jesus Christ is risen today,
Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day,
Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross,
Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss.
Alleluia!*

*2 Hymns of praise then let us sing,
Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King,
Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave,
Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save.
Alleluia!*

*3 But the pains which he endured,
Alleluia!
our salvation have procured.
Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King,
Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing.
Alleluia!*

*4 Sing we to our God above,
Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love.
Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host,
Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia!*

Prayer of Confession

**What love you have given us, O God,
that we should be called your children.
What love you have given us, O Christ,
that we should share a table with you.
Forgive us when we act as if we were your only children:
when we do not recognize your image
in the faces of strangers, enemies, or friends
when we do not share our own tables,
forgetting that we need each other.
Forgive us, O Christ, maker of peace,
and teach us to follow in your 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

Luke 24:36b-48

36 Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."^[a] **37** They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. **38** He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39** Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." **40** And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.^[b] **41** While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he took it and ate in their presence. **44** Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, **46** and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah^[c] is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, **47**

and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses^[d] of these things.

Anthem

Forgiven

Blankenship/Red

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-7

1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he^[a] is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. **3** And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. **4** Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. **5** You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. **6** No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. **7** Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Third Reading

Acts 3:12-21

12 When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites,^[a] why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? **13** The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant^[b] Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. **14** But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, **15** and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. **16** And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus^[c] has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. **17** "And now, friends,^[d] I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. **18** In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah^[e] would suffer. **19** Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, **20** so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah^[f] appointed for you, that is, Jesus, **21** who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets.

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

Responding

* 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.

* Hymn 441

Hear the Good News of Salvation

*1 Hear the good news of salvation:
Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy!
Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love you!
Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me.
Love me still and cleanse within.*

*2 All the sins I have committed,
to my Savior now I bring.
I bow down with tears of anguish;
Christ forgives and so I sing:
Jesus Christ, how much I love you!
Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me.
Love me still and cleanse within.*

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

The 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 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

*1 Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God's chosen end.*

*2 Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,
Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*3 Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.*

*4 So God grant us for tomorrow
ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,*

*messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace.*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude Called as Partners in Christ's Service Zundel/Sikes

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.

Lunch Bunch - Guest Speaker April 17 - Pat Cooper will be discussing The 5 Wishes - Setting up Medical Power of Attorney. We will be collecting gently used bras for charity as well.

Earth Day Youth Mission - Trash Clean up - April 21

Youth are invited to work on picking up trash along the River Road in Alton. Contact Tacoma or Sandy Monroe for details.

Family Movie Night - April 21 at 6:30 PM.

We'll be watching the film, *Invictus*, in the Fellowship Hall. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the movie starts at 7.


Meet the Legislators Forum - April 26 at Senior Services Plus

AARP is hosting a forum to include Brian Zilm from Representative Budzinski's office, Senator Erica Harris, and Representatives Amy Elik and Katie Stuart. The event will be on April 26 from 11 am until 12:30 pm at Senior Services Plus in Alton. After hearing from the above, there will be a time for questions and answers. Lunch is provided. Reservations need to be made at 1-877-926-8300 or at www.events.aarp.org/altonillegpanel. This is an opportunity to encourage support of the Salvation Army's homeless endeavor or whatever is important to you.

Poverty Simulation - May 5 after Worship

Poverty in our world is gravely misunderstood. This simulation will unveil the systemic challenges faced by those in need, challenge our misconceptions, and foster empathy. Don't miss this eye-opening experience. Lunch will be provided. Please register at lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps.

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 HORSE by Geraldine Brooks. We ZOOM it 04/17 @ 7:15p. Our next book is IN THE SPIRIT OF CRAZY HORSE by Peter Matthiessen. We ZOOM it on 05/15 @ 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), Brandy Cunningham (Alice Carter's Daughter), 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, Tom and his father Ralph, Kristi Doering.

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

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Ann French, Director of Music

Lisa Hemphill, Custodian