

Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

* Call to Worship

Blessed are those whom the Lord chastens,
Blessed are those whom the Lord teaches.
The Lord gives them respite from the days of trouble.
The Lord will not forsake his people.
All who are upright in heart will follow Him.
Let us worship God!

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 744

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

*1 Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.*

*2 Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty,
good tidings to the poor.*

*3 Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.*

*4 Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.*

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, whose power to destroy burns in the hearts of the stars, whose power to scatter spread the galaxies throughout the universe, and whose unavoidable word declares your will that we treat others with kindness, compassion, generosity, and forgiveness, we confess to you that we have not done as you have commanded us. We have said and done what has been hurtful to others, and have withheld our love and our efforts when we could have given comfort and aid. In your mercy withhold the consequences we deserve, and help us to learn the joys of loving and serving...

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 Micah 6:6-8

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Second Reading Luke 17:5-10

5 The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” 6 The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a [a] mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you. 7 “Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? 8 Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? 9 Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? 10 So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’”

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,^[a]
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, **2** to Apphia our sister,^[b] to
Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.

4 When I remember you^[c] in my prayers, I always thank my God **5**
because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the
Lord Jesus. **6** I pray that the sharing of your faith may become
effective when you perceive all the good that we^[d] may do for Christ. **7**
I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love,
because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my
brother.

8 For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you
to do your duty, **9** yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of
love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of
Christ Jesus.^[e] **10** I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus,
whose father I have become during my imprisonment. **11** Formerly he
was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful^[f] both to you and to
me. **12** I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. **13** I
wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in
your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; **14** but I preferred
to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed
might be voluntary and not something forced. **15** Perhaps this is the
reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have
him back forever, **16** no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a
beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in
the flesh and in the Lord.

17 So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would
welcome me. **18** If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you
anything, charge that to my account. **19** I, Paul, am writing this with
my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even
your own self. **20** Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the
Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. **21** Confident of your obedience, I am
writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

22 One thing more—prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping
through your prayers to be restored to you.

23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to
you,^[g] **24** and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow
workers. **25** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Responding

whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still. Amen.

* Hymn 724

O Jesus, I Have Promised

*1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.*

*2 O let me feel thee near me!
The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle;
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer
and shield my soul from sin.*

*3 O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.*

4 O Jesus, thou hast promised

*to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my friend.*

Announcements

Minute for Mission

Earth Care Opportunities

Rev. Dr. Linda Shugert

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

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 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 692

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain:

Spirit, open my heart

to the joy and pain of living.

As you love may I love,

in receiving and in giving.

Spirit, open my heart.

1 God, replace my stony heart

with a heart that's kind and tender.

All my coldness and fear

to your grace I now surrender. (Refrain)

*2 Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. (Refrain)*

*3 May I weep with those who weep;
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. (Refrain)*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude


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.

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 IN THE SPIRIT OF CRAZY HORSE by Peter Matthiessen. We ZOOM it on 05/15 @ 7:15p. Our next book is BORN A CRIME by Trevor Noah. We ZOOM it on 06/19 @ 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").

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, John Gremler & the Gremler Family, Connor, JoAnn Lamar, Trans folks in KY, TN, FL, MO, ID, 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), Becky (friend of Mary Trudell), Kathy Walker (Jack & Dottie Kleinert's daughter), Abby Cotter, Linda Andrus, Jenny Brueggeman (friend of Lisa) placed on Hospice, Tom and his father Ralph, Kristi Doering, Shelly Devore (Brenda and Deb's niece).

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