

## Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

The Gift of Love

D. Edwards

Bell Choir

\* Call to Worship

In the wilderness, water brings life.

**Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.**

In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

**Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.**

In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

**Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.**

Here is the water of life, the nourishing word, the food of eternity.

Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

\* Hymn 393

O Day of Rest and Gladness

*1 O day of rest and gladness,  
O day of joy and light,  
O balm for care and sadness,  
most beautiful, most bright;  
on you, the high and lowly,  
through ages joined in tune,  
sing "Holy, holy, holy"  
to the great God triune.*

*2 On you, at earth's creation  
the light first had its birth;  
on you, for our salvation  
Christ rose from depths of earth;  
on you, our Lord victorious  
sent Spirit forth from heaven.  
And thus on you, most glorious,  
a triple light was given.*

*3 On you, God's people, meeting,  
the Holy Scripture hear,  
Christ's living presence greeting,  
through bread and wine made near.  
New graces ever gaining  
from this our day of rest,  
we reach the rest remaining  
to spirits of the blest.*

\* Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy,  
we confess that we have not borne the fruit**

**of the Spirit. John 15:5  
We have not loved others as you have loved us.  
We have denied the promises of baptism  
and cut ourselves off from you.  
Forgive us, restore us,  
that we may abide in your love  
and live out your mercy,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### 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

Reading from the Psalms    Psalm 22: 25-31  
From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
26 The poor[a] shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.  
May your hearts live forever!  
27 All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the Lord;  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.[b]  
28 For dominion belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.  
29 To him,[c] indeed, shall all who sleep in[d] the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
and I shall live for him.[e]  
30 Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord,  
31 and[f] proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.

## First Reading

Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."<sup>[a]</sup> **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.<sup>[b]</sup> **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<sup>[c]</sup> 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<sup>[d]</sup> of these things.

## Second Reading

1 John 4: 7-21

**7** Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8** Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. **9** God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. **10** In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. **11** Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. **13** By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. **14** And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. **15** God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. **16** So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. **17** Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. **18** There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. **19** We love<sup>[a]</sup> because he first loved us. **20** Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters,<sup>[b]</sup> are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister<sup>[c]</sup> whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. **21** The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters<sup>[d]</sup> also.

## Anthem

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Wyeth/Thygeron

## Second Reading

Acts 8: 26-40

**26** Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the

south[a] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.  
33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”[b] 38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip[c] baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## Gospel Reading

John 15: 1-8

**15** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. **2** He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes[a] to make it bear more fruit. **3** You have already been cleansed[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. **6** Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become[c] my disciples.

## Sermon

Rev. Janet Riley

## 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 480

*Take me to the Water*

*1 Take me to the water.  
Take me to the water.  
Take me to the water  
to be baptized.*

*2 I love Jesus.  
I love Jesus.  
I love Jesus,  
yes, I do.*

*3 He's my Savior.  
He's my Savior.  
He's my Savior,  
yes, he is.*

*4 Glory hallelujah.  
Glory hallelujah.  
Glory hallelujah  
to be baptized.*

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  
Lord, listen to your children praying.  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.*

Hymn 469

*Lord, listen to your children praying.  
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.*

## The Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer

**The Lord's Prayer (Friendship Presbyterian Church, Chicago, IL)**  
**Our Mothering, Guiding Moral Force,  
Gracious and Loving, Creator,  
Who is our strength and shield and  
Promises never to leave or forsake us,  
Who enfolds us and is all around us,  
in heaven and earth.  
Blessed and cherished, divine and wondrous,  
and powerful are you.  
May your purpose and everlasting presence,  
your dream and vision of a world of peace, come to be.  
And may your hope for us be realized on earth  
as it is in heaven.  
Give each one of us enough to sustain all of us.  
In our imperfections, we ask for forgiveness  
For ourselves, from the bondage of selfishness,  
From the distraction of prideful pursuits.  
Help us to find the best of our human selves and to love  
that which others reject.  
For all that you have created, the beauty and grace  
and the glory is yours forever.  
Amen. So be it!**

## Sending

\* Hymn 754

### *Help Us Accept Each Other*

*1 Help us accept each other  
as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother,  
each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us  
and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted,  
and meant to love and live.*

*2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,  
as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people,  
for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them,*

*or as they may become.*

*3 Let your acceptance change us,  
so that we may be moved  
in living situations  
to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance  
until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness,  
and laughter's healing art.*

*4 Lord, for today's encounters  
with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance,  
for justice and for bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing,  
new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit;  
Lord, free us; make us one!*

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

Postlude on "Harlech"

W. Held

The Prayers of the People

Let us join with all creation in praying for the good of the earth, saying,  
God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

O God, we give you thanks for your Holy Spirit  
whose work at creation continues in us.

Through Christ Jesus you have shown your love for this earth you  
made.

We pray that all the world may know your power and goodness;  
God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Word of life, reveal the wonder of your world to all people.

Show us anew what lives around us, over us, beneath us, within us.

Enliven the church with your Spirit,  
that we may honor your earth with responsible care.

God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, uphold our sisters and brothers who endure disasters  
caused by weather, war, famine, sickness, or greed.

Strengthen all who are in peril, especially the people of [name places  
of concern].

You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of  
trouble.

God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Giver of all good things, bring trust and sympathy  
to the nations of the world.

Let peacemakers reign wherever there is conflict.

Give wisdom to leaders and hope to the poor.

God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Good healer, we pray for all who need comfort.

Abide with those who mourn;

uphold those who are sick, or holding vigil,  
or awaiting words of hope, especially those we name now silently or  
aloud [silence].

God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your mercy, we commend to you all those we have named  
and those whose needs are known only to you,  
in the name of your Son, Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

## 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.


**Thank-you** Ken Webster would like to thank everyone for the kind messages, hugs, cards, memorials and expressions of comfort for the loss of his daughter, Thera.

### **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](https://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 toilet paper and spaghetti sauce.. Your donations are always appreciated.

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

Ann French, Director of Music

Lisa Hemphill, Custodian