

Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Fleischer

* Call to Worship

How good it is
for us to come together as kindred spirits.

Hallelujah!

**Our doubts are answered,
and we feel the presence of Christ.**

The risen Christ
speaks to us and gives us peace.

Hallelujah!

Let our worship be the sign of our belief.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 246

Christ is Alive!

*1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.*

*3 In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.*

*4 Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.*

*5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

Prayer of Confession

**O Christ,
you rose from the depths of suffering,
from death itself,**

**to breathe peace upon your disciples.
Still, O Lord, we cannot trust your promise of peace.
Still, O Lord, we do not follow in the way of your love.
Forgive us when we fail to be people of resurrection.
Forgive us when we fail to recognize your grace.
Show us your hands and your feet once more,
and teach us to be your body in the world...**

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

John 20:19-31

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21** Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." **22** When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." **27** Then he said to

Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." **28** Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" **29** Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. **31** But these are written so that you may come to believe^[b] that Jesus is the Messiah,^[c] the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Anthem

The Road to Emmaus

Graham

Second Reading

Acts 4:32-35

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. **33** With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. **34** There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. **35** They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

* Hymn 762

When the Poor Ones

*1 When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers,
when the thirsty water give unto us all,
when the crippled in their weakness strengthen others,*

Refrain:

*then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.*

*2 When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
when we love though hate at times seems all around us, (Refrain)*

*3 When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words other than true,
when we know that love for simple things is better, (Refrain)*

*4 When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor, (Refrain)*

Responding

Reception of New Members

* 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.

Welcome

Hymn 306, v1-2

Blest be the tie that Binds

*Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love.*

*The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.*

*Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers.*

*Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.*

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

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 Evocation

Martin

Prayer After Communion

Sending

* Hymn 817

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

*1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."*

*2 We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"*

*3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found.*

*4 And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

Jesus Shall Reign

Hatton/Mansfield

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.

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 Gremlí & the Gremlí 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, 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 Burrís and Mary Barnes



**NEXT STEPS
& SIGNUPS**

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

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