

Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

* Call to Worship

Some look to technology or power
to bring them salvation,
but we look to God.
Some look to quantity or efficiency
as signs of success,
but we look to God.
For you, O God,
have made us whole.
**At the works of your hands
we sing for joy!**

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 473

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Refrain:

*The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters. (Refrain)*

*He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I fear no evil;
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. (Refrain)
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house
of the Lord forever. (Refrain)*

Psalm Prayer

*Lord Jesus Christ, our good shepherd,
in the waters of Baptism you give us birth,
and at your table you nourish us with heavenly food.
In your goodness and mercy,
lead us along safe paths,
beyond the terrors of evil and death,
to the house of the Lord*

*where we may rest securely in you forever.
Amen.*

Prayer of Confession **When our actions are not consistent with the truth of your gospel, forgive us, Lord. Cleanse us and free us. When our lives do not proclaim the power of your love, compel us, Lord. Free us and forgive us. When our minds are full of self-condemnation, with no room for your grace, revive us Lord. Forgive us and compel us. For our lives are rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ, and through Christ's love alone we are reconciled to you...**

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
Special Music

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Ezekiel 17:22-24
22 Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
 from the lofty top of a cedar;
 I will set it out.
I will break off a tender one
 from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
 on a high and lofty mountain.
23 On the mountain height of Israel
 I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
 and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live;
 in the shade of its branches will nest

winged creatures of every kind.
24 All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.
I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.
I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

Left: It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
Right: to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,
Left: to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.
Right: For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

Left: The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
Right: They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.
Left: In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap,
Right: Hear, O my people, while I admonish you; O Israel, if you would but listen to me!
Left: showing that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Gospel Reading

Mark 4:26-34

26 He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, **27** and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. **28** The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. **29** But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." **30** He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? **31** It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; **32** yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." **33** With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; **34** he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Responding

* Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the *Confession of 1967*
**The life, death, resurrection,
and promised coming of Jesus Christ
has set the pattern for the church's mission.
His human life involves the church
in the common life of all people.
His service to men and women
commits the church
to work for every form of human well-being.
His suffering makes the church sensitive
to all human suffering
so that it sees the face of Christ
in the faces of persons in every kind of need.
His crucifixion discloses to the church
God's judgment on the inhumanity
that marks human relations,
and the awful consequences
of the church's own complicity in injustice.
In the power of the risen Christ
and the hope of his coming,
the church sees the promise
of God's renewal of human life in society
and of God's victory over all wrong.
The church follows this pattern
in the form of its life
and in the method of its action.
So to live and serve
is to confess Christ as Lord. Amen.**

* 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.*

Celebration and Blessings of Graduates

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

Spirit of the Living God

Hymn 288

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.*

*Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.*

*2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.*

*3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;*

*suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.*

*4 Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

* 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.

Church Garden

We have started a small raised bed garden to supplement our food pantry with fresh produce. If you have experience and interest in taking part in this exciting project, please let us know by going to lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps and click Church Garden to stay in the loop. We're currently looking for volunteers, tools, and lattice for climbing plants.

Birthday Celebration for Eileen Miller, June 23 after worship.


Join us as we celebrate Eileen!


LoveJoy United's First Bike Ride & Picnic - Saturday, June 29 (non-bikers welcome, too!)

Bicyclers are welcome to join us at 9:45 a.m. at Edwardsville Township Park (6368 Center Grove Rd) Pavilion 4 for a 10 a.m. start time. We'll do a around a 10 mile ride at a casual pace and return to the park around 12:30 p.m. for a pulled pork lunch. Non-bikers are invited to meet us there for lunch. We ask for a \$5/person donation to help offset the cost of food. Please register by going to lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps and click "Bike Ride."

Red Cross Blood Drive - Wednesday - July 31, 2024

Mission and Outreach is hosting a Blood Drive at LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, July 31 from 2 PM - 6 PM if you have any questions contact Hershel Henson - Mission and Outreach Committee.

 **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 Gremlı & the Gremlı Family, Connor, JoAnn Lamar, Trans folks in KY, TN, FL, MO, ID, Mason Inlow, Kenny Slayden, Connie, Ched, Carol Foraker, 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), Becky (friend of Mary Trudell), Kathy Walker (Jack & Dottie Kleinert's daughter), Abby Cotter, Linda Andrus, Tom and his father Ralph, Kristi Doering, Shelly Devore (Brenda and Deb's niece), Margarette Trushel, Brittany, Bill Lester, Lanny Harris.

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 Burrıs and Mary Barnes



**NEXT STEPS
& SIGNUPS**

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

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Ann French, Director of Music

Lisa Hemphill, Custodian