

## Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

\* Call to Worship

We ponder your steadfast love, O God,  
**and our praise reaches to the ends of the earth.**  
Tell the next generation:  
**Our God will be our guide forever.**  
Come, let us rejoice.

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 610

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

*1 O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!*

*2 The name of Jesus charms our fears,  
and bids our sorrows cease,  
sings music in the sinner's ears,  
brings life, and health and peace.*

*3 Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new  
life the dead receive, the mournful walken  
to rejoice: the poor in heart believe.*

*4 My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the  
earth abroad the honors of thy name.*

*5 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever given  
by saints below and saints above,  
the Church in earth and heaven.*

Prayer of Confession

**You are love, O God, and you have loved us from the beginning.**  
**Forgive us when we do not share your love with the world:**  
**when we choose selfishness over compassion;**  
**what feels comfortable rather than what is right;**  
**when we strive for success instead of faithfulness;**  
**when we value independence over community.**  
**Forgive us, O God, of the ways we fall short.**  
**Free us to try again,**  
**and let your love lead the 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

Special Music Offering    *The Quill and the Harp*                      Linda Allen and Herbert J. Peel

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Ezekiel 2:1–5

He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. <sup>2</sup>And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup>The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD.” <sup>5</sup>Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Psalm 123

Left:    To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

Right:    As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, until he has mercy upon us.

Left:    Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.

Right:    Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

Gospel Reading

Mark 6:1–13

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 2 On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. 4 Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." 5 And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. 6 And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. 7 He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. 8 He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; 9 but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. 10 He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. 11 If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." 12 So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. 13 They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Sermon

*Sowing the Kingdom: Good Hosts & Good Guests*

## 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 others  
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 504

*We Come as Guests Invited*

*1 We come as guests invited  
when Jesus bids us dine,  
his friends on earth united  
to share the bread and wine;  
the bread of life is broken;  
the wine is freely poured  
for us, in solemn token  
of Christ our dying Lord.*

*2 We eat and drink, receiving  
from Christ the grace we need,  
and in our hearts believing  
on him by faith we feed;  
with wonder and thanksgiving  
for love that knows no end,  
we find in Jesus living  
our ever-present friend.*

*3 One bread is ours for sharing,  
one single fruitful vine,  
our fellowship declaring  
renewed in bread and wine:  
renewed, sustained, and given  
by token, sign, and word,  
the pledge and seal of heaven,  
the love of Christ our Lord.*

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

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 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

Prayer After Communion

## Sending

\* Hymn 700

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

*1 I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*2 I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

\* 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*. We welcome Larry Strohbeck as our pianist today!

## 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](http://lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps) and click Church Garden to stay in the loop. We're currently looking for volunteers, tools, and lattice for climbing plants.

### **We're Hiring! Church Custodian/Groundskeeper**

We are looking for our next Church Custodian/Groundskeeper. This is a 22hr/wk part-time job. Learn more and apply at [lovejoyupc.org/jobs](http://lovejoyupc.org/jobs). Please share with folks who might be interested in this role.

### Good Samaritan Fund

LoveJoy United is now referring individuals seeking assistance through our Good Samaritan Fund to Riverbend Family Ministries, which we are supporting with your contributions to this fund. They have trained professional staff to work with those needing financial help, with a goal of helping them long-term with budgeting, etc. We were only able to help them at a certain time on Monday afternoons, while RFM has hours of 9 am until 1 pm Mondays through Thursdays. We are making an exception for LoveJoy United members, whom we can continue to assist directly. Again, we are not abandoning this mission, but putting it in hands more capable of long-term assistance for these families. So, please continue support of our Good Samaritan Fund. Thank you.

### 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. You can sign up at [lovejoyupc.org](http://lovejoyupc.org) and click Next Steps.

 **Church Nominations** - The congregational Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for elder, deacon, and members of the nominating committee. Please submit names to Julie Gvillo or go to [lovejoyupc.org](http://lovejoyupc.org), click 'next steps' and choose Church Nominations.

 **Food Pantry** - The Food Pantry needs canned pasta and small jars of peanut butter. 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, 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 – Mary Barnes  
Liberty Village, Jerseyville – Shirley Burris



**NEXT STEPS  
& SIGNUPS**

## LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

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Lisa Hemphill, Custodian