

Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

* Call to Worship

Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you deep respect for God.
**Which of you desires life
and longs for many days to enjoy good?**
Depart from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.
Revere God, O holy ones,
for those who live in awe of God have no want.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 410

God Is Calling through the Whisper

*1 God is calling through the whisper
of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties
that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;
hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?*

*2 God is calling through the voices
of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption
and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing;
strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?*

*3 God is calling through the music
of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels,
and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing;
days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling—and we hear!
God is calling—and we hear!*

Prayer of Confession

**O Lord, the voice of your wisdom rings out in the world,
guiding us to place our trust in you.**

**The voice of your wisdom rings out in the world,
challenging us to seek the things that matter.
Too often, O Lord, we refuse to listen.
We place our trust in things that are fleeting.
We seek the things that make us comfortable,
rather than seeking the way of your peace.
Forgive us, God of grace,
and teach us to walk in the path lined by your wisdom...**

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

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Proverbs 9:1–6
Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,
“You that are simple, turn in here!”
To those without sense she says,
“Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight.”

Psalm 34:9–14

- Left: O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.
- Right: The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
- Left: Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- Right: Which of you desires life and covets many days to enjoy good?
- Left: Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.
- Right: Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 5:15–20

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading

John 6:51–58

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

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 836

Abide with Me

*1 Abide with me: fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see.
O thou who changest not, abide with me.*

*3 I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.*

*4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.*

*5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.*

Announcements

Offering our Gifts

Give at lovejoyupc.org/give

Loose cash offerings benefit our Good Samaritan fund, which helps our neighbors primarily through our partners at Riverbend Family Ministries. Checks for offering are processed on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

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.

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 738

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

*1 O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.*

*2 Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.*

*3 Teach me thy patience, still with thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.*

*4 In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way;
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.*

* 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.

Thou Shalt Not Be a Jerk: Engaging in Political Life as Followers of Jesus, Sundays in August at 9 AM in-person and on Zoom in the Fellowship Hall.

Join us for a structured time of learning about how disciples of Jesus interact faithfully with the world around them. Pastor Daniel along with other leaders of the Adult Christian Ed. Committee will lead us.


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'll soon be planning for our fall planting season.


Lyceum Book Club's current book is *MORNINGS IN JENIN* by Susan Abulwaha. We ZOOM it on 08/21 @ 7:15p.

New 'Present Word' Class begins September 8

We are excited to offer a new Sunday morning faith formation class! Using the Present Word Curriculum, Dr. Ryan Harris will be leading the first quarter of this series on the theme of "Worship in the Covenant Community." We look forward to welcoming other church leaders and teachers to facilitate this offering in the future. The class will meet at the same time as Sunday Morning Live on Sunday mornings from 9–10 a.m. both in person and via Zoom. Sign up now at lovejoyupc.org and click 'next steps' so we can order you a participant's guide.

 **Church Officer 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, click 'next steps' and choose Church Nominations.

 **Food Pantry** - The Food Pantry needs canned vegetables (no corn) and pasta. 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").



Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors

Next Sunday - AUGUST 25, the story of Joseph, the Dreamer, will be presented in a special way during morning worship. A storyteller will tell the story with choir members and individuals playing important roles with singing and acting.

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, Paula Blair.

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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Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper