

## Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

*Cloister Bells*

Arcadelt

\* Call to Worship

God teaches us the way of righteousness,  
**the way of love, the way of peace.**  
We glorify God,  
**gathering to hear God's word.**  
We glorify God,  
**enacting God's word in the world.**

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 14

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

*1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:*

*Refrain:*

*Lord of all, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*2 For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light: (Refrain)*

*3 For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight: (Refrain)*

*4 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)*

*5 For thyself, best gift divine  
to the world so freely given;  
for that great, great love of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heaven: (Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession

**You tell us, O Lord, who may abide in your presence,  
who may dwell on your holy hill:  
those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,  
and who speak the truth from their heart.**

**And yet, O Lord, we do not walk blamelessly.  
So often we stumble on the path of faith.  
The truth makes us nervous,  
and we pretend not to know what is right.  
Have mercy, O God.  
Convict us by your wisdom,  
cleans us by your grace,  
challenge us by your presence,  
and, by your forgiveness, free us to try again...**

### 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

*Only a Holy God*  
Carnes

Sarah  
City Alight

First Reading

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. <sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? <sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Psalm

Psalm 15

Left: O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?  
Right: Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;  
Left: who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;  
Right: in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;  
Left: who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Epistle Reading

James 1:17-27

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. <sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. <sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Gospel

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**7** Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup>He said to them,

“Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,  
‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’  
<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human  
tradition.”

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all  
of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by  
going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” <sup>21</sup>For  
it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come:  
fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit,  
licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come  
from within, and they defile a person.”

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

## Responding

From *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,**

**and the communion of the Holy Spirit,**

**we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**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.**

**With believers in every time and place,**

**we rejoice that nothing in life or in death**

can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus  
our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 442

*Just as I Am, without One Plea*

*1 Just as I am, without one plea  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou biddest me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*2 Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many\_a conflict, many\_a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*4 Just as I am, thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

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 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 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 *Pastoral*

Lackey

Prayer After Communion

## Sending

\* Hymn 32

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

*1 I sing the mighty power of God  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad  
and built the lofty skies.*

*I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day.  
The moon shines full at God's command,  
and all the stars obey.*

*2 I sing the goodness of the Lord  
who filled the earth with food.  
God formed the creatures through the Word,  
and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,  
where'er I turn my eye,  
if I survey the ground I tread,  
or gaze upon the sky!*

*3 There's not a plant or flower below  
but makes thy glories known.  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
by order from thy throne,  
while all that borrows life from thee  
is ever in thy care,  
and everywhere that we can be,  
thou, God, art present there.*

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude    Voluntary    Stanley

## 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 Meeting Today, 9/1! After worship in Fellowship Hall.**

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'll soon be planning for our fall planting season.

### **Bereavement Dinner for Suerig Family-Wednesday, September 4 at 11 AM**

If you would like to provide food for the dinner, please see Tanya Sisk after the church service today or email Kathy Steinman at [ksteinmann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ksteinmann@sbcglobal.net)

### **Confirmation Sunday, September 8**

Next Sunday, we are thrilled to confirm some of LoveJoy United's young Christians during our worship service, followed by a celebratory reception. This Service of Confirmation marks the culmination of a weekend retreat for our youth and their mentors, where they will have spent time in reflection, preparing to

receive our prayers and the Spirit's blessing. In the months ahead, these young disciples, alongside their mentors, will continue to meet regularly as they grow in their faith and live into Jesus' calling to be his followers.

### **Rummage Sale Meeting**

Wednesday, September 11 at **11:30 AM** in the Fellowship Hall, for anyone interested in helping with the Rummage Sale. If you cannot attend, please call or email Jenny Wyatt (618) 978-4725, JWYATT1413@GMAIL.COM or Brenda Donohoo (618) 444-9190, BSDONOHOO@GMAIL.COM

**A huge 'thank you' to all who participated in the Joseph Play last Sunday.** Ken Webster worked tremendously hard to bring this play to fruition. Ann French not only accompanied us on the piano, she spent many hours re-writing music to fit the vocal ranges of our singers. Thanks to Julie Gvillo, Mark Russell, Michael Musgrave-Perkins, and Robert Musgrave-Perkins for their wonderful solos. Thanks to all the 'backup singers,' anubis actors, and all others involved. We are so grateful for your gifts!


### **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](https://lovejoyupc.org) and click 'next steps' so we can order you a participant's guide.


### **Alton Pride Festival, September 14**

Join us as we show our love and support to our LGBTQ+ siblings at the Alton Pride Festival. There's a signup sheet in the Narthex to volunteer for a block of time. If you're at the event, come and say hi at our booth!

**Address Update** - Camella Jeane Slayen 312 Mechanical Dr. AL - 12 East Alton, IL 62024

 **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](https://lovejoyupc.org), click 'next steps' and choose Church Nominations.

 **Food Pantry** - The Food Pantry needs canned spaghetti or ravioli and cereal. 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 Gremlí & the Gremlí Family, Connor, JoAnn Lamar, Trans folks in KY, TN, FL, MO, ID, Mason Inlow, Kenny Slayden, Connie, Ched, Annabel Gibson, Mark Carter, 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), Kathy Walker (Jack & Dottie Kleinert's daughter), Abby Cotter, Linda Andrus, Tom and his father Ralph and his daughter Jupiter, Kristi Doering, Shelly Devore (Brenda and Deb's niece), 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**

2550 Rock Hill Rd, Wood River, IL 62095

[www.lovejoyupc.org](http://www.lovejoyupc.org) | (618) 254-5880

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

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper