

Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

* Call to Worship

We have been gathered in this place for this time,
**that we might hear the good news
we can't help but share.**

On this day and each one to come,
**may the words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts,
and the actions of our lives proclaim our faith.**

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 625

How Great Thou Art

*Oh Lord, my God
When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

*And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

*When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

Prayer of Confession **O Lord, you have called us to take up our cross and follow you: to carry the truth of your justice like a banner and bear the yoke of life as your servant. We are hesitant, O God, to serve anyone but ourselves. We draw away from the imagery of the cross, forgetting that, in you, it has become a source of glory. Forgive us, O God, and call us once more to set aside our selfishness and follow in your 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

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Isaiah 50:4–9a

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Anthem

Gospel

Mark 8:27–9:1

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and

take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

Sermon

Responding

Affirmation of Faith

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 157

I Danced in the Morning

*1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.*

Refrain:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

*2 I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John.
They came with me and the dance went on. (Refrain)*

*3 I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame.
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. (Refrain)*

*4 I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black.
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. (Refrain)*

*5 They cut me down and I leapt up high.
I am the life that will never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. (Refrain)*

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 722

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

*1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone.
As you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children lost and lone.*

*2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
the wandering and the wavering feet.
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed
your hungry ones with manna sweet.*

*3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.*

*4 O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.*

*5 O use me, Lord, use even me,
just as you will, and when, and where
until your blessed face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.*

* 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.

New 'Present Word' Class

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.


Choir Rehearsal begins on Sunday, September 15 at 8:45 a.m.


Join us for a new season of leading our congregation in music and song. New singers are always welcome!


Rummage Sale - Thursday September 26th – Saturday, September 28th

We will begin accepting donations on Monday, September 23rd. **Donations will not be accepted after noon on Wednesday, 9/25.** Please mark your items in advance with a minimum price of 25¢. The sale begins Thursday, 9/26 5-7 pm. with a Pre-sale and donation of \$3 to enter that evening. Friday and Saturday 9/27 & 9/28 hours are 8 am - noon. All unsold items will be donated to the Marines for their Toys for Tots campaign. If you want any of your donations back, you must pick them up before noon on Saturday or let one of our volunteers know. We also need your help that week pricing and organizing our donations. If you have questions, contact Brenda Donohoo at 618-254-1539 or Jennifer Wyatt at 618-466-2328.

LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club’s current book is THE IMMORAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS by Rebecca Skloot. We ZOOM it on 09/18 @ 7:15p. Our next book is TOM LAKE by Ann Patchett. We ZOOM it on 10/16 @ 7:15p.

 **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 peanut butter and canned 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").

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, Annabel Gibson, Mark Carter, 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, John Kennedy, Renee Lynn.

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 | (618) 254-5880

Rev. Daniel Ervin, Pastor | daniel@lovejoyupc.org

Tabitha Nail, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper