

## Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Elevation

Benoit

\* Call to Worship

In this time set apart for worship,  
the Holy Spirit invites us:  
**Draw near to God,**  
who is steady and sure.  
**Draw near to God**  
who welcomes those often overlooked.  
**Draw near to God,**  
who draws us together,  
threads woven in a shared fabric of faith.  
**Let us worship the Lord!**

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 839

*Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God  
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood*

*This is my story, this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story, this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love  
This is my story, this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story, this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
Praising my Savior all the day long*

Prayer of Confession

**You told us, O Lord, that whoever wants to be first  
must be last and servant of all.**

**Oh, how we long to be first, O God:  
to climb every ladder, frame every achievement,  
|get every promotion, and obtain every glory.  
Oh, how we long to be first, O God,  
and oh, how we dread being last  
Forgive us, O humble Christ,  
and by your forgiveness, teach us.  
Teach us to reframe our priorities.  
Teach us to be servants first,  
and to let our lives flow from a heart of faith...**

## 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

Jeremiah 11:18-20

<sup>18</sup>It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. <sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" <sup>20</sup>But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

### Epistle Reading

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy

and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. <sup>4</sup> Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Anthem

Shout for Joy to the Lord

Nolan

Gospel

Mark 9:30-37

<sup>30</sup>They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. <sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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 188

### *Jesus Loves Me!*

*1 Jesus loves me! This I know,  
for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong.  
They are weak, but he is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.*

*2 Jesus loves me! This I know,  
as he loved so long ago,  
taking children on his knee,  
saying, "Let them come to me."  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.*

## 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 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 727

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

*1 Jesus loves me! This I know,  
for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong.  
They are weak, but he is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.*

*2 Jesus loves me! This I know,  
as he loved so long ago,  
taking children on his knee,  
saying, "Let them come to me."  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.*

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

Strong in the Faith

Broughton

## 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.

**Bible Study and Lunch Bunch** will be canceled this Wednesday, September 25 due to our Church Rummage Sale.

### **Called congregational meeting after Worship on Sept. 29**

The session has called a congregational meeting on Sept. 29 to receive and vote on a nomination to fill a vacancy on the 2024 Nominating Committee. All members are encouraged to attend in-person or on Zoom.

### **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](https://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 26<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**

We will begin accepting donations on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. **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**

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](https://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 Gremli & the Gremli 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**

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Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper