

Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

* Call to Worship

Trust in the Lord,
who made heaven and earth;
trust in the Lord,
who loves every part of it.
Trust in the Lord,
who cares for those in need;
trust in the Lord,
who leads us to do the same.
Let us worship God,
who shows us the way.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 20

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain:

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

*1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors;
God made their tiny wings.
(Refrain)*

*2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:
(Refrain)*

*3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them every one.
(Refrain)*

*4 God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.
(Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession

**You love us with open arms, O God.
Forgive us when we do not put your love into practice:
when we do not challenge the injustice around us;
when we are not generous with the gifts we have to share;
when we are slow to compassion and quick to judgment
when we contribute to the brokenness of the world
instead of helping to make it whole.
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

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Isaiah 35:4–7a

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

Epistle Reading

James 2:1–10, 14–17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person

with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in,³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet,"⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court?⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you?¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Gospel

Mark 7:24–37

²⁴From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.²⁷ He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."²⁸ But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."²⁹ Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter."³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers

into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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 69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,

*I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

*Refrain:
Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?
(Refrain)*

*3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
(Refrain)*

Confirmation

Call to Discipleship, Matthew 25: 34–40

Pastor: ...I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

All: Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?”

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 79

Light Dawns on a Weary World

1 Light dawns on a weary world

when eyes begin to see

all people's dignity.

Light dawns on a weary world:

the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain:

The trees shall clap their hands;

the dry lands, gush with springs;

the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!

We shall go out in joy,

and be led forth in peace,

as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2 Love grows in a weary world

when hungry hearts find bread

and children's dreams are fed.

Love grows in a weary world:

the promised feast of plenty comes.

3 Hope blooms in a weary world

*when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes.*

* 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.

Confirmation Sunday, Today

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.

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.

Rummage Sale Meeting, Wed. Sept 11 at 11:30 AM in 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

Roxana Public Library, September 12 from 6:30-7:30pm

Join Ken Webster as he discusses his book: **The Tamaroa Village at Grassy Lake Roxana- South Roxana, IL**. No registration required! Light refreshments will be served.


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!


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!

 **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 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 Gremler & the Gremler 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, 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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Tabitha Nail, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper