

## Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

*In the Bleak Midwinter/The First Noel*

Gaudet  
Linda Allen, harp

\* Call to Worship & Candle Lighting

Emily and Mike Gillean  
& Khloe

Jesus says: I am coming soon  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus**

We light this first candle as a sign of the coming light of christ.  
As the Lord has promised, in the days to come...

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
And their spears into pruning hooks;  
**Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
Neither shall they learn war anymore.**

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 82

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.*

*2 Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

Prayer of Confession      **Coming Christ,  
you may not find us as you hoped.  
We've looked away from signs  
we do not wish to see.  
We've stopped listening to distress  
we do not wish to hear.  
We are numb to inconvenient truths.  
Keep us alert, O God,  
to the needs of our neighbors.  
Revive our hearts  
laden with compassion fatigue.  
Sharpen our minds clouded by worries.  
Sober our lives addicted to privilege.  
Show us the signs of your coming,  
that we may stand before you,  
the Son of Man,  
in whose name we pray...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

\* Passing of the Peace      May the Peace of Christ be with you!  
**And also with you!**

\* Response Hymn 79      *Light Dawns on a Weary World, verse 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.*

*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.*

## Word

Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

Jeremiah 33:14–16

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill

the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness.

Anthem

*In The Bleak Midwinter*

Holst/Eithun

Bell Choir

Gospel

Luke 1:67–80

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

Sermon

The Canticle of Zechariah

Rev. Daniel Ervin

## Responding

\* Affirmation of Faith

*From the Confession of 1967*

**Out of Israel,  
God in due time raised up Jesus.  
His faith and obedience were the response  
of the perfect child of God.  
He was the fulfillment**

**of God's promise to Israel,  
the beginning of the new creation,  
and the pioneer of the new humanity.  
He gave history its meaning and direction  
and called the church to be his servant  
for the reconciliation of the world. Amen.**

\* Hymn 109

*Song of Zechariah*

*1 Blest be the God of Israel,  
who comes to set us free;  
who visits and redeems us,  
who grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy,  
of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill that promise  
and bring the people peace.*

*2 God from the house of David  
a child of grace has given;  
a Savior comes among us  
to raise us up to heaven.  
Before him goes the herald,  
forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation,  
the harbinger of day.*

*3 On those who sit in darkness  
the sun begins to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness  
upon the sinner's eyes.  
God guides the feet of pilgrims  
along the paths of peace.  
O bless our God and Savior  
with songs that never cease!*

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.*

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Sung call to Prayer

Wait for the Lord

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near*

*Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*

Hymn 90

## 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 *French Carol Variation*

Parks

## Prayer After Communion

## 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

*Christians, Be Joyful*

Bach/Ritt

er

## 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.

### **Stewardship Campaign: The Glory Belongs to God!**

Thanks to everyone who has submitted a pledge so far. We have met about 89% of our \$210,000 goals. If you have not yet pledged, we invite you to join us in committing to God's ministry at LoveJoy United in the next year. You can return your pledge card to the church office, offering plate, or pledge online at [lovejoyupc.org/pledge](http://lovejoyupc.org/pledge).

### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

December 3, 2pm - 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Go to [lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps](http://lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps) to register, or call 1-800-733-2767.

### **Adult Christian Education on Sunday Mornings at 9 AM**


- **Sunday Morning Live**, led by Rev. Dr. Mark Russell, is an informal, conversational class that


seeks to connect scripture, theology, and faith to our lives and world. They meet in the Love Room and on Zoom. They're currently talking about the Ten Commandments.

- **The Gospel of John Class**, led by Rev. Dr. Linda Shugert begins on Dec 1. Still time to sign up at [lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps](http://lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps). They meet in Fellowship Hall.

### **Christmas Wonderland at Rock Springs Park - December 2, 5:30–9:30.**

We help to host the walk-through night at Christmas Wonderland in Alton. Sign up to help at the table in the Narthex.

 **Food Pantry Christmas Boxes:** we need any type of cheesy potatoes, canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, Dessert Mix (Brownie/Cake), Canned Fruit. Donations need to be at the church by December 8.

 **Annual Christmas Bake Sale, Saturday, December 7, 10 AM – Noon.** Select your favorite candies, cookies, breads, and pies that will be sold by the pound or as priced.

### **Advent and Christmas at LoveJoy United**

- **Canticles of Christmas:** Our scriptures on the Sundays in Advent will focus on the canticles (songs in scripture) that appear in the Christmas story in Luke's Gospel.
- **The Longest Night Service - Saturday, December 21 at 6 PM:** This service on the winter solstice (the longest night of the year) is a space for worship and community for those for are experiencing grief, doubt, illness, or pain this season. All, however, are welcome to attend. Please contact the church office if you'd like to arrange a ride for the service.
- **Christmas Cantata - Sunday, December 22 at 10:15 AM:** Our choir will lead us in worship with their cantata.
- **Christmas Eve Service - Tuesday December 24 at 6:30 PM.** The church doors will be open at 5:30 for coffee, hot chocolate, and good fellowship.

### **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, Mark Carter, Kathy Walker (Jack & Dottie Kleinert's daughter), Abby Cotter, 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, Shannon Doersam (Lisa Hemphill's niece), Kathie Luke (Julie Spurgeon's Sister), Eugene Sackett - lung cancer (The King's nephew), Forrest, Jim Caffrey (cancer), June Blankenship (tumors), David Hemphill, Jo Ellen Gillooley (Relative of the Henson's).

## **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  
Villas of Holly Brook – Jeane Slayden



**NEXT STEPS  
& SIGNUPS**

## LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

2550 Rock Hill Rd, Wood River, IL 62095

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

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper