

Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Divinum Mysterium

Lorenz

* Call to Worship & Candle Lighting

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

We light these two candles as a sign
of the coming light of Christ.
As the Lord has promised, in the days to come...

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
**the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together,
and a little child shall lead them.**

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To my people now proclaim
that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover,
and their warfare now is over."

2 For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
O, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.
Let the valleys rise in meeting
and the hills bow down in greeting.

3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.

*Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.*

Prayer of Confession

**Cleansing God,
we hear the call to repentance,
but we struggle to respond.
A voice tells us to turn around,
but we prefer our own ways.
You seek to purify us in love,
but we constantly elude your searching hand.
Our sin leads us in other directions,
away from you, away from life.
Look with mercy upon us.
Clear a place within us
so that something new might be born,
something that might return us
to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ...**

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

Isaiah 12:1–6

You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Anthem

He Will Come!

Liebergen

Gospel

Luke 1:46–55

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Sermon

The Canticle of Mary

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 100

Canticle of the Turning

Song of Mary

*1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?*

Refrain:

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.*

*2 Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)*

*3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)*

*4 Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,*

who is turning the world around. (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.

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Sung call to Prayer

Wait for the Lord

Hymn 90

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

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 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.*

*2 For Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,*

*and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth.*

*3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.*

*4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

Petite Noel

Simone

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.


 **Necessi Tree:** The Necessi Tree in the Narthex will collect items for the Warming Center. Anything necessary to keep warm this winter plus necessity items like socks and underwear. We need a variety of sizes for women, men and children. We also need hats, scarves, gloves, small blankets, etc. that are necessary for warmth.

 **Stewardship Campaign: The Glory Belongs to God!**
Thanks to everyone who has submitted a pledge so far. We have met about 93% 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.

 **Christmas Potluck, Dec. 15 After Worship**
Bring a dish to share for a festive Christmas potluck after worship. The Fellowship Committee is providing a ham. If you can, please write down what you'd like to bring on the signup sheet in the Narthex.

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 began on Dec 1. They meet in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom..

 **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.

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.

Sewing and Craft Circle

Wednesday's Sewing and Craft Circle will not be meeting for the rest of the year. They will resume meeting in January.

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, 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, 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

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

Tabitha Nail, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper