

The Fourth Sunday of Advent ❖ December 22, 2024 ❖ 10:15 am



### **The Winter Rose**

From the earliest Christian time, the rose has been a symbol of divine love. It gently reaches across the ages in ancient illuminations and freely spills from the pens and brushes of countless poets and artists. Echoing through our sanctuaries in the melodies and texts of many beloved carols, it brings to life the beautiful visions of biblical prophets and the hope of early Christian pilgrims.

Today, the rose remains a vital expression of love and peace both inside the Church and the outside world. Her appearance in the garden is a treasured harbinger of the coming spring's abundance. As a gift, the rose's delicate beauty is usually reserved for the most meaningful expressions of the heart. No flower holds our dreams of love more beautifully than she.

It is in that same spirit that the present work was conceived and written. It is our sincerest prayer that as Christ, the Rose of Sharon, opens before you this Christmas, your spirit will be encouraged by the beauty of God's greatest gift. Let the words and music of this cantata remind you that even in the deepest winter, we are people of joy and life...children of the garden.

**Gathering**

Words of Welcome

Prelude

*Resonet in Laudibus*

Simone

\* Call to Worship & Candle Lighting

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

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

The Lord will give you a sign.  
Look, the young woman is with child.  
**She shall bear a son,  
and name him Emmanuel: "God is with us."**

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 92

*While We Are Waiting, Come*

*1 While we are waiting, come;  
while we are waiting, come.*

*Refrain:  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,  
while we are waiting, come.*

*2 With power and glory, come;  
with power and glory, come. (Refrain)*

*3 Come, Savior, quickly come;  
come, Savior, quickly come. (Refrain)*

Time with the Children

## The Word in Song

**The Winter Rose**  
By Joseph M. Martin  
with Narration by Pamela Martin

*The Winter Rose*

*When Will He Come  
Advent Cry  
Every Valley  
Carol of Remembrance  
In the Judean Hills  
Dance into the Light  
The Rose Tree Carol  
The Winter Rose  
Look to the Rose  
Lo, How a Rose*

## Responding

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

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 93

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

*1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
behold the King of glory waits;  
the King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here.*

*2 Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*3 Redeemer, come! I open wide  
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in me reveal.*

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

*Good Christians, All, Rejoice*

Sergisson

## Worship Notes


We give tremendous thanks to our choir and to our ever-faithful Director of Music, Ann French for their hard work in preparing for today's Cantata. 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. 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).

### 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..

### Advent and Christmas at LoveJoy United

- **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.

### **Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry needs peanut butter and pasta sauce. Your donations allow us to help others and are always appreciated.

### **Wednesdays at LoveJoy United (No Wednesday Activities on Dec. 25 or Jan 1)**

- **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), Michael & Robert Musgrave-Perkins.

### **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  
[www.lovejoyupc.org](http://www.lovejoyupc.org) | (618) 254-5880

Rev. Daniel Ervin, Pastor | [daniel@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:daniel@lovejoyupc.org)

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

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper