

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

* Call to Worship

The glory of God has now appeared
through Christ our light, in flesh.
The reign of God has now arrived
through Christ our king, our eternal ruler.
The mystery of God has been revealed
through Christ our peace, ever reconciling.
With the stars to lead us and the magi to teach us,
we come, bringing our gifts to worship God. Amen.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

*1 What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king,
glad tidings of our God to bring.*

*2 'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
"From Jacob shall a star proceed";
and lo! the eastern sages stand
to read in heaven the Lord's command.*

*3 While outward signs the star displays,
an inward light the Lord conveys
and urges them, with tender might,
to seek the giver of the light.*

*4 O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of your light to use.*

Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God,
wondrous star,
light no darkness can overcome,
drive out the sin in our hearts.
Forgive us for turning from your way,
for denying your truth,**

**for resisting the life you would have us live.
Refresh us and restore us.
Focus us on the brilliant light of Jesus Christ
that we may see him more clearly
and follow him more nearly,
this day and every day...**

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 Word, 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 60:1–6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

❖ Responding

* Hymn 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

*1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.*

*Refrain:
O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!*

*2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign. (Refrain)*

*3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High. (Refrain)*

*4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,*

sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)

*5 Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)*

Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons

* Profession of Faith

Do you believe in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was
buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose
again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand
of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Constitutional Questions
Prayer of Ordination and Installation
Charge

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

*Kum ba Yah
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah!
O Lord, kum ba yah!*

Hymn 472

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

Prayer After Communion

Postlude

❖ Chalking the Doorway and Sending

* Chalking the Doorway

* Hymn 399

God Welcomes All

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;

God's love is strong and it never ends.

* Charge & Benediction


✦ 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.

Epiphany Party Today after worship in Fellowship Hall!

Children, Youth, and Adults of all ages are welcome to join in the fun, crafts, games, food, and fellowship of our Epiphany Party.

Stewardship Campaign: The Glory Belongs to God!

Thanks to everyone who has submitted a pledge so far. We have met about 97% of our \$210,000 goal. 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.

LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club

"Remarkably Bright Creatures" is a beautiful story of how loneliness can be transformed with the slightest touch from another living thing. Join our Lyceum Book Club friends at 7:15 on Wednesday, January 15, via Zoom as we discuss this beautiful novel by Shelby Van Pelt.

Red Cross Blood Drive

We have scheduled a Blood Drive for Tuesday, February 4, 2 pm to 6 pm. Go to 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. They meet in Fellowship Hall.

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 (lovejoyupc.org/live)

PRAYER CONCERNS

JoAnn Moss, Pat Fletcher, Katie Davis, John Gremling & the Gremling 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

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Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper