

✦ **Gathering**

Words of Welcome

Prelude

* Call to Worship

Come, let us praise our God and Creator,
**who has given us every spiritual blessing
in Christ.**

Come, let us praise Christ our savior,
**who has redeemed us
by the riches of God's grace.**

Come, let us praise the Spirit,
who marks us as beloved heirs of God.

Come with wisdom and understanding;
**let us hope in Christ together
and praise God forever. Amen.**

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!*

*2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!*

*3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all*

*to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!*

Prayer of Confession

**Gather us,
your children who run and hide,
ashamed, afraid, apathetic.
We trade your goodness for ashes.
We trade your peace for control.
We trade your promise for certainty.
Gather us to you
and return us to your abundant mercy;
may it flow over us,
renewing our weary souls...**

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

Jeremiah 31:7–14

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a

straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Solo

He Looked Beyond My Fault and Saw My Need

Gospel

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

❖ Responding

* Hymn 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

*2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.*

*4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!*

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* Hymn 472
*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!*

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

✦ Sending

* 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)*

* 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 POSTPONED to Next Week, January 12, 2025

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 Gremli & the Gremli 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

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**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