

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Chimings

Thurman

* Call to Worship

God of the feast, God of abundance,
you are always turning water into fine wine.
Though the wine has run out,
you work miracles among us.
Though the work feels impossible,
you accomplish wonders through us.
Though many fail to perceive it,
you reveal your glory among us.
Help us to receive your good gifts this day,
that we might learn
to put our faith in you. Amen.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 401

Here in This Place

*1 Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*2 We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.*

*3 Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

Prayer of Confession

**Loving Lord,
we long to be your faithful people,
but our good intentions run out
and we come up empty.
For all the ways we fall short in our sin,
forgive us, Gracious One.
Change us—like water into wine—
to become what the world lacks,
that our community, our nation,
our church, and all creation
may know your justice and love...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

* Glory to God 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me
*1 Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

2 World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

✦ Word

Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, 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

John 2:1-11

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests

have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.”¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

✦ Responding

* Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Confession of 1967

**God’s sovereign love is a mystery
beyond the reach of the human mind.
Human thought ascribes to God
superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.
But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ
by showing power in the form of a servant,
wisdom in the folly of the cross,
and goodness in receiving
sinful men and women.
The power of God’s love in Christ
to transform the world
discloses that the Redeemer
is the Lord and Creator
who made all things
to serve the purpose of God’s love. Amen.**

* Hymn 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

*1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.*

*Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.*

*Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.*

Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

*2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear.*

*And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.*

*Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

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

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 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*1 *Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

Refrain:

*Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

*2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
(Refrain)*

*3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
(Refrain)*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

How Excellent is Thy Name

Smith/Doran

✠ 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.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation, January 26 after worship.

All members of the church are encouraged to attend our annual meeting. The session will be presenting the 2025 budget and the congregation will be voting on changes to the pastor's terms of call.

2024 Annual Reports are due to Tabitha by Tuesday, January 21. Please be sure to turn them in. Email to Admin@lovejoyupc.org.

90th Birthday Party for Hershel Henson - January 26 after worship

Hershel's family invites you to join in celebrating this momentous and joyful day with a luncheon after worship. Please RSVP on the signup sheet in the Narthex or reply to this email so they know how many people to prepare for. In lieu of gifts, please bring a canned food item for the church food pantry.

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.

Christmas Eve Offering

The offering collected on Christmas Eve totaled \$601.60 and all of that money was donated to the Overnight Warming Location (OWL).

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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Tabitha Nail, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper