

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

*Allegro*

Vivaldi

\* Call to Worship

The steadfast love of God never ceases.  
**God's mercies never come to an end;**  
they are new every morning.  
**Great is your faithfulness, O God.**  
Weeping may linger for the night,  
**but joy comes with the morning,**  
**for you hear us when we cry.**  
So we will praise you and will not be silent.  
**Sing praises, O you faithful ones,**  
**and give thanks to God's holy name.**

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 645

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

*1 Sing praise to God who reigns above,  
the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love,  
the God of our salvation.  
With healing balm my soul is filled,  
and every faithless murmur stilled:  
to God all praise and glory!*

*2 What God's almighty power has made  
God's gracious mercy keepeth;  
by morning glow or evening shade  
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.  
Within the kingdom of God's might,  
lo! all is just and all is right:  
to God all praise and glory!*

*3 The Lord is never far away,  
but, through all grief distressing,  
an ever-present help and stay,  
our peace and joy and blessing,  
as with a mother's tender hand  
God gently leads the chosen band:  
to God all praise and glory!*

*4 Thus all my toilsome way along  
I sing aloud thy praises,  
that all may hear the grateful song  
my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart;  
both soul and body, take your part:  
to God all praise and glory!*

Prayer of Confession

**You shower us with blessings,  
with chances to know your grace.  
Still, O Lord, we twist your promises  
and pray for blessings we can own.  
You call us to leave our selfish ways  
and follow your call to compassion.  
Still, O Lord, we choose shallow belief  
over transformative faith.  
You have told us that your love is enough,  
that the waters of mercy will not run dry.  
Still, O Lord, we choose fear instead of trust,  
hiding behind the illusion that we can survive on our own.  
Forgive us, Holy One, and by your forgiveness,  
offer us a chance to try again...**

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

Epistle Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Anthem

*Sing With Joy*

Besig

Gospel

Luke 6:17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

## ✠ Responding

\* Affirmation of Faith

**The life, death, resurrection,  
and promised coming of Jesus Christ  
has set the pattern for the church’s mission.  
His human life involves the church  
in the common life of all people.  
His service to humankind  
commits the church**

**to work for every form of human well-being.  
His suffering makes the church sensitive  
to all human suffering  
so that it sees the face of Christ  
in the faces of persons in every kind of need.  
His crucifixion discloses to the church  
God's judgment on the inhumanity  
that marks human relations,  
and the awful consequences  
of the church's own complicity in injustice.  
In the power of the risen Christ  
and the hope of his coming,  
the church sees the promise  
of God's renewal of human life in society  
and of God's victory over all wrong.  
The church follows this pattern  
in the form of its life  
and in the method of its action.  
So to live and serve  
is to confess Christ as Lord. Amen.**

\* Hymn 100

*Canticle of the Turning*

*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](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

*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

*1 Today we all are called to be  
disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free,  
make plowshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,  
make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first,  
our ease and comfort last.*

*2 God made the world and at its birth  
ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth,  
responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud;  
we sow not peace but strife.  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud  
that threatens all of life.*

*3 Pray justice may come rolling down  
as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town  
to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore  
an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for  
a harmony of peace.*

*4 May we in service to our God  
act out the living word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod  
till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we  
give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be  
disciples of the Lord.*

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

*Psalm*

Blake


## ✙ 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.

### Directory Update

Please let the church office know if you have any updates to your address or phone number. We are getting ready to print updated directories for the year. Changes can be emailed to Tabitha at [admin@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:admin@lovejoyupc.org).

### Garden Survey and Signup

Help us decide what to plant in our garden this year and consider donating a little time to tend the garden and nurture your spirit. The survey is online at [lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps](http://lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps) and click “Garden Survey.”

### LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club


On February 19, The Lyceum Book Group will discuss *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*. James McBride’s novel is about small-town secrets, the people who keep them and how damaging bigotry, hypocrisy, and deceit can be to a community. Join our Zoom discussion at 7:15 on Wednesday evening after Evening Prayer.

### Ash Wednesday Worship, March 5 at 7 PM

We have all fallen short of the Glory of God. Join us as we return to God in humility and penitence at the start of the Lenten season. This service will include communion and the imposition of ashes.

### Lenten Supper Church: pLENTiful: Tending to the Book of Nature

Starting on Wednesday, March 12, join us at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays during Lent for a shared meal, worship, and conversation, as we explore connections between faith, creation, and spiritual renewal. Through scripture, reflection, and hands-on practices, we will learn how tending to God’s earth deepens our faith and invites us into God’s abundance.

 **A Place of Grace** will host its annual Lenten Walk to Jerusalem beginning March 5th. The goal is to communally make the 6414-mile trek from Dorsey (APOG office) to Jerusalem by Easter. More information about the Walk is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1BWz5WExpy/>

### Adult Christian Education on Sunday Mornings at 9 AM

- **Sunday Morning Live** 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 are currently talking about *The Revelation of John*.
- **The Gospel of John Class**, led by Rev. Dr. Linda Shugert begins on Dec 1. Still time to sign up at [lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps](http://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](http://lovejoyupc.org/live))

## PRAYER CONCERNS

JoAnn Moss, Pat Fletcher, Katie Davis, John Gremlı & the Gremlı Family, Connor, JoAnn Lamar, Trans folks, Kenny Slayden, Connie, Ched, Mark Carter, Kathy Walker (Jack & Dottie Kleinert's daughter), Abby Cotter, Tom and 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, David Hemphill, Jo Ellen Gillooley (Relative of the Henson's), Linda Duncan.

#### **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](mailto:admin@lovejoyupc.org)

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper