

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

*Adagio*

Galuppi

\* Call to Worship

The way of Christ turns the world upside down.  
**God's ways are not our ways.**  
It moves us beyond retribution  
and cycles of violence.  
**God's ways are not our ways.**  
It leads us to enemy-love  
and scandalous forgiveness.  
**God's ways are not our ways.**  
It calls us beyond reciprocity into radical giving.  
**God's ways are not our ways.**  
So let us commit our way to the Lord together  
**until our righteousness shines like the daw  
and our justice like high noon.**

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 305

*Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

*I Come sing, O church, in joy!  
Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us  
through the ages long!*

*Refrain:  
In bold accord,  
come celebrate the journey now  
and praise the Lord!*

*2 Long years have come and gone,  
and still God reigns supreme,  
empowering us to catch the vision,  
dream the dream! (Refrain)*

*3 Let courage be our friend;  
let wisdom be our guide,  
as we in mission magnify  
the Crucified! (Refrain)*

*4 Come sing, O church, in joy!  
Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er  
the ages long! (Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession

**O Christ,  
the economy of your love is beautiful,  
expending goodness  
and extending lines of forgiveness  
beyond our imagining.  
The economy of our love  
is stingy and crooked.  
We invest love where it can be repaid.  
We spend mercy where it yields gain.  
We advance blessing we can bank on.  
We hold grudges with interest.  
We do all of this with no recognition  
of how deeply indebted we are to you.  
Forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors,  
we pray with our whole hearts...**

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

First Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

<sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. <sup>4</sup>Then

Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup>You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Anthem

I Will Give Thanks to the Lord

Carter

Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

<sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

## ✦ Responding

\* Affirmation of Faith

*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 people.  
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 372

*O for a World*

*1 O for a world where everyone  
respects each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done  
with justice and with praise.*

*2 O for a world where goods are shared  
and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared,  
equality achieved.*

*3 We welcome one world family  
and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity  
and gives our vision voice.*

*4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong;  
the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,  
who perishes will rise.*

*5 O for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more,  
and all but love will cease.*

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*

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!*

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 774

*There Is Now a New Creation*

*1 There is now a new creation  
through the grace of Jesus Christ,  
peace and reconciliation  
with the God of endless life.*

*2 Call the lost and found together;  
tell the news to everyone:  
now the past is gone forever  
and a new life has begun.*

*3 Wrap the prodigal in welcome;  
run to greet the wayward child.  
All is finished and forgiven;  
let us now be reconciled.*

*4 Come and join the celebration;  
come and join this happy feast;  
Jesus makes an invitation  
to the greatest and the least.*

*5 There is now a new creation*

*through the grace of Jesus Christ.  
Sing, with thanks and adoration,  
to the God of endless life!*

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

*Fugue*

Pachelbel


## ✦ 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.

### **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](https://lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps) and click "Garden Survey."

### **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.

### **Spring Adult Bible Class**

On Sunday, March 2, the adult Bible class will begin "Embracing Life." The spring quarter will begin with a study of the Beatitudes during Lent, and the theme of Living Water will take us through the Easter Season. The study leader for spring will be Sandy Monroe. Join us at 9:00 a.m. in fellowship hall, and bring your Bible!

 **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>

 **Food Pantry Needs:** Canned Vegetables, your donations are always appreciated.

 **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 Gremler & the Gremler 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

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