

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Song of Joy

Hughes

* Call to Worship

God of the mountaintop,
you call us to journey with you.
**Shine upon us; grant us sacred illumination;
dazzle us with your beauty and glory.**
In the midst of our weary souls
and exhausted bodies,
**Transfigure our imaginations
and reveal to us what is possible.**
In the face of unceasing violence and endless wars,
**Transfigure our imaginations
and reveal to us what is possible.**
In the midst of crushing disasters,
natural and human made,
**Transfigure our imaginations
and reveal to us what is possible.**
Move us from scarcity and cynicism
and transfigure our lowly visions
to reveal the abundant life of your realm.
**Help us to keep watch
so that we might leave the mountaintop
inspired to do your work of transformation
in the valley below. Amen.**

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 664

Morning Has Broken

*1 Morning has broken
like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!*

*2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,*

*like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.*

*3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning,
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation;
praise every morning,
God's re-creation
of the new day!*

Prayer of Confession

**Holy Lord,
we confess that we do not always seek
the light of your way.
We are satisfied to dwell in darkness,
holding fast to the comforts of material fortune.
We ignore the needs of others,
and selfishly look the other way
when our neighbors are oppressed.
In your merciful way,
help us to establish your equity in the world.
Move us to protect creation and ensure equality,
that all of our siblings
may have a share of your abundance
and the safety of your peace,
and that the light of your face
may shine upon all creation.**

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

Psalm 99

¹The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

²The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

³Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

⁴Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

⁵Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

⁶Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.

⁷He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.

⁸O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

⁹Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy.

Anthem

He is Here in the Breaking of Bread

Larson

Gospel

Luke 9:28–43a

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” —not knowing what he said.

³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”

³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

³⁷On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸Just then a man from the crowd shouted,

“Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” ⁴¹Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” ⁴²While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.

⁴³And all were astounded at the greatness of God. While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples,

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

✠ Responding

* Affirmation of Faith

from the Confession of 1967
**In Jesus of Nazareth,
true humanity was realized once for all.
Jesus, a Palestinian Jew,
lived among his own people
and shared their needs, temptations,
joys, and sorrows.
He expressed the love of God
in word and deed
and became a brother
to all kinds of sinful people.
But his complete obedience
led him into conflict with his people.
His life and teaching judged their goodness,
religious aspirations, and national hopes.
Many rejected him and demanded his death.
In giving himself freely for them,
he took upon himself the judgment
under which everyone stands convicted
God raised him from the dead,
vindicating him as Messiah and Lord.
The victim of sin became victor,
and won the victor
over sin and death for all. Amen.**

* Hymn 379

We Shall Overcome

*I We shall overcome;
we shall overcome;
we shall overcome someday.*

*Refrain:
O, deep in my heart
I do believe
we shall overcome someday!*

*2 We'll walk hand in hand;
we'll walk hand in hand;
we'll walk hand in hand someday. (Refrain)*

*3 We shall live in peace;
we shall live in peace;
we shall live in peace someday. (Refrain)*

*4 We are not afraid;
we are not afraid;
we are not afraid today. (Refrain)*

*5 God will see us through;
God will see us through;
God will see us through today. (Refrain)*

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
I 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

Elevation

Benoit

Prayer After Communion

✙ Sending

* Hymn 376

When All Is Ended

*1 When all is ended, time and troubles past,
shall all be mended, sin and death out-cast?
In hope we sing, and hope to sing at last:
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*2 As in the night, when lightning flickers free,
and gives a glimpse of distant hill and tree,
each flash of good discloses what will be:
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*3 Against all hope, our weary times have known
wars ended, peace declared, compassion shown,
great days of freedom, tyrants overthrown:
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

4 Then do not cheat the poor, who long for bread,

*with dream-worlds in the sky or in the head,
but sing of slaves set free, and children fed:
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*5 With earthy faith we sing a song of heaven:
all life fulfilled, all loved, all wrong forgiven.
Christ is our sign of hope, for Christ is risen:
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*6 With all creation, pain and anger past,
evil exhausted, love supreme at last,
alive in God, we'll sing an unsurpassed
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

Toccata Festiva

Ritter


✚ 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.

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.

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 and click "Garden Survey."

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. 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 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), Forrest, David Hemphill, Linda Duncan, JoJo, Terrye Mock (Valerie Freeman's Sister-In-Law).

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