

✚ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

* Call to Worship

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.
**You shall love the Lord your God,
and your neighbor as yourself.**
Praise the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 53

O God, Who Give Us Life

*1 O God, who gives us life and breath,
who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death,
then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill
the life we have from you.
Help us to know your Spirit still
is making all things new.*

*2 O God, who calls your people out
to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt
and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering
through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring
of hope that never dies.*

*3 O God of covenant and law,
revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe;
we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you
and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew
the covenant of love.*

Prayer of Confession

**God of might,
you have given us your covenant as a gift:**

**that we might live faithfully with one another and with you.
We confess that we have instead received
your covenant as a burden.
Your law summons us toward greater justice and compassion,
yet we resort to even greater greed and apathy.
Your law offers us a new life of joy, goodness, and peace,
yet we hold fast to the broken ways of this world.
Forgive us, God of mercy.
Write your law upon our hearts once again, that we may be your
people, and that you may be our God....**

Assurance of Forgiveness

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

* Hymn 447 *We Are Forgiven*
We are forgiven.
We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.
Thanks be to God.

✦ Word

Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination **O Lord of light and salvation,
let these words of Scripture
live not only in our mouths,
but in our hearts,
that we will embody your truth
and confess with our lives
that Jesus is Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Luke 8:40–55
⁴⁰Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. ⁴¹Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house, ⁴²for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying. As he went, the crowds pressed in on him. ⁴³Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. ⁴⁴She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. ⁴⁵Then Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you." ⁴⁶But Jesus said, "Someone touched

me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me.”⁴⁷ When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed.⁴⁸ He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.”⁴⁹ While he was still speaking, someone came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the teacher any longer.”⁵⁰ When Jesus heard this, he replied, “Do not fear. Only believe, and she will be saved.”⁵¹ When he came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him, except Peter, John, and James, and the child’s father and mother.⁵² They were all weeping and wailing for her; but he said, “Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping.”⁵³ And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.⁵⁴ But he took her by the hand and called out, “Child, get up!”⁵⁵ Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat.

Anthem

Second Reading

Genesis 31:25–27, 43–50

²⁵Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsfolk camped in the hill country of Gilead. ²⁶Laban said to Jacob, “What have you done? You have deceived me, and carried away my daughters like captives of the sword. ²⁷Why did you flee secretly and deceive me and not tell me? I would have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre.

⁴³Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, “The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do today about these daughters of mine, or about their children whom they have borne? ⁴⁴Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I; and let it be a witness between you and me.” ⁴⁵So Jacob took a stone, and set it up as a pillar. ⁴⁶And Jacob said to his kinsfolk, “Gather stones,” and they took stones, and made a heap; and they ate there by the heap. ⁴⁷Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha: but Jacob called it Galeed. ⁴⁸Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me today.” Therefore he called it Galeed, ⁴⁹and the pillar Mizpah, for he said, “The LORD watch between you and me, when we are absent one from the other. ⁵⁰If you ill-treat my daughters, or if you take wives in addition to my daughters, though no one else is with us, remember that God is witness between you and me.”

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

✦ Responding

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed

**I Believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His Only Son, our
Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin
Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the quick and
the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

* Hymn 378

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

*1 We wait the peaceful kingdom,
when wolf and lamb shall lie
in gentleness and friendship
without a fear or sigh,
when lion shall be grazing,
when snake shall never strike;
a little child shall lead us
both strong and weak alike.*

*2 Where is the peaceful kingdom?
When will this new day start?
We long for peace and comfort
to reign within each heart.
Yet not in our lives only,
nor simply in our home:
we pray that all creation
will one day find shalom.*

*3 When wars of desolation
and hate come to an end,
when nation meets with nation
and calls the other "friend,"
still peace in all its fullness
will only have begun:
shalom for all creation
begins with justice done.*

*4 That little child shall lead us
to walk the chosen way,
to share the peaceful kingdom,*

*to greet God's newborn day.
The child born in a stable
is sent to break our chains,
to bring through word and table
the day when justice reigns.*

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

*Be Still and Know That I Am God
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.*

Hymn 414

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 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

*1 Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God's chosen end.*

2 Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,

*Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer,
all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together
gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*3 Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,
in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision,
words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action,
make us colleagues, free and fair.*

*4 So God grant us for tomorrow
ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow
with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living,
our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving
hope and confidence and peace.*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude


✚ 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*. During the season of Lent, we are following *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Year C* by Wilda C. Gafney.

✚ 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.

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.

 **Blood Drive** - We will be hosting a blood drive Thursday, April 10th in the Fellowship Hall. Go to lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps to sign up.

 **LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club** will meet on Zoom this Tuesday, March 18th at 7pm due to the Lenten Dinner on Wednesday.

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."

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

Adult Christian Education on Sunday Mornings at 9 AM

- **Sunday Morning Live led by Richard Sisk**, 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 discussing The Revelation of John. Sign up at lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps.
- **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!

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** will be on hiatus until Easter.

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

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 | (618) 254-5880

Rev. Daniel Ervin, Pastor | daniel@lovejoyupc.org

Tabitha Nail, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper