

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

G Major Prelude & Fugue

Bach

Call to Worship

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!
Praise God in God's sanctuary!
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!
Praise God for God's mighty deeds!
Praise God according to
God's surpassing greatness!
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Hallelujah!
Let us worship God!

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 238

Thine Is the Glory

*1 Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.*

Refrain:

*Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.*

*2 Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;*

death hath lost its sting. (Refrain)

*3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. (Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession

**O God, your love is boundless
and your grace exceeds our imaginations.
You keep finding ways to be among us,
even when the doors of our hearts are locked.
Graciously, you seek us out.
We cannot hide,
but we can confess that sin has us in its grip.
It has led us from your ways
and corrupted our best intentions,
tempting us to believe that you don't notice,
that you aren't even present.
Correct our vision.
Cleanse our hearts.
Create in us a place where we can welcome you
and receive the fullness
of what you have given us in Jesus Christ...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

* Passing of the Peace

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

* Hymn 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

Acts 5:27-32

27 When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, **28** saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,^[a] yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” **29** But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority.^[b] **30** The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. **31** God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. **32** And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Anthem

Hodie

Sleeth

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21** Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” **22** When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” **28** Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” **29** Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. **31** But these are written so that you may continue^[b]

to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,^[c] the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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 817

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

*1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."*

*2 We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"*

*3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found.*

*4 And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.*

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

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Hymn 606

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 1

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

*1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*2 Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

*3 Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.*

*4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain Broughton


✝️ 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.

Spring Clean Up Day, Saturday, May 17

Join us as we do some spring cleaning around the church property. We'll have some good fellowship, get good exercise, and make our church home a little more welcoming.

Help us Compost!

The Garden Committee is looking for church members to save some select scraps of food and other waste for our garden. Details are on the table in the narthex or you can find them at lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps.

 **Food Pantry Needs:** Canned soup, 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** on Wednesday nights at 7 PM.

PRAYER CONCERNS

JoAnn Moss, Pat Fletcher, Katie Davis, John Gremling & the Gremling Family, Connor, JoAnn Lamar, Trans folks, Kenny Slayden, Connie, Ched, Mark Carter, 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, Terry Mock (Valerie Freeman's Sister-In-Law), Mike Montague & Ken Webster, Gary Chappell (Edie Chappell's son).

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