

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Allegro

Vivaldi/Norris

* 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 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

*2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.*

*4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!*

Prayer of Confession

**God of life,
You have made us to be clay: soft and malleable in your hands so
that we may be shaped into your likeness.
We confess that we too often reject your holy, merciful, and loving**

hands.
We are content to be shaped by the hands of this world:
Hands that hurt us and lead us to hurt others.
Hands that twist our sense of justice and righteousness.
Hands that shape us toward values of greed, selfishness,
fear, and apathy.
Forgive us, O God.
Restore in us your image once again,
that we may walk in your way...

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

First Reading

1 Kings 10:1–10, 13

¹⁰When the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, (fame due to the name of the LORD), she came to test him with hard questions. ²She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels bearing spices, and very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. ³Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her. ⁴When the queen of Sheba had observed all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, ⁵the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his valets, and his burnt-offerings that he offered at the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her. ⁶So she said to the king, ‘The report was true that I heard in my own land of your accomplishments and of your wisdom, ⁷but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. Not even half had been told me; your wisdom and prosperity far surpass the report that I had heard. ⁸Happy are your wives! Happy are these your servants, who continually attend you and hear your wisdom! ⁹Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and set you on the throne of Israel!

Because the LORD loved Israel for ever, he has made you king to execute justice and righteousness.’¹⁰ Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold, a great quantity of spices, and precious stones; never again did spices come in such quantity as that which the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon. ¹³ Meanwhile, King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba every desire that she expressed, as well as what he gave her out of Solomon’s royal bounty. Then she returned to her own land, with her servants.

Anthem

Bread of Heaven

Martin

Second Reading

Luke 11:27–32

²⁷While he was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!” ²⁸But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!” ²⁹When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, “This generation is an evil generation; it asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. ³⁰For just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be to this generation. ³¹The queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here! ³²The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here!

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 218

Ah, Holy Jesus

*1 Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted!*

*2 Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.*

*3 Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
for our atonement, while we nothing heeded,
God interceded.*

*4 For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation,
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.*

*5 Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.*

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

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
1 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

Sanctus

Berlioz/Graham

Prayer After Communion

✠ Sending

* Hymn 720

Jesus Calls Us

1 Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth
saying, "Christian, follow me."

2 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."

3 In our joys and in our sorrows,

*days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."*

*4 Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thy obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

Festive Salutation

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*. 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

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.

Holy Week at LoveJoy United

- **Palm Sunday, April 13 at 10:15 AM.** Worship will begin in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Maundy Thursday Supper Church (Potluck), April 17 at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall,** bring a dish to share as we remember Christ's commandment to love one another.
- **Easter Sunday, April 20 at 10:15 AM.**

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:** Peanut butter and pasta sauce, 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 Gremlı & the Gremlı 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, Terrye Mock (Valerie Freeman’s Sister-In-Law), Mike Montague & Ken Webster, Gary Chappell.

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