

✙ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Andante Cantabile

Tschaikowsky/Ritter

Call to Worship

Let us sing praises to the God who created us.

We rejoice in the Love that made us.

Let us rejoice in the glory of creation.

**We are in awe of the wonder that God created us and all
God's other creatures to be.**

Help us to use our particular gifts to carry on your work of
healing and peace.

We praise you for all the amazing diversity of your world.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 26

Earth and All Stars

1 Earth and all stars!

Loud rushing planets!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain!

Loud blowing snowstorm!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

God has done marvelous things.

We too sing praises with a new song!

2 Trumpet and pipes!

Loud clashing cymbals!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Harp, lute, and lyre!

Loud humming cellos!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

God has done marvelous things.

We too sing praises with a new song!

3 Engines and steel!

Loud pounding hammers!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Limestone and beams!

Loud building workers!

Sing to the Lord a new song!

God has done marvelous things.

We too sing praises with a new song!

*4 Knowledge and truth!
Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son!
Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
We too sing praises with a new song!*

Prayer of Confession

We confess to you, O God, and before one another that we have sinned. You have made us in your image and have placed us here to be your loving presence in this world. You have gifted us with our unique talents and abilities so that we can make this your realm. But we have failed you and ourselves. We act as if we do not know who we are. We allow ourselves to be drawn into the madness of the world around us. We sometimes fear to take a stand for what is right. Open our eyes that we may see what we are doing. Open our hearts that we may remember who we are.

Silent prayers of personal confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

We are an Easter people, forgiven and freed, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. Amen.

* 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 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas.^[a] She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.
37 At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her,

they laid her in a room upstairs. **38** Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, “Please come to us without delay.” **39** So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. **40** Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. **41** He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. **42** This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. **43** Meanwhile, he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Epistle

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!”

11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” 14 I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

16 They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,

17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Anthem

On Holy Ground

Geron Davis

Gospel Reading

John 10:22-30

At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, **23** and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. **24** So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah,^[a] tell us plainly.” **25** Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me, **26** but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. **27** My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. **29** My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all,^[b] and no one can snatch them out of the Father’s hand. **30** The Father and I are one.”

Sermon

Why Tabitha?

Rev. Dr. Aline Russell

✦ Responding

* Affirmation of Faith

**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 on 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 762

When The Poor Ones

*1 When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers,
when the thirsty water give unto us all,
when the crippled in their weakness strengthen others,*

Refrain:

*then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.*

*2 When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
when we love though hate at times seems all around us, (Refrain)*

*3 When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words other than true,
when we know that love for simple things is better, (Refrain)*

*4 When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor, (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

Risen Savior, responding to your love and grace, we offer our gifts of time, talent and service. May our offerings feed the hungry, cloth the poor, quench the thirsty and shelter the vulnerable. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Sung call to Prayer

Doxology

Hymn 606

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

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 215

What Wondrous Love Is This

*1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!*

*3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme, I will sing!
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

All Hail King Jesus

Moody/Doran


✦ 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, 9–3.

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.

Hope, Health, and Healing Series: Mental Health and Recovery, Sunday, May 25 after worship (~11:30)

In the first session of this new series, we'll welcome Chris Keck, a Recovery Support Specialist for the State of Illinois. Around half of the population will experience mental health challenges at some point in the course of their lives, meaning that it affects all of us in one way or another. Join us as we work to break the stigma, learn how to find health for ourselves and neighbors, and identify resources available.

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!
- **Summer Adult Class on the Gospel of Mark**
Pastor Daniel will begin leading a class on the Gospel of Mark on June 1 at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Using curriculum by Amy-Jill Levine, we’ll be exploring what scholars believe was the first Gospel to be written. Please sign up so we can order materials for you. Sign up on the table in the Narthex or at lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps.



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 Gremli & the Gremli 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 (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