

✝ Gathering

Words of Welcome
Prelude

Ave Maria

Marie Brown (cello)
(Bach/Gounod)

Call to Worship

In Christ the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.
Through Christ
God reconciled all things to Godself.
In Christ we find our beginning,
our purpose, and our own being.
We are Christ's body, eager to serve.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

*I Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

Prayer of Confession

**God of perfect love,
you continually bring forth life,
transforming sadness to joy,
and despair to hope.**

**We are weak,
but you are strong.
Our ways are flawed,
but your ways are true.
We are seldom right,
but you are never wrong.
Forgive us, redeem us, transform us.
Take away the sin that burdens us,
and restore us to the people
you would have us be,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior...**

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

Special Music

Were You There?/There is a Balm in Gilead

Marie Brown (cello)
(Brant Adams)

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Psalm 15

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

2 Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;

3 who do not slander with their tongue,
and do no evil to their friends,

nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

4 in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honor those who fear the Lord;

who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

5 who do not lend money at interest,

and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Second Reading

Luke 10:38–42

38 Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. 40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." 41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; 42 there is need of only one thing.[a] Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Sermon

No More a Stranger: Practicing True Welcome

Rev. Daniel Ervin

✦ Responding

* Affirmation of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen**

* Hymn 414

Be Still and Know That I Am God

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

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

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 727

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

1 Will you let me be your servant,

let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace

to let you be my servant too.

2 We are pilgrims on a journey;

we're together on the road.

We are here to help each other

walk the mile and bear the load.

*3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the nighttime of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.*

*4 I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.*

*5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.*

*6 Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

Celebration

Hughes

✚ 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.

All-Church Pool Party! Save the date: August 9 at River Aire Swim Club in Godfrey.

 **Food Pantry Needs:** Mac & cheese and toilet paper, your donations are always appreciated.

Per Capita Giving in the Presbyterian Church

LoveJoy United will pay \$40 per member in 2025 to fund the work of the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery that serves the churches in its care, the national Office of General Assembly that brings us together to discern the Spirit's

leading, the Office of Stated Clerk that provides leadership for Presbyterians nationwide and the Presbyterian Mission Agency that oversees the work of the Presbyterian church for others here and around the world.

To help the congregation meet this financial obligation, many members of LoveJoy United choose to help offset the cost of Per Capita for themselves or family members. **Per Capita for 2025 is \$40/person.** You can send a check or pay online at lovejoyupc.org/give.

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. Each Sunday at 9:00, they meet in the Love Room and on Zoom. They relate current events to Scripture to create thought-provoking discussions via [The Wired Word](#).
- **Summer Adult Class on the Gospel of Mark**
Pastor Daniel is leading a class on the Gospel of Mark 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 Gremler & the Gremler Family, Connor, JoAnn Lamar, Trans folks, Kenny Slayden, Connie, Ched, Mark Carter, Tom and Jupiter, Kristi Doering, Shelly Devore (Brenda and Deb's niece), Brittany, Bill Lester, Lanny Harris, John Kennedy, Renee Lynn, Kathie Luke (Julie Spurgeon's Sister), Forrest, David Hemphill, Linda Duncan, JoJo, Terrye Mock (Valerie Freeman's Sister-In-Law), Gary Chappell and Laurie Chappell (Edie Chappell's son and her daughter-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