

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

May the Mind of Christ be in You

Gould/Schrader

* Call to Worship

God has gathered us in this place
from the corners of Godfrey and Alton, Wood River, and
Bethalto.

**We've come from many kinds of dwellings and many kinds of
families, from the many places we work and learn.**

From near and far(-ish),
we join our hearts and voices to glorify God.

**We've come from
East Alton, Edwardsville, St. Louis
following detours between or beyond.**

God welcomes all in this place.

Let us worship God!

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 375

Shall We Gather at the River

*1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?*

Refrain:

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.*

*2 On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. (Refrain)*

*3 Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. (Refrain)*

*4 Soon we'll reach the shining river;
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. (Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God,
you have created us to live peaceably together in community.
We confess that we have too often chosen to go it alone:
we seek competition over cooperation,
self-dependence over interdependence,
and my way over your way.
We admit that we are not always faithful to the communities
we do belong to: our families, our neighborhood, our church.
We take without giving in return,
we would rather walk away than deal with differences,
and we withhold grace even as we long to receive it.**

**Forgive us, O God.
Gather us again by your mercy.
Knit us into the body of Christ,
that we may again live as your people...**

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

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory Charlie Manker, trumpet

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
2 It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
3 It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

Second Reading

Ecclesiastes 4:7–12

7 Again, I saw vanity under the sun: 8 the case of solitary individuals, without sons or brothers; yet there is no end to all their toil, and their eyes are never satisfied with riches. “For whom am I toiling,” they ask, “and depriving myself of pleasure?” This also is vanity and an unhappy business.
9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Sermon

Worship as Resistance: A Gathered People Rev. Daniel Ervin

* Affirmation of Faith

from the Confession of Belhar

We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.

We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God’s Spirit is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.

Amen.

* Hymn 306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

*1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.*

*2 Before our *Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.*

*3 We share our mutual woes;
our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.*

*4 When we are called to part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.*

*5 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.*

Announcements

✚ Table

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

*In My Life Lord, Be Glorified
3 In your church, Lord,
be glorified; be glorified.
In your church, Lord,
be glorified today.*

Hymn 468, vv. 3 & 4

*4 In your world, Lord,
be glorified; be glorified.*

*In your world, Lord,
be glorified today.*

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 733

We All Are One in Mission

*1 We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission
compels us from above
to plan and work together
that all may know Christ's love.*

*2 We all are called for service
to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different;
our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others
by God's surprising grace,
so every folk and nation
may feel God's warm embrace.*

*3 Now let us be united
and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel
for God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united*

by Christ, the Lord of all.

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

Voluntary

Stanley

y

✦ 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! Join us on August 10, 5–7 PM at River Aire Swim Club in Godfrey for fun, food, and fellowship. The address of the pool is: 5300 Dover Drive, Godfrey, IL 62035.

Blessing of the Backpacks - August 10

Come join the church in starting the school year off strong. Bring your work bag, your backpack, your notebook, anything you need to do your job. We will bless these so we can start the school year off right.

 **Blood Drive - August 14, 1pm - 6pm** - go to <https://lovejoyupc.org/> next steps & signups to register. Our recent blood donations were distributed to patients at: Barnes Jewish Hospital — St. Louis, Christian Hospital North East, Missouri Baptist Medical Center — St. Louis, Lee Summit Medical Center (Near Kansas City, MO)

 **Prayer Buddies:** Come Support a kid for the school year by being their prayer buddy. If you know a kid, a grandkid, anyone in school let us know so we can pair them up with someone not in school so they can have prayer buddy. A sign up sheet is on the table in the Narthex and at lovejoyupc.org and click next steps.

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

A Place of Grace Boomwhacker Choir Retreat - August 19, 2025 4:30 - 6:00 PM

A Place of Grace has started monthly BOOMWHACKER CHOIR Retreats at Maeva's Coffee, 1320 Milton Road, Alton, IL, in the small banquet room! Do you enjoy making music? Are you interested in learning more about worship hymns and leaning into the music of faith as you work with others to play it? Join our Boomwhacker Choir! No previous musical experience is necessary. Please RSVP to Julie Gvillo by Friday, August 15th.

A Place of Grace Mission Madness Workshop Retreat - August 20, 2025 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Help us help others! If you are looking for a place to plug in with local mission agencies, but are not available during their weekday hours or need sit down jobs, Mission Madness Workshop Retreats are perfect! Crafters will work

together to create gifts for RFM, Community Hope Center, and Hoyleton Youth & Family Services during a time of purposeful fellowship. Join us! Contact Julie Gvillo for details.

Alton Pride Festival - September 13

In these days of hate and division, it's important that the church show up in support and care for our friends in the LGBTQ+ community. LoveJoy United will have a table at the 4th Annual Alton Pride Festival on September 13. If you'd like to help host our table, sign up for a time block in the Narthex!

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, 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), Cathy Lister (Karen Auston's sister).

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