

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Processionale

Sewell

* Call to Worship

The Spirit and the Church say, “Come.”
The people of the Word say, “Come.”
Let everyone who is thirsty come.
Receive the gift of the water of life.
Praise the Lord.
The Lord’s name be praised.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 410

God is Calling through the Whisper

*1 God is calling through the whisper
of the Spirit’s deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties
that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;
hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?*

*2 God is calling through the voices
of our neighbors’ urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption
and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing;
strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?*

*3 God is calling through the music
of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels,
and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing;
days and nights our praises bringing:*

God is calling—and we hear!

God is calling—and we hear!

Prayer of Confession

God of Word and Spirit,

You have made us heirs to your sacred story:

a story of creation, redemption, and reconciliation.

We confess that we have turned away from your story.

We have believed the stories others have told us:

that we must be perfect or popular to be loved;

that we are on our own in this crazy world;

that the only story that matters is our own.

We have believed false stories about others:

that some are not our neighbors;

that some are beyond the reach of your love.

Wash away the words of these broken stories.

Write your truth upon our hearts once again.

Restore in us the story of your Word, Jesus Christ our Lord...

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

Doxology

Mark Hayes

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Psalm 139:1–18, 23–24

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from far away.

3 You search out my path and my lying down,

and are acquainted with all my ways.
 4 Even before a word is on my tongue,
 O Lord, you know it completely.
 5 You hem me in, behind and before,
 and lay your hand upon me.
 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
 it is so high that I cannot attain it.
 7 Where can I go from your spirit?
 Or where can I flee from your presence?
 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
 if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
 9 If I take the wings of the morning
 and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
 10 even there your hand shall lead me,
 and your right hand shall hold me fast.
 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,
 and the light around me become night,”
 12 even the darkness is not dark to you;
 the night is as bright as the day,
 for darkness is as light to you.

 13 For it was you who formed my inward parts;
 you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
 Wonderful are your works;
 that I know very well.
 15 My frame was not hidden from you,
 when I was being made in secret,
 intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
 16 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
 In your book were written
 all the days that were formed for me,
 when none of them as yet existed.
 17 How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
 How vast is the sum of them!
 18 I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
 I come to the end[a]—I am still with you.
 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;
 test me and know my thoughts.
 24 See if there is any wicked[a] way in me,
 and lead me in the way everlasting

Second Reading

Acts 8:26–40

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south[a] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) **27** So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship **28** and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. **29** Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over

to this chariot and join it.” **30** So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” **31** He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. **32** Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” **35** Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. **36** As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”^[b] **38** He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip^[c] baptized him. **39** When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. **40** But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Sermon

Worship as Resistance: A People of the Word Rev. Daniel Ervin

* Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God,
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God’s image
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God’s commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God’s condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel**

**from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still. Amen.**

* Hymn 450

Be Thou My Vision

*1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*

*3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*4 High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

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

Hymn 468, vv. 3 & 4

*3 In your church, Lord,
be glorified; be glorified.
In your church, Lord,
be glorified today.*

*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 547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

*1 "Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone.*

*Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
you are my own.*

*In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.*

*Go, my children, with my blessing,
you are my own."*

*2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.*

*Here you learned how much I love you,
what I can cure.*

*Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.*

*Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure."*

*3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished,
closer to me.*

*Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.*

*Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here my tender comfort stilled you.*

*Go, my children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free."*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God

Haydn/Smith

✦ 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.

 **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 Gremling & the Gremling 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), Barb (Linda Smith's daughter).

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**

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Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper