

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Gigue

Telemann

* Call to Worship

What do we bring with us to worship today?

**We bring our minds and our bodies
to be shaped by God.**

What else do we bring?

**We bring our gifts: time and energy,
money and talents,
hopes and joy.**

Anythings else? You can be honest here...

**We bring our needs: our desire for connection,
our worries and fears,
our pain and brokenness.**

God welcomes all of who we are.

We bring our whole selves to worship God!

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 44

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

*1 Like a mother who has borne us,
held us close in her delight,
fed us freely from her body,
God has called us into life.*

*2 Like a father who has taught us,
grasped our hand and been our guide,
lifted us and healed our sorrows,
God has walked with us in life.*

*3 Though as children we have wandered,
placed our trust in power and might,
left behind our brothers, sisters,
God still calls us into life.*

*4 When we offer food and comfort,
grasp our neighbor's hand in love,
tread the path of peace and justice,*

God still walks with us in life.

Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy,
You created this world with such unimaginable abundance
that all creation should be able to flourish.
But we confess that we fail to trust your provision.
Instead, we store up,
we put back,
we hold onto,
we squirrel away...
until we ourselves have created the very scarcity we fear;
until our neighbors don't have enough;
until the Earth itself cries out in pain.
Open up our hearts, our hands, and our lives O God
so that we may know again the joy of giving,
the grace of receiving,
and the truth of your abundance...**

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

This is My Father's World/ He's Got the Whole World in His Hands
Brant Adams Linda Allen (clarinet)

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Psalm 112
Praise the Lord!
Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.

- 2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- 3 Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.
- 4 They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.
- 5 It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
who conduct their affairs with justice.
- 6 For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever.
- 7 They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
- 8 Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.
- 9 They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever;
their horn is exalted in honor.
- 10 The wicked see it and are angry;
they gnash their teeth and melt away;
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

Second Reading

Acts 4:32–5:11

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). 37 He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet. 5 But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; 2 with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us[a] but to God!" 5 Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it. 6 The young men came and wrapped up his body,[b] then carried him out and buried him. 7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you and your husband sold the land for such and such a price." And she said, "Yes, that was the price." 9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." 10 Immediately she fell

down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 And great fear seized the whole church and all who heard of these things.

Sermon

Worship as Resistance: A Common Table

Rev. Daniel Ervin

* Affirmation of Faith

from Confession of Belhar

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; In that we love one another. That we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another. That we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

Amen.

* Hymn 692

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain:

*Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.*

*1 God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. (Refrain)*

*2 Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. (Refrain)*

*3 May I weep with those who weep;
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. (Refrain)*

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 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)

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

Postlude on a German Tune

Blake

✝️ 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.

This Wednesday's Bible Study and Lunch Bunch are cancelled.

 **The Bible Class: Introduction to the Old Testament with Dr. Ryan Harris**

Introduction to the Old Testament. If you've ever felt like the Old Testament is hard to understand, unapproachable, or just plain confusing, this class is for you. We will be looking at the Old Testament in a variety of ways, with a focus on giving you new methods and tools for understanding the Old Testament and applying it to life. Ryan Harris is Teaching the Class starting at 9 AM on Sunday, September 7.

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

 **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!

 **Hope, Health, and Healing: Addiction and Homelessness - September 14th at 11:20 AM in the Sanctuary**

Join us to hear Recovery Coach Jes Banner share her powerful journey from addiction, homelessness, and trauma to five years of sobriety, stability, and hope. Her inspiring story shows how faith, resilience, and small daily steps can transform a life.

A Place of Grace Worship and Wonder Retreat - September 9th 9:30 - 11 AM

Maeva's Coffee House (1320 Milton Road, Alton, IL, small banquet room). RSVP via <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegville.net/upcoming-events.html>. by **Friday, September 5th.**

A Place of Grace Selah Retreat - September 9th 1 - 4 PM

Maeva's Coffee House (1320 Milton Road, Alton, IL, small banquet room). RSVP via <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegville.net/upcoming-events.html>. by **Friday, September 5th.**

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), 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**

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

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Tabitha Nail, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper