

## ✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Gathering Song 701

*Lord Prepare Me*  
*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,*  
*pure and holy, tried and true.*  
*With thanksgiving, I'll be a living*  
*sanctuary for you.*

Prelude

*No One is Alone*  
(Sondheim)

Casey Daniel

\* Call to Worship

Come here, friends, to dwell in worship.  
**Here we gather, listen, and give thanks.**  
Come here, friends, to remember who and whose you are.  
**We belong to God as God's own beloved.**  
Come here, friends, but don't get too comfortable.  
**We gather not to stay, but to be sent out as God's church.**

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 267

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*  
*Come, Christians, join to Sing:*  
*Alleluia! Amen!*  
*Loud Praise to Christ our King:*  
*Alleluia! Amen!*  
*Let all, with heart and voice,*  
*Before his throne rejoice;*  
*Praise is his gracious choice:*  
*Alleluia! Amen!*

*Come, lift your hearts on high:*  
*Alleluia! Amen!*  
*Let praises fill the sky:*  
*Alleluia! Amen!*  
*He is our guide and friend;*  
*to us he'll condescend;*  
*his love shall never end:*  
*Alleluia! Amen!*

*Praise yet our Christ again:*  
*Alleluia! Amen!*  
*Life shall not end the strain:*

*Alleluia! Amen!*  
*On heaven's blissful shore*  
*his goodness we'll adore,*  
*singing forevermore:*  
*Alleluia! Amen!*

Prayer of Confession

**O Lord our God,**  
**you call us to proclaim the gospel,**  
**but we remain silent in the presence of evil.**  
**You call us to be reconciled to you and one another,**  
**but we are content to live in separation.**  
**You call us to seek the good of all,**  
**but we fail to resist the powers of oppression.**  
**You call us to fight pretensions and injustice,**  
**but we sit idly by,**  
**endangering the lives of people far and near.**  
**Forgive us, O Lord.**  
**Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit,**  
**and give us the courage and strength**  
**to be reconciled to others;**  
**through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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

*In The Garden*

By C. Austin Miles  
John Carll, Marie Odom-Green, Nick Zankl

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Psalm 47

1 Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.  
2 For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth.  
3 He subdued peoples under us,  
and nations under our feet.  
4 He chose our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah  
5 God has gone up with a shout,  
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.  
6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
7 For God is the king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a psalm.[a]  
8 God is king over the nations;  
God sits on his holy throne.  
9 The princes of the peoples gather  
as the people of the God of Abraham.  
For the shields of the earth belong to God;  
he is highly exalted.

## Second Reading

Acts 1:6–11

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ 7 He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

## Sermon

Worship as Resistance: Being Sent

Rev. Daniel Ervin

## \* Affirmation of Faith

*from the Confession of 1967*

**Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, a father’s house, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents the triumph of God over all that resists his will and disrupts his creation. Already God’s reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in men and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.**

**With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.**

\* Hymn 766

*The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound*  
1 *The church of Christ cannot be bound*  
*by walls of wood or stone.*  
*Where charity and love are found*  
*there can the church be known.*

2 *True faith will open up the door*  
*and step into the street.*  
*True service will seek out the poor*  
*and ask to wash their feet.*

3 *True love will not sit idly by*  
*when justice is denied.*  
*True mercy hears the homeless cry*  
*and welcomes them inside.*

4 *If what we have we freely share*  
*to meet our neighbor's need,*  
*then we extend the Spirit's care*  
*through every selfless deed.*

5 *The church of Christ cannot be bound*  
*by walls of wood or stone.*  
*Where charity and love are found,*  
*there can the church be known.*

Announcements

### ✦ Table

Offering our Gifts

*Give at [lovejoyupc.org/give](http://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.*

Hymn 468, vv. 3 & 4

*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 757

#### *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

*1 Today we all are called to be  
disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free,  
make plowshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,  
make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first,  
our ease and comfort last.*

*2 God made the world and at its birth  
ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth,  
responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud;  
we sow not peace but strife.  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud  
that threatens all of life.*

*3 Pray justice may come rolling down  
as in a mighty stream,*

*with righteousness in field and town  
to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore  
an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for  
a harmony of peace.*

*4 May we in service to our God  
act out the living word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod  
till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we  
give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be  
disciples of the Lord.*

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

*Rigaudon*

Hegarty

### ✚ 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.

 **Trivia Night - Friday, September 5 at 7 PM:** Join us for a joyful night of fellowship, fun, and trivia. Tickets are \$15/person. Bring enough for an 8 person team OR come alone or in a smaller group and we'll find a team for you! Talk to Linda Shugert or go to [lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps](https://lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps) to reserve your tickets! Doors open at 6:15 PM.

 **Peace Vigil for Gaza, September 6 at 6:30 PM** In response to the starvation and violence in Gaza, we're called to pray, to lament, and seek mercy and justice from God. We also invite those who are interested/able to consider fasting from 11 AM on September 6 until communion on Sunday, September 7.

 **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](https://lovejoyupc.org) and click next steps.

 **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.**

 **Vocal Choir Rehearsals** resume on Sunday, September 7 at 8:45 AM in the Sanctuary. New singers are welcome! Contact Ann French for details or simply show up.

 **Food Pantry Needs:** Peanut butter 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-juliegvillo.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-juliegvillo.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](http://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**

## LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

2550 Rock Hill Rd, Wood River, IL 62095

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Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper