

✚ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

* Call to Worship

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
**that Christ Jesus came into the world
to save sinners.**

Though the strong wind of judgment blows,
all is not ended.

God will renew stubborn hearts
and soften stiff necks,

**for Jesus welcomed sinners
and ate with them,**

so we boldly come to make an offering of worship to the God of
mercy,

who seeks and saves the lost.

Let us rejoice in the grace of our Lord!

* 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

**Create in us clean hearts, O God,
cast out any transgression you find there—
ransack, renovate, redecorate!
Deep in our hearts,
remove fearful features
and restore your original design.
The old lamps are dim;
bring new light into the darkness.
Make your dwelling place deep in our hearts,
and teach us wisdom,
so the hearts you transform may rejoice.**

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

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Psalm 51:1-10
Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
5 Indeed, I was born guilty,

a sinner when my mother conceived me.
6 You desire truth in the inward being;[a]
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right[b] spirit within me.

Anthem

Second Reading

Luke 15:1-10

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 3 So he told them this parable: 4 “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. 8 “Or what woman having ten silver coins,[a] if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

* Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by
the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the
third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from
thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the
communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of
the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* Hymn 852

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least

*1 When the Lord redeems the very least,
we will rejoice.
When the hungry gather for the feast,
we will rejoice.*

*Refrain:
We will rejoice with gladness.
We will rejoice.
All our days we'll sing to God in praise.
We will rejoice!*

*2 When the Lord restores the sick and weak,
we will rejoice.
When the earth is given to the meek,
we will rejoice. (Refrain)*

*3 When the Lord revives the world from death,
we will rejoice.
When the word of God fills every breath,
we will rejoice. (Refrain)*

*4 When the Lord returns in victory,
we will rejoice.
When we live in glorious liberty,
we will rejoice. (Refrain)*

Announcements

✦ Responding

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

*Come Now, O Prince of Peace
1 Come now, O Prince of Peace;
make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
reconcile all people.
3 Come now and set us free,
O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus;*

Hymn 103, vv. 1 & 3

reconcile all people.

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

For Everyone Born

*1 For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,*

Refrain:

*and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice, justice and joy!*

*2 For woman and man, a place at the table —
and all those between, beyond, and besides;
expanding our world, dismantling power,
each valued for what their voice can provide.*

*3 For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong,*

*4 For just and unjust, a place at the table,
a chance to repent, reform, and rebuild,
protecting the wronged, without shame or pressure,
for just and unjust, God's vision fulfilled.*

*5 For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free,*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

✦ 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.

 **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.

 **Seeking Nominations for Elders, Deacons, and Nominating Committee.** Our Congregational Nominating Committee is beginning their work to discern who will next serve in leadership at LoveJoy United. Please submit nominations at lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps and click "Nominations."

Deacons' Meeting: Today at 11:15 in the Fellowship Hall

Lyceum Book Club: will meet via Zoom at **7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17**. The selection for this month is *Blood Sisters* by Vanessa Lillie. This novel tells the story of a Cherokee archeologist who works for the Bureau of Indian Affairs who is sent to a rural Oklahoma town (her hometown) to investigate the disappearance of two women. One of these women is her sister.

 **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.

 **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:** Toilet Paper your donations are always appreciated.

A Place of Grace: Audiendo Divina Retreat- September 16, 2025 1:30 PM → 3:30 PM at Maeva's Coffee, Rm 203, South Hall. Register here <http://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegville.net/upcoming-events.html>.

A Place of Grace: Boomwhacker Choir Retreat - September 16, 2025 4:30 PM →6:00 PM at Maeva's Coffee, Rm 203, South Hall. Register here <http://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegville.net/upcoming-events.html>.

 **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](#).
- **The Bible Class: Introduction to the Old Testament with Dr. Ryan Harris**

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. Class starts at 9 AM on Sunday, September 7. 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), Paula Blair.

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