

## ✙ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

*A Sound of Bells*

Simone

\* Call to Worship

There is good and there is wicked in the world.  
**Lord, help us find the good.**  
The wicked are perishing.  
Like chaff, they will not stand before the Lord.  
**Lord, drive wickedness away with the wind.**  
The good is like a tree,  
planted by streams of sweet water.  
**Lord, let goodness yield its fruit  
in every season.**  
Our delight is in the law of the Lord.  
**Let us meditate upon God's promises  
from morning into night.**

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 353

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

*I My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*Refrain:*

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

*2 When darkness seems to hide his face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil. (Refrain)*

*3 His oath, his covenant, his blood  
support me in the whelming flood;  
when all around my soul gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay. (Refrain)*

*4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found,  
dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne. (Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession

**O God,  
you have given us a firm foundation  
in Jesus Christ,  
yet we have chosen to build on sinking sand.  
The works of our hands crumble around us,  
and our best efforts are not good enough;  
sin is real, and we are powerless before it.  
Forgive us for thinking we know best.  
Mend our broken values  
and create in us hearts  
that seek your purposes,  
so that what we build with our lives  
may give you glory...**

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 1  
Happy are those  
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

2 but their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.

3 They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.

4 The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
6 for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Anthem

*Lord, Meet Us Here*

Weston

Second Reading

Luke 14:25–33

**25** Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, **26** “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. **27** Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. **28** For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? **29** Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, **30** saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ **31** Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? **32** If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. **33** So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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 721

*Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

*1 Lord, you have come to the lakeshore  
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;  
you only asked me to follow humbly.*

*Refrain*

*O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,  
and while smiling have spoken my name;  
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me.  
By your side I will seek other seas.*

*2 You know so well my possessions;  
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
you will find there my nets and labor. (Refrain)*

*3 You need my hands, full of caring,  
through my labors to give others rest  
and constant love that keeps on loving. (Refrain)*

*4 You, who have fished other oceans,  
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,  
my loving friend, as thus you call me: (Refrain)*

## 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

*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;  
reconcile all people.*

Hymn 103, vv. 1 & 3

## The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Sanctus Hymn 552

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*1 Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*2 Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna in the highest.*

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.**

Communion

*Please come down the center aisle and receive a piece of bread and a cup of juice. If you wish to receive bread in your pew, the servers will assist you. If you're joining us online, please have bread and juice/wine available to celebrate with us. All who wish to know Jesus more deeply are invited to the table.*

Communion Meditation

Andante

Rheinberger

Prayer After Communion

✠ Sending

\* Hymn 223

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

*1 When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
save in the death of Christ my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.*

3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?  
4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

*Allegro*

Handel/Lorenz

### ✦ 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.

 **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](http://lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps) and click "Nominations."

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

 **Fellowship Committee** Meets the First Sunday of each month after worship. The September Fellowship Committee meeting will be today after service.

 **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.**

 **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.
- **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](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 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, Terry 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, Ray Bentley (friend of Linda Allen).

**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](mailto:admin@lovejoyupc.org)

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper