

✙ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Allemanda

Corelli/Norris
Psalm 103

* Call to Worship

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
Bless God's Holy Name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
**and do not forget God's benefits,
who forgives all our iniquity,
who heals all our diseases,**
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
**who redeems our life,
who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.**
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
**who satisfies us with good as long as we live
so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.**
Bless the Lord.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

*1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:*

Refrain:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light: (Refrain)*

3 For the joy of ear and eye,

*for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: (Refrain)*

*4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)*

*5 For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven: (Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
We look at a world undone by strife,
torn by violence,
separated by hatred.
Yet you call us to walk the way of peace.
Forgive us, O Lord, for refusing to
follow you on this path because the cost is too high,
the direction too confusing, the conditions too harsh.
Forgive us our complacency.
Grant us clarity of vision to see the light,
And the strength to walk behind you.
In the power of your Spirit we pray...**

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
I 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.*

Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Acts 4:32-37

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.

Anthem

Come, Receive God's Blessing

Price/Besig

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 9 As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness[a] endures forever."

10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.[b] 11 You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; 12 for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. 13 Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

* Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Confession of 1967
The life, death, resurrection,

**and promised coming of Jesus Christ
has set the pattern for the church's mission.
His human life involves the church
in the common life of all people.
His service to humankind
commits the church
to work for every form of human well-being.
His suffering makes the church sensitive
to all human suffering
so that it sees the face of Christ
in the faces of persons in every kind of need.
His crucifixion discloses to the church
God's judgment on the inhumanity
that marks human relations,
and the awful consequences
of the church's own complicity in injustice.
In the power of the risen Christ
and the hope of his coming,
the church sees the promise
of God's renewal of human life in society
and of God's victory over all wrong.
The church follows this pattern
in the form of its life
and in the method of its action.
So to live and serve
is to confess Christ as Lord.**

* 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

✦ 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.

Peace & Global Witness Offering

The Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Give at lovejoyupc.org/give or put cash/check in one of the Peace & Global Witness Offering Envelopes in the Narthex.

Stewardship Stories

Prayer of Dedication

Doxology 606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

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 Meditation on 2 American Hymn Tunes Livingston

Prayer After Communion

✠ Sending

* Hymn 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

*1 God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.*

*2 Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.*

*3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

Fanfare and March

Purcell/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.

 **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."

 **Rummage Sale Pack-up** -We invite folks to come help pack up the leftovers from the Rummage Sale after worship on 10/5.

 **Peace & Global Witness Offering** - A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Give at lovejoyupc.org/give or put cash/check in one of the Peace & Global Witness Offering Envelopes in the Narthex.

 **Blood Drive:** Thursday, October 9, 1-6 pm. Register at lovejoyupc.org and click next steps.

 **Movie Screening & Panel: Evicting the American Dream:** Friday, Oct. 10, 7PM. Join us for the screening of this new documentary that focuses on the systemic roots of eviction and homelessness. We'll also hear from community leaders about how we can work toward a more just community for all our neighbors.

 **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.

Leaf Peeping & Lunch Bus Trip Hosted by the Fellowship Committee: Sunday, November 2nd at 11:30 AM. Great River Road & Pere Marquette Lodge - Room for 49 Guests - Door Prizes!!!! Grand Prize!!!! There is a signup sheet on the table in the Narthex.

 **Food Pantry Needs:** Toilet Paper your donations are always appreciated.

A Place of Grace Upcoming Events - Website: <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegville.net/upcoming-events.html>

- Afternoon Selah Retreat October 16, 2025 1:00 AM → 4:00 AM
- Worship and Wonder Morning Retreat - October 14, 2025 9:30 AM → 11:30 AM
- Evening Prayer Art Retreat - October 16, 2025 6:00 PM → 9:00 PM

 **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. 3

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), Paula Blair, Jeane Slayden, Mike Carnes.

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