

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brough

Semmann
Bell Choir

* Call to Worship

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**
though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.
**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
**Behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.**
Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.
**The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our stronghold.** **Psalm 46**

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 383

Dream On, Dream On
*I Dream on, dream on, children of peace, Till on earth God's
kingdom come. Wolf and lamb will feed together; lions Like oxen
will eat straw. Dust shall be the Serpent's food; no one shall
destroy Or hurt. Children of earth in all colors. Live in peace
and harmony.*

*2 Hope on, hope on, Easter people: beyond The cross, a dawning
sun. Christ, our peace, Broke down all barriers: nation, culture,*

tribe, And clan. Reconciling us to God, Christ made Us one human race, joined in peace and liberation, lead by justice hope and love.

3 Mount up, mount up, like an eagle to the heights, beyond the clouds. Strife and sorrow shall not stop you; pain and tears shall lose their power. Even though the young may stumble, God the Lord renews their strength. They shall run and not grow weary; They shall walk and not faint.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God,
you brought forth the world for the love of Christ,
Yet we have lived in rebellion and turned away from
our created purpose.
We have acknowledged the Lordship of Christ with our lips,
but we have not honored him with our lives.
We have served the idols of wealth and privilege;
we have sought the protection of violence to oppose violence;
we have lived in fear of death and loss;
we have not loved our neighbors,
nor sought reconciliation with our enemies.
Therefore we pray that you instruct our hearts
in the ways of peace and empower us
to live as citizens of your realm.
Free us for joyful service for the sake of the world,
in Christ's name, we pray. Amen**

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

Jeremiah 23: 1-6

23 Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. 2 Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. 3 Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. 4 I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. 5 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Second Reading

Colossians 1: 11-20

11 May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled[a] you[b] to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. **13** He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.[c] **15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; **16** for in[d] him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. **17** He himself is before all things, and in[e] him all things hold together. **18** He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Anthem

Come, Let Us Sing

Govenor

Gospel Reading

Luke 23: 33-43

33 When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus[a] there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”]][b] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 35 And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah[c] of God, his chosen one!” 36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, 37 and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” 38 There was also an inscription over him,[d] “This is the King of the Jews.” 39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding[e] him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah?[f] Save yourself and us!” 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence

of condemnation? 41 And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” 42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into[g] your kingdom.” 43 He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Sermon

✚ Responding

* Affirmation of Faith

Belhar Confession

We believe ... that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the Church of Jesus Christ; ...that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the Church and must be resisted; ...that this unity can be established only in freedom and not under constraint; that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures, are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the one visible people of God; That true faith in Jesus Christ is the only condition for membership of this Church;

Therefore, we reject any doctrine which absolutizes either natural diversity or the sinful separation of people in such a way that this absolutization hinders or breaks the visible and active unity of the church, or even leads to the establishment of a separate church formation; ...which denies that a refusal earnestly to pursue this visible unity as a priceless gift is sin; which explicitly or implicitly maintains that descent or any other human or social factor should be a consideration in determining membership of the church.

* Hymn 274

You Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

*1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd.
You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
You, peace-maker and sword-bringer
of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, whom we both scorn and crave.*

*2 Clothed in light upon the mountain,
stripped of might upon the cross,
shining in eternal glory,
beggared by a soldier's toss,
you, the everlasting instant;
you who are both gift and cost.*

*3 You, who walk each day beside us,
sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow,
have a love that reaches wide.*

*You, the everlasting instant;
you, who are our pilgrim guide.*

*4 Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victory;
worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, who are our death and life.*

Announcements

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 Joys and Concerns

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.*

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 260

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

*I Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone!
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of every nation*

has redeemed us by his blood."

*2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us;
faith believes nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise:
"I am with you evermore"?*

*3 Alleluia! Bread of angels,
here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.*

*4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heaven your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest;
here on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

Spirituoso

Scarlatti

✚ 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.

 **Joy In Giving: Stewardship for 2026** As our church leaders plan for our ministries next year, we invite you to consider how God is calling you to give. Please return a pledge card in the offering basket, church office, or submit your pledge online at lovejoyupc.org/pledge.

Game Day: November Game Day is 11/22 from 2:00 to 5:00; December Game Day is 12/20 from noon (12:00) to 3:00 or whenever.

Family Movie Night: Sunday, November 23 at 6 PM Free dinner followed by a viewing of the hilarious movie at 7pm, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. **Sign-up Sheet is on the table in the narthex!**

Bible Study and Lunch Bunch are canceled this Wednesday.

Congregational Meeting to Elect Church Officers - November 30 after worship

All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend as we elect elders, deacons, and nominating committee members to serve as church leaders for the upcoming terms. Zoom voting will be available for those unable to attend in person.

 **Red Cross Blood Drive:** December 4th at 2-6pm. Sign up at lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps.

Christmas Lights Bus Tour: On Sunday evening December 7 starting at 4:00 p.m. the Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a Christmas Lights Bus tour. A sign up sheet is in the narthex. **The deadline for participants' is November 30.**

 **Christmas Bake Sale** – Our Christmas Bake Sale will be December 13th. Save The Date!

 **Food Pantry Needs:** Personal Care Items. Shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, etc. Your donations allow us to help others and are always appreciated.

 **Christmas Boxes:** Please see our Christmas Food Box display in the narthex and take a flier if you'd like to donate.

A Place of Grace Walk to Bethlehem: November 30 - December 24

On the first Sunday of Advent, we will embark on our annual trip to Bethlehem with the practice of embodied prayer. Each day, you'll receive a meditation by email or in the private Facebook Group. You are asked to report your mileage each day with 2000 steps equaling one mile or 20 minutes of movement equaling one mile. Collectively, our goal will be to get to Bethlehem by Christmas morning. We have yet to make that happen, but we keep trying! Will this be the year? Invite your friends! RSVP by 11/29! PS We have FIFTEEN WALKERS registered so far! That's 17.1 miles per person per day. If you can't walk that far, INVITE MORE FRIENDS!!!! :) **Please RSVP by 11/30:** <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegvillo.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](#).
- **Bible Class: New Advent Sunday School Series starts November 30 at 9AM**, The Rev. Dr. Linda Shugert will lead us as we begin a series called "Through the Wilderness: Healing for a Weary World." Join us as we hear the prophet Isaiah speak into our own weary world.

Wednesdays at LoveJoy United

- **Lectionary Bible Study** In-Person or Zoom at 10:15 AM - Join pastor Daniel 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), Paula Blair, Jeane Slayden, Mike Carnes, Eli (The Paddock's grandson), David Norris, Jo Carter, Steve (Cousin of Cyndy Shumway).

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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Rev. Daniel Ervin, Pastor | daniel@lovejoyupc.org

Tabitha Nail, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper