

✝ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Prelude

Rebikoff/Blake

* Call to Worship

In the waters of baptism,
God marks us as kindred in his name.
In the waters of baptism,
**the heavens open up
and the Spirit pours out love.**
In the waters of baptism,
God names us Beloved.
In the waters of baptism,
God claims us as her own.

* Prayer of the Day

* 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.*

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God,
you claim us and call us,
you support us and uphold us,
you save us and free us from our sin.
Yet we slip into old habits,
worshiping idols that have claimed our hearts,
disregarding our impact on the earth and our neighbors.
Forgive us.
Meet us at the water again,
that we might know we belong to you...**

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
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.*

*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

Isaiah 42:1-9
Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
2 He will not cry or lift up his voice,

or make it heard in the street;
3 a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
4 He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
5 Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
6 I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,[a]
a light to the nations,
7 to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
8 I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
9 See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Anthem

The Gift of Love

Hopson

Second Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. **14** John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” **15** But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. **16** And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. **17** And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved,[a] with whom I am well pleased.”

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

✦ Responding

Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons

Sentences of Scripture There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.
**There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.**
God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.
**To each is given a gift of the Spirit
to be used for the common good.**
Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

Profession of Faith With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
Do you believe in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of Ordination and Installation and Laying on of Hands
Charge to newly Ordained and Installed
Charge to the Congregation

* Hymn 482

Baptized in Water
*1 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
heirs of salvation,
trusting the promise,
faithfully now God's praises we sing.*

*2 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our King;*

*one with his rising,
freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praises we sing.*

*3 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit,
we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praises we sing.*

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 Call to Prayer 471

*O Lord, hear our prayer.
O Lord, hear our prayer.
When we call, answer us.
O Lord, hear our prayer.
O Lord, hear our prayer.
Come and listen to us.*

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 313

*Lord, Make Us More Holy
I Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy;
Lord, make us more holy,
until we meet again:
holy, holy, holy,*

until we meet again.

*2 Lord, make us more loving;
Lord, make us more loving;
Lord, make us more loving,
until we meet again:
loving, loving, loving,
until we meet again.*

*3 Lord, make us more patient;
Lord, make us more patient;
Lord, make us more patient,
until we meet again:
patient, patient, patient,
until we meet again.*

*4 Lord, make us more faithful;
Lord, make us more faithful;
Lord, make us more faithful,
until we meet again:
faithful, faithful, faithful,
until we meet again.*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

Sortie

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.

 **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.

Congregational Meeting, January 25 after worship

The annual meeting of the congregation will be January 25. The purpose of the meeting will be for the congregation to vote on the Session's recommended changes to the pastor's terms of call. They will also present the 2026 budget to the congregation. **Annual Reports from church committees and ministries should be given to Tabitha by January 18th so they can be printed.**

Game Day - January 24th 2-4pm - Join us in the Fellowship Hall for fun and fellowship!

 **Blood Drive:** Blood products collected at our December 4 drive have been delivered to patients in need of vital care at: Barnes-Jewish Hospital — St. Louis, Christian Hospital North East, Memorial Hospital East, and Missouri Baptist Medical Center St. Louis. Our next Blood Drive is **February 5th at 1pm**. Go to <https://lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps&signups> to register.

 **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 Feasting On The Word.
- **Bible Class: New Advent Sunday School Series starts November 30 at 9AM**, The Rev. Dr. Linda Shugert 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 Gremlı & the Gremlı 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, Julie Spurgeon, Becky & Rich Davis and Ray Bently (Friends of Linda Allen).

NURSING & RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS

The Cottages of Carlinville, Carlinville – Shirley Martin
Villa Rose, Bethalto – Beth Forrester
Cedarhurst, Bethalto – Mary Barnes, Linda Duncan, Lee McCoy
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

www.lovejoyupc.org | (618) 254-5880

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

Tabitha Nail, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper