

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Gigue

Handel

* Call to Worship

To those who want to follow him,
Jesus asks, “What are you seeking?”
**Teacher, we do not seek worldly power,
but a better way to live.**
“What are you seeking?”
**Teacher, we do not seek worldly wealth,
nor the prizes of paradise,
but simply to be with you.**
“What are you seeking?”
**Teacher, we do not seek worldly praise or fame,
only that you call us by name. Amen.**

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 410

God Is Calling through the Whisper
1 *God is calling through the whisper
of the Spirit’s deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties
that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;
hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?*

2 *God is calling through the voices
of our neighbors’ urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption
and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing;
strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling—can you hear?
God is calling—can you hear?*

3 *God is calling through the music
of sublime and human arts,*

*through the hymns of earth and angels,
and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing;
days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling—and we hear!
God is calling—and we hear!*

Prayer of Confession

**We do not always wait with patience.
We do not always sing your praises.
We do not always recognize your work in our lives.
We would rather take the credit for ourselves.
We would rather take the easy way out.
We would rather step on others
if it means more for ourselves.
Forgive us for all the ways we forget you.
Help us to delight to do your will.
Help us to trust in you
and return us to the path of righteousness.**

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

Psalm 40:1–11
I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
2 He drew me up from the desolate pit,[a]
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.

3 He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear
and put their trust in the Lord.
4 Happy are those who make
the Lord their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.
5 You have multiplied, O Lord my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you.
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.
6 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.[b]
Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.
7 Then I said, "Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.[c]
8 I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart."
9 I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O Lord.
10 I have not hidden your saving help within my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.
11 Do not, O Lord, withhold
your mercy from me;
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness
keep me safe forever.

Anthem

Give to the Lord Honor and Praise

Wilson

Second Reading

John 1:29–42

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared,
"Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
30 This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks
ahead of me because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not
know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that
he might be revealed to Israel." 32 And John testified, "I saw the
Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on
him. 33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to
baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit
descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy

Spirit.’ 34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”[a] The First Disciples of Jesus
35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39 He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed[b]). 42 He brought Simon[c] to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas”[d] (which is translated Peter[e]).

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

✦ Responding

* Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Confession of 1967
**God’s sovereign love is a mystery
beyond the reach of the human mind.
Human thought ascribes to God
superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.
But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ
by showing power in the form of a servant,
wisdom in the folly of the cross,
and goodness in receiving
sinful men and women.
The power of God’s love in Christ
to transform the world
discloses that the Redeemer
is the Lord and Creator
who made all things
to serve the purpose of God’s love.
Amen.**

* Hymn 722

*Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak
1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone.
As you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children lost and lone.*

*2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
the wandering and the wavering feet.*

*O feed me, Lord, that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.*

*3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.*

*4 O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.*

*5 O use me, Lord, use even me,
just as you will, and when, and where
until your blessed face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.*

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 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

*I Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

March

Handel

✦ 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!

Per Capita Giving in the Presbyterian Church

LoveJoy United will pay \$40 per member in 2026 to fund the work of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, and the churches under its care. A portion also goes to the PC(USA), which serves the church's mission around the country and the world. To help the congregation meet this financial obligation, many members of LoveJoy United choose to help offset the cost of Per Capita for themselves or family members. Per Capita for 2026 is \$40/person. You can send a check or pay online at lovejoyupc.org/give. Thank you for your generosity.

 **Food Pantry Needs:** Toilet Tissue

 **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.

Artful Expressions of Grief Retreats - Von Dell Gallery & Studios, 102 E Ferguson, Wood River, IL

This is a six-retreat series that takes place over three months on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month (2/4, 2/25, 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, and 4/22 for the first six-retreat series). Each retreat will feature a different practice in addition to art (no previous art experience required) where companions can receive pastoral care and communal support as they work through grief over any kind of loss. There is a materials fee for this retreat (more info to come). **RSVP by 1/27** Visit: <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegvillo.net/upcoming-events.html>

Grace at the Gallery

You are invited to join us for "Grace at the Gallery" each Tuesday for seven weeks, beginning February 3rd. Same practice all day. Different practice each week! Visit: <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegvillo.net/upcoming-events.html>

Adult Christian Education on Sunday Mornings at 9 AM

- **Sunday Morning Live (Love Room & Zoom)** Is an informal, conversational class that seeks to connect scripture, theology, and faith to our lives and world. They relate current events to Scripture to create thought-provoking discussions via *The Wired Word*.
- **The Bible Class (Fellowship Hall & Zoom), led by Rev. Dr. Linda Shugert**, is exploring the lectionary readings using the curriculum, *Feasting on the Word*.

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 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, 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



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