

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love
Scholtes/Geschke

Bell Choir

* Call to Worship

In the sea of life's daily stress and strife,
in the struggle to keep our heads above the waves,
Jesus calls us from the shore:
"Follow me, and be fishers of people!"
**God gathers us into new boats
built with room for friend and stranger.**

"Follow me, and use your gifts with purpose.
Follow me, and build abundant life."
**We will be weavers of community,
architects of justice,
gardeners of peace.**

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 314

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

*1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.*

*Refrain:
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

*2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. (Refrain)*

*3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,*

shared until all are fed. (Refrain)

*4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. (Refrain)*

*5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. (Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession

**Christ, our Messiah,
you call us to fish for people,
but we are hesitant to leave our boats.
We are afraid to let go of the things we hoard,
believing they make us secure.
We are afraid to put our trust in you,
afraid to follow, afraid we will fail.
Forgive us.
Transform our fear into faithfulness,
and enable us to walk with you,
that we may be part of your work in the world...**

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 9:1-4

9 [a] But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish.

In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

2 [b] The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

3 You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

4 For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Anthem

A Canon of Praise

Sleeth

Second Reading

Matthew 4:12-23

12 Now when Jesus[a] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 13 He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 15 “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— 16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” 17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”[b] 18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21 As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. 23 Jesus[c] went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news[d] of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

* 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 people.
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 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

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 182

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

*1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found him in a resting place,
and he has made me glad.*

*2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.*

*3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till traveling days are done.*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

Thanks Be to Thee

Handel/Stephens

✦ 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, TODAY 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.

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.

Italian Luncheon - We will be having an Italian Luncheon on Sunday, February 15th after worship. Food will be provided. Please sign up via the sign up sheet in the narthex.

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-juliegவில்lo.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-juliegவில்lo.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, Terry Mock (Valerie Freeman's Sister-In-Law), Gary Chappell and Laurie Chappell (Eddie 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

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Tabitha Nail, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper