

✚ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

*They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love*

Bell Choir  
Scholtes/Geschke

\* Call to Worship

In a world that rewards selfishness,  
**it is wise to hoard resources,  
foolish to share.**

In a world built on violence,  
**it is wise to be suspicious,  
foolish to risk compassion.**

But God's wisdom is not the wisdom of the world:

**Greed will not serve us in heaven.**

**Self-preservation will not save us in the end,  
so we will choose to be foolish;  
we will choose the way of love.**

**Let us worship God.**

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 401

*Here in This Place*

*1 Here in this place the new light is streaming;  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken;  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*2 We are the young; our lives are a mystery.  
We are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;  
give us the courage to enter the song.*

*3 Here we will take the wine and the water;*

*here we will take the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away:  
here in this place the new light is shining;  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever;  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God,  
we fail to do what is right.  
Instead, we pursue evil  
and do not speak the truth.  
Even when we try our best to be faithful,  
still we turn away from you.  
Forgive us, accept us, and redeem us,  
that we may seek to do what you call good.**

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

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

2 Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the Lord has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

3 “O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab  
devised,

what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

6 “With what shall I come before the Lord  
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

Anthem

I Have Felt the Touch of God

Larson

Second Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus[a] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and  
after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he began to  
speak and taught them, saying:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of  
heaven.

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for  
they will be filled.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children  
of God.

10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely[b] on my account.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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 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

*If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers*  
To the Tune of *Though I May Speak*

Gillette

*If we just talk of thoughts and prayers  
and don't live out a faith that dares,  
and don't take on the ways of death,  
our thoughts and prayers are fleeting breath.*

*If we just dream of what could be  
and do not build community,  
and do not seek to change our ways,  
our dreams of change are false displays.*

*If we just sing of doing good  
and don't walk through our neighborhood  
to learn its hope, to ease its pain,  
our talk of good is simply vain.*

*God, may our prayers and dreams and songs*

*lead to a faith that takes on wrongs —  
that works for peace and justice, too.  
Then will our prayers bring joy to you.*

## Announcements

## Offering our Gifts

*Give at [lovejoyupc.org/give](http://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.*

## 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

*Prayer*

Schubert/ Brown

Prayer After Communion

## ✠ Sending

\* Hymn 536

*Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen*

*1 Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,  
from this meal of love and grace;  
may we through such love envision  
whose we are, and whose, our praise.  
Alleluia, alleluia:  
God, the wonder of our days.*

*2 Rise, transformed, and choose to follow  
after Christ, though wounded, whole;  
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed  
to release and to console.  
Alleluia, alleluia:  
Christ, our present, past, and goal.*

*3 Rise, remember well the future  
God has called us to receive;  
present by God's loving nurture,  
Spirited then let us live.  
Alleluia, alleluia:  
Spirit, grace by whom we live.*

*4 Service be our sure vocation;  
courage be our daily breath;  
mercy be our destination  
from this day and unto death.  
Alleluia, alleluia.  
Rise, O church, a living faith.*

\* Charge & Benediction

## ✦ 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](https://lovejoyupc.org/pledge).

### **Congregational Meeting is Rescheduled for February 15**

The annual meeting of the congregation will be February 15 after worship. 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](https://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 signup 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-juliegville.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-juliegville.net/upcoming->

 **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), Tom Cunningham (friend of Paula Blair), Connie Anderson (member of College Avenue).

## NURSING & RETIREMENT HOME RESIDENTS

Liberty Village, Maryville – 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

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Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper