

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Grand Chorus on a Welsh Tune

Porter

* Call to Worship

The steadfast love of God surrounds us always —
even in the wilderness!
Thanks be to God! Let us be glad and worship!

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 41

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!
1 O worship the King,
all glorious above!
O gratefully sing
God's power and God's love:
our shield and defender,
the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor
and girded with praise.

2 O tell of God's might;
O sing of God's grace,
whose robe is the light,
whose canopy space,
whose chariots of wrath
the deep thunderclouds form;
and bright is God's path
on the wings of the storm.

3 The earth with its store
of wonders untold,
Almighty, your power
has founded of old;
established it fast
by a changeless decree,
and round it has cast,
like a mantle, the sea.

4 Your bountiful care
what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air;
it shines in the light;

*it streams from the hills;
it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills
in the dew and the rain.*

*5 Frail children of dust,
and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust,
nor find you to fail;
your mercies, how tender,
how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender,
Redeemer, and Friend.*

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful One,
we are so easily tempted.
We turn away from your word so quickly.
We seek anything that claims to save us from
discomfort, inconvenience, pain,
fear, and emptiness.
But these are false idols, dissolving in the wind.
You are our true hope and salvation,
our hiding place, our guide, our guardian.
We confess our transgressions to you:
forgive our sins...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

* Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

* Response Hymn 314

*Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness
I 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.*

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

✚ Word

Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of

Eden to till it and keep it. **16** And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” **2** The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; **3** but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” **4** But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; **5** for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,^[a] knowing good and evil.” **6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Anthem

That Wondrous Cross

Second Reading

Besig

Matthew 4:1-11

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. **3** The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” **4** But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

7 Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; **9** and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” **10** Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” **11** Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

✦ Responding

* Affirmation of Faith

From A Brief Statement of Faith
**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily task
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

* Hymn 167

*Forty Days and Forty Nights
1 Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.*

*2 Shall not we your sorrow share
and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with you to suffer pain?*

*3 Then if Satan on us press,
flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness,
grant that we not faint nor fail!*

*4 So shall we have peace divine:
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine,
such as served you faithfully.*

*5 Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.*

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 414

*Be Still and Know That I Am God
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.*

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 741

Guide My Feet

*1 Guide my feet while I run this race; (yes, my Lord!)
guide my feet while I run this race; (yes, my Lord!)
guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)*

2 Hold my hand . . .

3 Stand by me . . .

4 I'm your child . . .

5 Search my heart . . .

6 Guide my feet . . .

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

Prelude in A Minor

Bach

✦ 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.

 **Lenten Small Groups begin the week of Feb. 22.** This Lent, we are hosting several small groups to deepen our relationships and love for one another through the practice of conversation. Part fellowship and part formation, these gatherings will ready us to better love one another as we serve Christ in community at LoveJoy United. Sign up in the Narthex or at lovejoyupc.org/nextsteps.

Hope, Health, and Healing Series: Today after worship

Debbie Dyle, a resident of Moro, Illinois, will recount her recovery after surviving a heart attack and describe how she now lives a "second life" filled with new goals and impressive physical accomplishments.

Church Women United Lenten Services & Lunches

Starting Ash Wednesday and continuing through Good Friday, community members are invited to attend 30 minute Lenten Services every Wednesday from 12–12:30pm, followed by a \$5 lunch, at area churches. A free will offering will benefit Oasis Women's Center and Crisis Food Center. For dates and locations: <https://bit.ly/3ZoX0S5>.

Food Pantry Needs: Soup and Peanut Butter

Walk to Jerusalem Wednesday, February 18th, the Walk to Jerusalem will begin with daily meditations/spiritual practices via email and Facebook group and podcast, daily check-ins, and our communal effort to walk the 6415 miles to Jerusalem. Register today, and invite friends!! Please RSVP via the form at <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegvillo.net/upcoming-events.html>.

Place of Grace Boomwhacker Choir Retreat February 25, 2026 at 6 PM Von Dell Gallery & Studios, 102 E Ferguson, Wood River, IL If you've never played Boomwhackers, you don't know how much fun you're missing! Join us for these monthly retreats to reflect on the lyrics to hymns of faith and then learn how to play them with others! IT'S SO FUN!! 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 Sandra Monroe, 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 Gremling & the Gremling Family, JoAnn Lamar, Trans folks, Kenny Slayden, Connie, 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), Steve Burton & Sean Boston (relatives of Lynn Boston), Gary Cooper (Kathi Cooper's brother), Chad Cox (friend of Mike Paddock) Joyce Melton (Faye Buerk's friend).

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

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Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper