

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

*Toccata in D Minor*

Paradisi

\* Call to Worship

The Lord God keeps us, saves us,  
and protects us in times of trouble.  
**Our help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.**

Rick Buzzard

Even when fear strikes us,  
we know that we are safe,  
for we belong to God.  
**We shall never be shaken or moved,  
for we are shadowed by God's almighty hand.  
We lift our voices together in thanks and praise.**

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 37

*Let All Things Now Living*  
1 *Let all things now living*  
*a song of thanksgiving*  
*to God our Creator triumphantly raise;*  
*who fashioned and made us,*  
*protected and stayed us,*  
*by guiding us on to the end of our days.*  
*God's banners are o'er us;*  
*pure light goes before us,*  
*a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:*  
*till shadows have vanished,*  
*all fearfulness banished,*  
*as forward we travel from light into light.*

2 *By law God enforces,*  
*the stars in their courses,*  
*the sun in its orbit obediently shine;*  
*the hills and the mountains,*  
*the rivers and fountains,*  
*the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.*  
*We too should be voicing*  
*our love and rejoicing;*  
*with glad adoration, a song let us raise,*  
*till all things now living*  
*unite in thanksgiving:*

*to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!*

Prayer of Confession

**Teacher,  
you call us to go,  
following the plan that you have set out for us.  
You promise us blessings and purpose,  
but we do not trust your words.  
We cling to what we already know,  
we trust in what we can see and touch,  
we make excuses for our failure to trust in you.  
Call to us again,  
that we may be born again through your Spirit.  
Help us to believe  
and give us the abundant life  
that comes from following your will...**

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*  
*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.*

*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 12:1–4a

**12** Now the LORD said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. **2** I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ **4** So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Anthem

*Remember Me*

Governor

Second Reading

John 3:1–17

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.  
2 He came to Jesus[a] by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ 3 Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’[b] 4 Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ 5 Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.[c] 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You[d] must be born from above.”[e] 8 The wind[f] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ 9 Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can these things be?’ 10 Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 11 ‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you[g] do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.[h] 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.16 ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.17 ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through 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 686

*God of Our Life*

*1 God of our life, through all the circling years,  
we trust in thee.*

*In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,  
thy hand we see.*

*With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,  
we own thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.*

*2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand.*

*With us abide.*

*Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land.*

*Be thou our guide.*

*With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,  
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.*

*3 God of the coming years, through paths unknown  
we follow thee.*

*When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone.*

*Our refuge be.*

*Be thou for us in life our daily bread,  
our heart's true home when all our years have sped.*

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 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.*

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

*Elevation*

*Benoit*

Prayer After Communion

### ✠ Sending

\* Hymn 441

*Hear the Good News of Salvation  
1 Hear the good news of salvation:  
Jesus died to show God's love.  
Such great kindness! Such great mercy!  
Come to us from heaven above.  
Jesus Christ, how much I love you!  
Jesus Christ, you save from sin!  
How I love you! Look upon me.  
Love me still and cleanse within.*

*2 All the sins I have committed,  
to my Savior now I bring.  
I bow down with tears of anguish;  
Christ forgives and so I sing:  
Jesus Christ, how much I love you!  
Jesus Christ, you save from sin!  
How I love you! Look upon me.*

*Love me still and cleanse within.*

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

*How Excellent is Thy Name*

Doran

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

### **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**

**Movie Night: On March 8,** we will gather for Sunday Night at the Movies starting at **6:00** with a brown bag supper. The movie for the evening is *Because of Winn Dixie*. Based on the beloved heartwarming book, this movie is a tale (or “tail”) of a girl and the four-legged friend who changes not only her life but also the life of many eccentric residents of the small town into which she and her preacher father have recently moved. We are going to try something new in the food department this time: a brown bag supper. Attendees will be asked to bring their own supper (usually something like a sandwich with or without chips—or perhaps a salad). Coffee, iced tea and dessert will be provided. **Come at 6:00 with your supper in hand prepared to share time in conversation with friends and then enjoy the movie at 7:00.**

**Trivia Night Friday, March 20 Fellowship Hall Doors open at 6:15pm Trivia starts at 7:00pm.** \$15.00 per person Maximum table of 8. The winning table receives money back. 10 rounds of questions. MULLIGANS - 10 for \$10.00 one allowed per round. Tea, coffee, water and popcorn will be provided. Heads or Tails during Intermission. PRESBYTERIAN PIES RAFFLED AT INTERMISSION. For tickets, please contact John Shugert 314-374-1018 or Chuck Randall 618-623-8781.

**Walk to Jerusalem** We're OFF! 30 companions reported 433 miles this week of the 6415 mile trek to Jerusalem. It's not too late to join us <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegvillo.net/upcoming-events.html>.

## Grace at the Gallery: Selah Retreats

Lament is a practice we don't often indulge, but with everything happening in the world today, we need to. A Place of Grace Selah Retreats offer an opportunity to express your lament through word, breath, and movement. We'll be offering Selah Retreats ALL DAY on Tuesday, March 3rd; choose your time!

See the schedule at <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegvillo.net/graceatthegallery.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 Gremler & the Gremler 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 Austin'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 Bentley (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), Joe Phillips.

## 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