

✝ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Meditation

Jensen

* Call to Worship

As children of God, we dwell in the Spirit,
and the Spirit dwells in us.

Jenny Wyatt

**We are alive in the Spirit
through the righteousness of God.**

In humility and faith, we come to worship the One
who gives us life, hope, and healing.

**God has brought us to this moment
and will guide us still.**

Praise the Lord!

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 291

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Refrain:

*Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free.*

*Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.*

*1 You moved on the waters;
you called to the deep;
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons
you called to each thing,
"Awake from your slumbers
and rise on your wings." (Refrain)*

*2 You swept through the desert;
you stung with the sand;
and you goaded your people
with a law and a land.
When they were confounded
with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets
to open their eyes. (Refrain)*

3 You sang in a stable;

*you cried from a hill;
then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still.
And down in the city,
you called once again
when you blew through your people
on the rush of the wind. (Refrain)*

*4 You call from tomorrow;
you break ancient schemes;
from the bondage of sorrow
the captives dream dreams.
Our women see visions;
our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions
your people arise. (Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession

**God of resurrection,
We know the power of death.
We have seen its works,
we have felt its sting.
We have been to the valley of despair,
and felt like there was no chance for life.
We do not believe in your power to resurrect.
We do not believe in your power to redeem our pain,
and fashion something beautiful in this world.
Forgive us.
We cry from the depths—
however faint our call may be,
we pray you hear our voice.**

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

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

2 Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

4 But there is forgiveness with you,

so that you may be revered.

5 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

6 my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

7 O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,

and with him is great power to redeem.

8 It is he who will redeem Israel

from all its iniquities.

Anthem

I Will Arise

Buffaloe

Second Reading

John 11:1-45

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. 7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." 8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. 10 But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." 11 After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." 12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." 13 Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. 14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. 15 For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples,

“Let us also go, that we may die with him.” 17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus[d] had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles[e] away, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21 Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” 23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24 Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” 27 She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” 28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” 29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34 He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” 35 Jesus began to weep. 36 So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” 37 But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” 38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” 40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” 43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” 45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

✦ 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 250

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

*1 In the bulb there is a flower;
 in the seed, an apple tree;
 in cocoons, a hidden promise:
 butterflies will soon be free!
 In the cold and snow of winter
 there's a spring that waits to be,
 unrevealed until its season,
 something God alone can see.*

*2 There's a song in every silence,
 seeking word and melody;
 there's a dawn in every darkness,
 bringing hope to you and me.
 From the past will come the future;
 what it holds, a mystery,
 unrevealed until its season,
 something God alone can see.*

*3 In our end is our beginning;
 in our time, infinity;
 in our doubt there is believing;
 in our life, eternity.
 In our death, a resurrection;
 at the last, a victory,
 unrevealed until its season,
 something God alone can see.*

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 209

My Song Is Love Unknown

*1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.*

*O who am I
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh, and die?*

*2 He came from heaven's throne
salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own
would not its Savior know.
But O my Friend,
my Friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend!*

*3 Sometimes we strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day
hosannas to our King.
Then "Crucify!"
is all our breath,
and for his death
we thirst and cry.*

*4 Unheeding, we will have
our dear Lord made away,
a murderer to save,
the prince of life to slay.
Yet steadfast he
to suffering goes,
that he his foes
from thence might free.*

*5 Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine:
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my Friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude

There is a Redeemer

Green/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.

Church Directory Updates: Please be sure that your information in the directory is up-to-date. Tabitha will be

printing the directory next month. Please have all updates in by March 31st. Email Tabitha at admin@lovejoyupc.org or call the office to make changes.

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>.

Game Day

Saturday, March 28th at 2pm. Join us as we learn to play Bunco!

Holy Week at LoveJoy United

Holy week and Easter are the high point of the Christian Year. This year we'll be joining our ministry partners at A Place of Grace for both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Palm Sunday is 3/29 at 10:15. Maundy Thursday (Potluck) is 4/2 at 6 PM. Good Friday is 4/3 at 7 PM.

Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner

Sign up for the Maundy Thursday Potluck on April 2nd at 6pm. Meat and drinks will be provided. Please sign up for either a salad, vegetable or dessert.

Food Pantry Needs: Soup and Peanut Butter

A Place of Grace Events

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-juliegville.net/upcoming-events.html>

Boomwhacker Choir: March 25, 2026 6PM Von Dell Gallery & Studios, 102 E Ferguson, Wood River, IL
Boomwhackers are plastic tubes played by "whacking" them with your hand. No previous musical experience is required to play in a Boomwhacker Choir. What you can expect: learning to read music, reflection on and conversation around the lyrics of hymns of faith and the ways in which we connect with them, and an opportunity to play music in community with others. We would love for you to join us! RSVP Visit: <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegville.net/upcoming-events.html>

One-on-One Retreats: March 26, 2026 1:30 PM Von Dell Gallery & Studios, 102 E Ferguson, Wood River, IL
Thursday retreats are by appointment only. Schedule by email: juliegville.aplaceofgrace@gmail.com or by calling/texting 618-410-5060.

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 Gremli & the Gremli Family, JoAnn Lamar, Trans folks, Kenny Slayden, Connie, Mark Carter, Tom and Jupiter, Shelly Devore (Brenda and Deb's niece), Brittany, Bill Lester, Lanny Harris, John Kennedy, Renee Lynn, Forrest, David Hemphill, Linda Duncan, 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, 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), Joe Phillips, Hughie (Sandy Franke's Son).

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

www.lovejoyupc.org | (618) 254-5880

Rev. Daniel Ervin, Pastor | daniel@lovejoyupc.org

Tabitha Nail, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper