

✙ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Elevation

Benoit

\* Call to Worship

The heavens declare the glory of God.  
**The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.**  
The plants and trees show God's presence.  
**Let us join with creation in praising God.**

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 14

*For the Beauty of the Earth*  
*1 For the beauty of the earth,*  
*for the glory of the skies,*  
*for the love which from our birth*  
*over and around us lies:*

*Refrain:*  
*Lord of all, to thee we raise*  
*this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*2 For the wonder of each hour*  
*of the day and of the night,*  
*hill and vale, and tree and flower,*  
*sun and moon, and stars of light: (Refrain)*

*3 For the joy of ear and eye,*  
*for the heart and mind's delight,*  
*for the mystic harmony*  
*linking sense to sound and sight: (Refrain)*

*4 For the joy of human love,*  
*brother, sister, parent, child,*  
*friends on earth, and friends above,*  
*for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)*

*5 For thyself, best gift divine*  
*to the world so freely given;*  
*for that great, great love of thine,*  
*peace on earth and joy in heaven: (Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession

Giver of life, in the midst of a plundered earth

we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**  
Giver of life, in the midst of poisoned water  
we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**  
Giver of life, in the midst of polluted air  
we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**  
Giver of life, in the midst of mountains of waste  
we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**  
Giver of life, in the midst of rising seas,  
we groan with creation: **Have mercy on us.**  
Giver of life, forgive us  
and make us agents of healing  
for the good of your creation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray...

### Assurance of Forgiveness

#### \* Passing of the Peace

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

#### \* Response

*Christ Is Risen*

*Vladimir Morosan*  
In American Folk Style

*Christ is risen from the dead,  
trampling down death by death,  
and upon those in the tombs  
bestowing life.*

### ✠ Word

#### Time with the Children

#### Prayer for Illumination

#### First Reading

Isaiah 11:6-9

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

9 They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

#### Anthem

Song of Praise

Rasley

#### Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-5a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven

and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2  
And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of  
heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.  
3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
“See, the home[a] of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell[b] with them;  
they will be his peoples,[c]  
and God himself will be with them;[d]  
4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.”  
5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am  
making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these  
words are trustworthy and true.”

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

## ✦ Responding

\* Affirmation of Faith

*An Affirmation of Faith for Earth Day*

**We believe in a creating God  
who delights in the Earth and calls it good.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit  
who moves through creation like a mighty rushing wind.  
We believe in Jesus of Nazareth  
who calmed the seas and told stories of  
mustard seeds, birds, and valleys.  
We believe that humanity is undeniably intertwined with  
creation,  
and that creation is undeniably intertwined with God.  
Therefore, we believe our faith calls us to care for creation:  
to plant flowers,  
to speak tenderly to animals,  
to thank the Earth for her bounty,  
to clean the streams,  
to protect the forests,  
and to live like we are standing on holy ground,  
because we are. Amen.**

\* Hymn 22

*God of the Sparrow*  
*1 God of the sparrow*  
*God of the whale*  
*God of the swirling stars*  
*How does the creature say Awe*  
*How does the creature say Praise*

*2 God of the earthquake*  
*God of the storm*

*God of the trumpet blast  
How does the creature cry Woe  
How does the creature cry Save*

*3 God of the rainbow  
God of the cross  
God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace  
How does the creature say Thanks*

*4 God of the hungry  
God of the sick  
God of the prodigal  
How does the creature say Care  
How does the creature say Life*

*5 God of the neighbor  
God of the foe  
God of the pruning hook  
How does the creature say Love  
How does the creature say Peace*

*6 God of the ages  
God near at hand  
God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy  
How do your children say Home*

## 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 470

*There is a Longing in Our Hearts  
There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,  
for you to reveal yourself to us.  
There is a longing in our hearts for love  
we only find in you, our 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 13

*The Mighty God, with Power Speaks*

*1 The Mighty God with power speaks,  
and all the world obeys;  
from dawn until the setting sun,  
God's wonder earth displays.  
The perfect beauty all around  
from Zion's height shines forth;  
and stars across the firmament  
so brightly beam their worth.*

*2 God comes not with a silent form,  
but riding on the winds;  
before God's face, the raging storm  
its blast of thunder sends.  
All hail the Judge, in bold array,  
whose promise is to bless;  
who sees our sins, yet also feels  
our thirst for righteousness.*

*3 The heavens declare your justice, Lord,  
as endless as the sky;  
against the taunts of disbelief,  
our God will testify.  
Receive my heartfelt gift of thanks,  
as honor to your might;  
refresh my faith with each new day;  
protect me through the night.*

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

Fugue in C Major

Buxtehude


## ✠ 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*. The Affirmation of Faith is by Rev. Sarah Speed with

## ✦ 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.

 **Earth Day Celebration:** Today, following worship, LoveJoy UPC will be celebrating Earth Day and also our 10-year anniversary of being an Earth Care Congregation. We will have a speaker from Prairie Land Conservancy. Lunch will be served!

**Building and Grounds** meeting today following worship.

 **Food Pantry Needs: Toilet Tissue**

### **Camp: Mission Madness - May 26th at 8AM LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall**

Mission Madness Week! During that week, we work with all five of the agencies we work with through the year, plus we engage in a number of additional Mission Madness activities including the assembly of Good Samaritan bags and Random Acts of Kindness and Mission Madness Workshop crafting. Contact Julie for more information and to register by May 20th. Please RSVP via the web site: <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegillo.net/upcoming-events>

### **Intergenerational Spiritual Formation Retreats - June 9th at 9AM**

**Von Dell Gallery & Studios, 102 E Ferguson, Wood River, IL**

Parents and Grandparents, this is for you! The two-hour retreat times during June Grace at the Gallery Tuesdays will focus on intergenerational spiritual formation retreats. Come and engage in creative spiritual practices with your child(ren)/grandchild(ren) June 9, 16, 23, and 30, during the morning and afternoon retreats (9-11 a.m. and 1:15-3:15 p.m.). Register with Julie or: <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegillo.net/upcoming-events>

### **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, Tom Cunningham (friend of Paula Blair), Connie Anderson (member of College Avenue), Steve Burton & Sean Boston

(relatives of Lynn Boston), Chad Cox (friend of Mike Paddock) Joyce Melton (Faye Buerk's friend), Joe Phillips, Hughie (Sandy Franke's Son) Becky Pontieri (Friend of Deb Goskie).

**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 Burriss

Villas of Holly Brook – Jeane Slayden



**NEXT STEPS  
& SIGNUPS**

**LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church**

2550 Rock Hill Rd, Wood River, IL 62095

[www.lovejoyupc.org](http://www.lovejoyupc.org) | (618) 254-5880

Rev. Daniel Ervin, Pastor | [daniel@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:daniel@lovejoyupc.org)

Tabitha Nail, Admin | [admin@lovejoyupc.org](mailto:admin@lovejoyupc.org)

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper