

✙ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

*Praise*

Scarlatti

\* Call to Worship

Christ is a living stone, precious in God's sight,  
and on him we build our lives.

**We are God's people,  
and we proclaim God's mighty acts,  
for we have been called out of darkness  
and into the light.**

Once we were not a people,  
but now we are God's people;  
once we had not received mercy,  
but now we have received mercy.

**With hearts lifted in praise, we come to worship.**

\* Prayer of the Day

\* Hymn 301

*Let Us Build a House*

*1 Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:*

*Refrain:*

*all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: (Refrain)*

*3 Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine, and wheat;*

*a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: (Refrain)*

*4 Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: (Refrain)*

*Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured,  
taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession

**Christ, our way, our truth, our life,  
you have shown us the way,  
so clearly and fully.  
You have not simply told us how to live,  
you have shown us.  
But we still don't get it.  
We do not believe all you have said to us;  
we do not trust the way you have shown us.  
Help us, O God.  
Forgive us.  
Open our ears to your truth,  
open our eyes to your way,  
and lead us into new life...**

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.*

## Time with the Children

### Prayer for Illumination

#### First Reading

John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe<sup>[a]</sup> in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?<sup>[b]</sup> 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.”<sup>[c]</sup> 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will know<sup>[d]</sup> my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” 8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. 12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If in my name you ask me<sup>[e]</sup> for anything, I will do it.

#### Anthem

*Help Us to Be Like Them*

Besig

Amber Blackmon, flute

#### Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones, let yourselves be built<sup>[a]</sup> into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him<sup>[b]</sup> will not be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup> To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,”<sup>8</sup> and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people,<sup>[c]</sup> in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## ✙ Responding

\* Affirmation of Faith

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967*

**New life in Christ takes shape in a community  
in which people know  
that God loves and accepts them  
in spite of what they are.  
They therefore accept themselves  
and love others,  
knowing that no one has any ground  
on which to stand,  
except God's grace. Amen.**

\* Hymn 300

*We Are One in the Spirit*

*1 We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;  
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:*

*Refrain:*

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love,  
by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*2 We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;  
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,  
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
(Refrain)*

*3 We will work with each other; we will work side by side;  
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,  
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: (Refrain)*

*4 All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: (Refrain)*

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.*

### 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 643

*To God Be the Glory*

*1 Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who, from our mothers' arms,  
hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.*

*2 O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in God's grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.*

*3 All praise and thanks to God,  
who reigns in highest heaven,  
to Father and to Son  
and Spirit now be given:  
the one eternal God,  
whom heaven and earth adore,  
the God who was, and is,  
and shall be evermore.*

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

*Voluntary*

Stanley


## ✦ 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.

**The Building and Grounds Committee** will meet on May 3rd following worship.

## Food Pantry Needs: Canned Vegetables

## Free Concert: Bobby Jo Valentine, May 15 at 7pm.

Come join us for an evening of award-winning, modern folk music that deeply resonates with people from all walks of life. A reception will follow in the Narthex. We will collect a free will offering to benefit the OWLs (Overnight Warming Locations). Learn more at [lovejoyupc.org/concert](https://lovejoyupc.org/concert). Join us and bring friends!

**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, which the many 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. You can send a check or pay online at [lovejoyupc.org/give](https://lovejoyupc.org/give).

## **Grace Camp: Mission Madness - May 26th at 8AM LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall (A Place of Grace)**

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-juliegvillo.net/upcoming-events>

## **Intergenerational Spiritual Formation Retreats - June 9th at 9AM (A Place of Grace)**

### **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 at: website: <https://www.aplaceofgrace-juliegvillo.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 Gremlí & the Gremlí Family, JoAnn Lamar, Trans folks, Kenny Slayden, Connie, Mark Carter, Tom and Jupiter, 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, Huey (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 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](http://www.lovejoyupc.org) | (618) 254-5880

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

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper