

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Rayford Raby  
Guest Musician

\* Call to Worship

Bless our God, O peoples;  
let the sound of praise be heard!  
God has kept us among the living  
and has not let our feet slip.  
We went through fire and through water,  
**yet God has brought us out to a spacious place.**

Robert Musgrave–Perkins

Come and hear what God has done for us,  
all who fear God.  
Surely God has listened to us  
and heard our prayers!  
**Blessed be God, who is steadfast love.**

\* Prayer of the Day

Faithful God,  
through all the ages, you have kept your promises.  
You have freed us  
from the powers of scarcity and death  
for abundant new life.  
Stay with us as we wait and watch for your Spirit  
with excitement and hope,  
that we may experience your love  
and share it with our lives,  
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

\* Hymn 12

*Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise*  
1 *Immortal, invisible, God only wise,*  
*in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,*  
*most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,*  
*almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

2 *Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,*  
*nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:*  
*thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;*

*thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.*

*4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!*

Prayer of Confession

**Holy One,  
We love you imperfectly:  
we do not always keep your commandments.  
We love each other imperfectly:  
we hurt those you call us to love  
through our actions and our inaction.  
We love ourselves imperfectly:  
we struggle to believe that we are truly your children,  
made in your image.  
Forgive us.  
By the power of your Spirit,  
make us more faithful  
that we might live as Christ has shown us,  
reflecting your love and grace...**

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

**Living God, with joy we celebrate  
the presence of your risen Word.  
Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit  
so that we may proclaim the good news  
of eternal and abundant life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## First Reading

### John 14:15–21

15‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

18‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

## Special Music

## Second Reading

### Acts 17:22–31

22Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said,

“For we too are his offspring.”

29Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

## Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

## ✦ 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 327

*From All That Dwell Below the Skies*

*1 From all that dwell below the skies  
let the Creator's praise arise:*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Let the Redeemer's name be sung  
through every land, in every tongue.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*2 In every land begin the song;  
to every land the strains belong:*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*In cheerful sound all voices raise  
and fill the world with joyful praise.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*3 Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;  
eternal truth attends thy word:*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
till suns shall rise and set no more.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

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

*Great God, to you we give our thanks;  
your steadfast love endures forever.  
With gratitude we bring our gifts to you.  
Bless us and our gifts,  
that our lives and our resources  
may be a source of healing and hope,  
of joy and justice in our world. Amen.*

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 54

*Make a Joyful Noise to God!*

*1 Make a joyful noise to God!  
All creation sings your praise!  
Great your wonders here displayed,  
unexcelled throughout our days.  
Glorious is your sacred name,  
ages old, yet still the same.*

*2 Come and see what God has done,  
great the blessings to the just:  
walked the chosen through the sea,  
brought their enemies to dust.  
Let us lift a thankful voice  
for God's mercies, and rejoice!*

*3 Bless the Lord, our refuge sure;  
let our songs of praise be heard!  
By whose justice, we are tried;  
by whose grace, our guilt deferred.  
When our life's sure end shall come,  
bring us to your heavenly home.*


\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

## ✦ 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*.

## ✦ Announcements

Announcements marked with  are opportunities that relate to our Matthew 25 commitment.

### 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, and 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).

### **A Place of Grace Camp: Mission Madness - May 26th at 8AM**

#### **At 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>

### **A Place of Grace: 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 at website: <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.

## ✦ 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.

## ✦ In our Prayers

Barb (Linda Smith's daughter)  
Becky Pontieri (Friend of Deb Goskie)  
Bill Lester  
Brittany  
Cathy Lister (Karen Auston's sister)  
Chad Cox (friend of Mike Paddock)  
Connie  
Connie Anderson  
(College Avenue)

David Hemphill  
David Norris  
Forrest  
Gary Chappell and Laurie Chappell (Edie Chappell's Family)  
Huey (Sandy Franke's Son)  
Jeane Slayden  
Jo Carter  
JoAnn Lamar  
JoAnn Moss  
Joe Phillips

John Gremlı & the Gremlı Family  
John Kennedy  
Joyce Melton (Faye Buerk's friend)  
Joya Freeman (Valerie and Joe's DIL)  
Julie Spurgeon  
Kenny Slayden  
Lanny Harris  
Linda Duncan  
Mark Carter

Pat Fletcher  
Paula Blair  
Renee Lynn  
Steve Burton & Sean Boston  
(Lynn Boston's Family)  
Terrye Mock (Joe Freeman's Sister)  
Tom and Jupiter  
Tom Cunningham (friend of Paula Blair)  
Trans folks

### Prayers for those in Nursing and Retirement Homes

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

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper