

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Simple Gifts

Sewell

* Call to Worship

Sing to God; sing praises to God's name.

Alice Buzzard

Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over all.

Listen to hear God's mighty voice.

This sanctuary is filled with God's presence.

Here we receive power and strength from God.

Here we pray together for God's guidance.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to witness.

God draws us together as one people.

Let us worship our God.

* Prayer of the Day

As we worship together, O God, may we live together.

As we live together, O God, may we witness together.

As we witness together, O God, may we journey together.

As we journey together, O God, may we meet together.

As we meet together, O God, may we worship together.

AND may our worship be in you, O God, as you are in us. AMEN

* Hymn 318

In Christ There is No East or West

*In Christ there is no east or west, in
him no south or north, but one great fellowship
of love throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their
high communion find; his service is the
golden cord close binding humankind.*

*Join hands, disciples of the faith, what
E'er your race may be. All children of the
Living God are surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west; in
Him meet south and north. All Christly souls are
One in him throughout the whole wide earth.*

Prayer of Confession

O God, if we suffer, it is usually not because of our loyalty to Christ. When we are glad and shout for joy, it is seldom because we want to celebrate your presence with us. We even forget to say thank-you when, by the power and strength you give us, we accomplish some cherished goal. Our lives are not focused on realizing your rule of love on earth, as in heaven. O God, receive our confession and help us to discipline ourselves in caring discipleship, in Jesus' name. AMEN

Assurance of Forgiveness

* Passing of the Peace

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

* Response 555

*O Lamb of God
O Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world; have mercy on us,
Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.*

Land of Rest

❖ Word

Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

**Spirit of Glory, Spirit of God,
bless us with a word of life this day
to restore, support, and strengthen us
as we seek to be one with you. AMEN**

First Reading

Acts 6:1-15

Common English Bible

About that time, while the number of disciples continued to increase, a complaint arose. Greek-speaking disciples accused the Aramaic-speaking disciples because their widows were being overlooked in the daily food service. The Twelve called a meeting of all the disciples and said, "It isn't right for us to set aside proclamation of God's word in order to serve tables. Brothers and sisters, carefully choose seven well-respected men from among you. They must be well-respected and endowed by the Spirit with exceptional wisdom. We will put them in charge of this concern. As for us, we will devote ourselves to prayer and the service of proclaiming the word. This proposal pleased the entire community. They selected Stephen, a man endowed by the Holy Spirit with exceptional faith, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. The community presented these seven to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. God's word continued to grow. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased significantly. Even a large group of priests embraced the faith.

Stephen, who stood out among the believers for the way God's grace was at work in his life and for his exceptional endowment with divine power was doing

great wonders and signs among the people. Opposition arose from some who belonged to the so-called Synagogue of Former Slaves. Members from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and Asia entered into debate with Stephen. However, they couldn't resist the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke. Then they secretly enticed some people to claim, 'We heard him insult Moses and God.' They stirred up the people, the elders, and the legal experts. They caught Stephen, dragged him away, and brought him before the Jerusalem Council. Before the council, they presented false witnesses who testified, 'This man never stops speaking against this holy place and the Law.' In fact, we heard him say that this man Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and alter the customary practices Moses gave us.' Everyone seated in the council stared at Stephen, and they saw that his face was radiant, just like an angel's.

Anthem

We Will Walk in the Light

Besig

Second Reading

John 17:1-11

Common English Bible

When Jesus finished saying these things, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, so that the Son can glorify you. You gave him authority over everyone so that he could give eternal life to everyone you gave him. This is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent. 'I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I shared with you before the world was created. I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from this world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. This is because I gave them the words that you gave me, and they received them. They truly understood that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I'm praying for them. I'm not praying for the world but for those you gave me, because they are yours. Everything that is mine is yours and everything that is yours is mine; I have been glorified in them. I'm no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I'm coming to you. Holy Father, watch over them in your name, the name you gave me, that they will be one just as we are one.

Sermon

Rev. Joy Myers

❖ Responding

* Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, who brings us out of tombs of despair into marvelous light, who rolls away stones of doubt and walks with us on the road to faith. God speaks our name, tells us to not be afraid, and surprises us with creation's glories.

**We believe in the risen Christ, God's promise that death does not
Have the last word, God's Son, who teaches us that we, too, are
Cherished and precious in God's eyes and forever part of the
Beloved community of seekers and followers.**

**We believe we are called to gather for support and encouragement and to
be sent to serve and care. Though We never fully grasp the mystery and
depth of Easter, we have been startled into awareness of the holy in our
lives and been blessed with peace and power which comes from beyond
us – the gifts of the risen Jesus Christ.**

**We believe we are to live as Easter people, living with joy and peace
flowing in us and to others. AMEN**

* Hymn 740

Lead Me, Guide Me (x2)
Lead me, guide me along the way, for if you
lead me, I cannot stray. Lord, let me walk each
day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
I am weak and I need your strength and power
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness your
face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Announcements

Call to Offering

Jesus said to the Father, All mine are yours, and all yours are mine.
**Therefore, let us offer our tithes and offerings to God this day with our
lives and labors in service of Christ's love.**

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

Glorious God, everything that is given to us rains
forth out of the abundance of your love, even
Jesus Christ our Lord.
**Bless these gifts and our lives together that
All we are and all we offer give glory to you;
In the name of Christ, who is the way, truth, and life.
AMEN.**

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Call to Prayer 471

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (x3)
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.

*When I call, answer me, O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.*

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 407

Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers
Spirit divine, attend our prayers, and make this
house your home. Descend with all your
gracious powers. O come, great Spirit, come!
Come as the light. To us reveal our emptiness
and woe. And lead us in those
paths of life where all the righteous go.
Come as the fire and purge our hearts like sacrificial
flame. Let our whole soul an offering be
to our Redeemer's name.
Come as the dove and spread your wings, the wings of
peaceful love. And let the church on
earth become blest as the church above.
Spirit divine, attend our prayers. Make a lost
world your home. Descend with all your
gracious powers. O come, great Spirit, come!

* Charge & Benediction

Sisters and brothers, God loves and cares for each of us.
**Therefore, we cast all anxiety on God, and
keep alert, so that we may remain steadfast
in faith with Christ, who supports and strengthens
us in all things.**

* Postlude


Postlude in D

Rinck

✦ Worship Notes

Ann French is our Director of Music. Thanks to Michael & Robert Musgrave-Perkins 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

New Administrative Assistant and new office hours!

We welcome Hollie Brandstatter as our new administrative assistant. She comes to us having previously served in a similar role at First United Presbyterian Church in Granite City. Hollie will continue to use the same email address: admin@lovejoyupc.org. **Our church office hours are also changing. Hollie will be in the office Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday from 9am to 2pm.**

A Place of Grace Camp: Mission Madness - May 26th at 8AM @ LoveJoy United in 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>

Monsters of the Apocalypse: The Bible Class beginning May 31 at 9am

Join pastor Daniel for a fun, five-week summer Sunday school series beginning on May 31 at 9am. Dragons. Beasts. A great prostitute drunk on the blood of the saints. The book of Revelation has some of the most vivid and strange imagery in all of scripture. Its author, John of Patmos, had some very specific things to say about empire, power, and where our loyalty belongs. Come discover how God might still be speaking through these ancient and powerful words.

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.

❖ This Week at LoveJoy United

Sunday, May 17
8:45 am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
9 am Sunday Morning Live (Love Rm & Zoom)
9 am The Bible Class (FH & Zoom)
10:15 am Worship (Sanctuary & Zoom)

Monday, May 18
10 am Mat Weaving (FH)

Tuesday, May 19
9 am Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6 pm Admin/Finance Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 20
10:15 am Lectionary Bible Study (FH & Zoom)
11:30 am Lunch Bunch
9 am The Bible Class (FH & Zoom)
7 pm Evening Prayer (Zoom)

Sunday, May 24
8:45 am Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
9 am Sunday Morning Live (Love Rm & Zoom)
9 am The Bible Class (FH & Zoom)
10:15 am Worship (Sanctuary & Zoom)
11:15 am Fellowship Hour (FH)

❖ In our Prayers

Barb (Linda Smith's daughter)	John Gremlı & the Gremlı Family
Becky Pontieri (Friend of Deb Goskie)	John Kennedy
Bill Lester	Joyce Melton (Faye Buerk's friend)
Brittany	Joya Freeman (Valerie and Joe's DIL)
Cathy Lister (Karen Auston's sister)	Julie Spurgeon
Chad Cox (friend of Mike Paddock)	Kenny Slayden
Connie	Lanny Harris
Connie Anderson (College Avenue)	Linda Duncan
David Hemphill	Mark Carter
David Norris	Pat Fletcher
Forrest	Paula Blair
Gary Chappell and Laurie Chappell (Eddie Chappell's Family)	Renee Lynn
Huey (Sandy Franke's Son)	Steve Burton & Sean Boston (Lynn Boston's Family)
Jeane Slayden	Terrye Mock (Joe Freeman's Sister)
Jo Carter	Tom and Jupiter
JoAnn Lamar	Tom Cunningham (friend of Paula Blair)
JoAnn Moss	Trans folks
Joe Phillips	

Nursing and 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

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

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

Hollie Brandstatter, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper