

✦ Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

O Come and Sing Unto the Lord

Blake

* Call to Worship

The word of the Lord will not return empty;
it will accomplish all that God intends.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us worship God.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

*For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.*

*For the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.*

*For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.*

*In the just reward of labor,
God's will be done.*

*In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will be done.*

*In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.*

*For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.*

*For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.*

*For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.*

Prayer of Confession

**O God, we are quick to say,
“We didn’t know.”
“We didn’t mean to.”
“We didn’t expect that to happen.”
But we have not tended the soil of our lives.
We let it stay shallow and rocky
by not learning from the experience of others.
We let it be riddled with thorns
by succumbing to our own prejudices.
Life-giving God,
Help us to tend our soil.
Open us to being challenged,
enable us to learn,
so that your word will take root
and bear good fruit in our lives...**

Assurance of Forgiveness

* Passing of the Peace

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

* Hymn Response 582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10–13

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Special Music

The Lord's Prayer

Mallott

Julie Gvillo & Signing Group

Second Reading

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Sermon

Rev. Daniel Ervin

✦ Responding

* Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from *The Westminster Confession*

God in infinite and perfect love, having provided in the covenant of grace, through the mediation and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, a way of life and salvation, sufficient for and adapted to the whole lost race of humankind, doth freely offer this salvation to all people in the gospel. In the gospel God declares his love for the world and his desire that all people should be saved; reveals fully and clearly the only way of salvation; promises eternal life to all who truly repent and believe in Christ; invites and commands all to embrace the offered mercy; and by God's Spirit accompanying the Word pleads with humankind to accept God's gracious invitation. Amen.

A Sower Came from Ancient Hills

*A Sower came from ancient hills
and cast good seed abroad:
his field, ten thousand human hearts;
his seed, the word of God.
And some who listened would not hear,
and some who heard forgot.
But some received in fertile soil
the truth the Sower taught.*

*A Sower walked throughout the land
and, everywhere he trod,
he sowed his life because he was
himself the Seed of God.
But then, atop a barren hill,
beneath a darkening sky,
they threw God's Seed on stony ground
and left it there to die.*

*The Seed was buried deep in death
beneath a blood-red sky,
and deeper still was buried hope
for those who watched him die.
But then, in Joseph's garden fair,
as dawn broke o'er the land,
the Seed, from three days' silent sleep,
awoke at God's command!*

*O Christ, you come among us still,
the Sower and the Seed.
As once you sowed the truth of God
in glowing word and deed,
implant your Word in waiting hearts,
and let it there take hold,
until it bears in fruitful lives
a harvest hundredfold.*

Announcements

Offering our Gifts

Give at lovejoyupc.org/give

*Loose cash offerings benefit our Good Samaritan fund, which helps our neighbors.
Through August 16th, this offering will go toward our mission to buy shoes for local kids
going back to school.*

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Sung Call to Prayer 465, v. 1 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit; O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!*

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 79

Light Dawns on a Weary World

*1 Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.*

Refrain:

*The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.*

*2 Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes.*

*3 Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes.*

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude


Psalm of Joy

Blake

✦ 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



✦ Calendar and Prayer Requests

✦ This Week at LoveJoy United

Sunday, July 12

- 9 am Sunday Morning Live (Love Rm & Zoom)
- 9 am The Bible Class (FH & Zoom)
- 10:15 am Worship (Sanctuary & Zoom)
- 11:30 am Fellowship Hour (FH)

Monday, July 13

- 9 am Food Pantry (FH)
- 10 am Mat Weaving (Hope Room)

Wednesday, July 15

- 10:15 am Lectionary Bible Study (FH & Zoom)
- 11:30 am Lunch Bunch
- 7:15 pm LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club Meeting

Thursday, July 16

- 6:00 pm July Prayer Art Retreat (Von Dell Gallery)

NEXT Sunday, July 19

- 9 am Sunday Morning Live (Love Rm & Zoom)
- 9 am The Bible Class (FH & Zoom)
- 10:15 am Worship (Sanctuary & Zoom)
- 11:15 am Coffee Break (Narthex)

✦ In our Prayers

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| 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 | Jane Heppner |
| Connie Anderson (College Avenue) | Linda Duncan |
| David Hemphill | Mark Carter |
| David Norris | Pat Fletcher |
| Forrest | Paula Blair |
| Gary Chappell and Laurie Chappell (Edie 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 | Winnie Whittaker |

Nursing and Retirement Home Residents

- Liberty Village, Maryville – Shirley Martin
- Villa Rose, Bethalto – Beth Forrester
- Cedarhurst, Bethalto – Mary Barnes, Linda Duncan
- Liberty Village, Jerseyville – Shirley Burris
- Villas of Holly Brook – Jeane Slayden



**NEXT STEPS
& SIGNUPS**

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church

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Hollie Brandstatter, Admin | admin@lovejoyupc.org

Ann French, Director of Music

Joshua Bryant, Custodian & Groundskeeper