LoveJoy United
Presbyterian Church

1st Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026
10:15 AM

Words of Welcome

Prelude — Come, Long-Awaited Savior — Paxton

* Candlelighting Litany

What does *awaken* mean?
***Awaken* means:**
to wake up or cause someone to wake up,
to become aware of something,
to stir up a feeling or an activity.
Why do we light this first candle of Advent?
Like the first chime of a morning alarm clock,
we light this first candle to *awaken* us
from lives on autopilot
and faith on the back burner.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 401 — *Here in This Place*

1
Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2
We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.

3
Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4
Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
you have promised us that your kingdom is on the way.
Nevertheless, we confess that we have grown tired of waiting,
and what patience we have left is quickly blurring into apathy.
Instead of living joyfully in anticipation of your future,
we hit the snooze button on our faith,
we scroll endlessly on our phones or through the news,
we rush through this season of waiting,
oblivious to who we are waiting for.
Forgive us, we pray.
Startle us again with your Spirit,
so that we may awaken at the sound of our name...

Assurance of God's Grace

* Passing of the Peace

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

* Hymn Response 107, v. 1 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door
and lives now inside us forever.

✣ Word

Time with the Children

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading — Isaiah 64:1-9

64:1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Anthem — Bless Us All — Paul Williams

Second Reading — Mark 13:24-37

24 "But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 “Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 27 Then he
will send out the angels and gather the[a] elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to
the ends of heaven.

28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its
leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you
know that he[b] is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away
until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not
pass away.

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the
Father. 33 Beware, keep alert,[c] for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man
going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and
commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when
the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or
else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep
awake.”

Sermon **Awaken** **Rev. Daniel Ervin**

✣ Responding

Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Confession of 1967
Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.
His faith and obedience were the response
of the perfect child of God.
He was the fulfillment
of God’s promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation,
and the pioneer of the new humanity.
He gave history its meaning and direction
and called the church to be his servant
for the reconciliation of the world. Amen.

Hymn 94 *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

1
Now the heavens start to whisper,
as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen
to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted,
child to spring from Jesse’s stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline,
hearts grow soft to welcome him.

2
Heavy clouds that block the moonlight
now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness
shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor,
gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness;
hearts grow warm to welcome him.

3
Christ, eternal Sun of justice,
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
come to bless with fire and fragrance
hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger,
in the outcast, hid from view:
child who comes to grace the manger,
teach our hearts to welcome you.

Announcements

Offering our Gifts — *Give at lovejoyupc.org/give*
Loose cash offerings benefit our Good Samaritan fund, which helps our neighbors, particularly through Riverbend Family Ministries.

Prayer of Dedication

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Sung Call to Prayer — Come Now, O Prince of Peace, v. 1,3

Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

Come now, and set us free, O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

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 384 *Soon and Very Soon*

1
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
we're going to see the King!

2
No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
No more crying there: we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
we're going to see the King!

3
No more dying there: we are going to see the King.
No more dying there: we are going to see the King.
No more dying there: we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
we're going to see the King!

4
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
we're going to see the King!

*Charge & Benediction

* Postlude Praise! Ritter

✣ Worship Notes

Parts of today's worship are adapted from the *Book of Common Worship* and *Call to Worship*.
Thanks to Michael & Robert Musgrave–Perkins for running our media system.

✣ Land Acknowledgement

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.











✣ Calendar and Prayer Requests

✣ This Week at LoveJoy United

THIS Sunday, November 29- 1st Sunday of Advent

8:45 am Choir Rehearsal
9 am Sunday Morning Live (Love Rm & Zoom)
9 am The Bible Class (FH & Zoom)
10:15 am **Worship**
11:30 am Coffee Hour (Narthex)
7 pm Advent Small Group C (Pastor's House)

Monday, November 30

Christmas Wonderland Walkthrough (Rock Springs Park)

10 am Mat Weaving (Hope Room)
1pm Advent Small Group B (Cedarhurst Senior Living)
6:30 pm Advent Small Group A (Church/Zoom)

Tuesday, December 1

9 am Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6 pm Mission and Outreach Committee

Wednesday, December 2

10:15 am Lectionary Bible Study (FH/Zoom)
5:45 pm Cantata Rehersal
7 pm Evening Prayer (Zoom)



Saturday, December 5

Saturday Café

10 am Jo Carter Visitation
12 pm Jo Carter Funeral Service
1 pm Jo Carter Memorial Dinner

NEXT Sunday, December 6- 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:45 am Choir Rehearsal
9 am Sunday Morning Live (Love Rm & Zoom)
9 am The Bible Class (FH & Zoom)
10:15 am **Worship and Communion**
11:30 am Coffee Hour (Narthex)
7 pm Advent Small Group C (Pastor's House)

✣ In our Prayers

Amy Camie
Barb (Linda Smith's daughter)
Becky Pontieri (Friend of Deb Goskie)
Bill Lester
Brittany
Cathy Lister (Karen Auston's sister)
Cindy Chauvin (Mike & Mag Paddock's daughter)
Connie Anderson (College Avenue)
David Hemphill
David Norris
Donna Kay (Family of Carol Hanold)
Forrest
Gary Chappell (Family of Edie Chappell)
Huey (Sandy Franke's Son)
Jane Heppner
Jeane Slayden
Friends and Family of Jo Carter
JoAnn Lamar
JoAnn Moss
Joe Phillips
John Kennedy
Joya Freeman (Valerie and Joe Freeman's DIL)
Joyce Melton (Faye Buerk's Friend)
Julie Spurgeon
Kenny Slayden
Laurie Chappell (Family of Edie Chappell)
Linda Duncan
Pat Fletcher
Renee Lynn
Sue Harris
Terrye Mock (Joe Freeman's Sister)
Tom Cunningham (Friend of Paula Blair)
Tom and Jupiter
Gremi Family
Trans Folks
Chris Allen (Stepson of Linda Allen)
James Bradley (Son of Cindy Mayhew)
Beth Mabb
Scott Thompson
Jessica Rigler
Sherri Ulett
Pat Kelly (friend of Janet Riley)

Nursing and Retirement Home Residents

Liberty Village, Maryville – Shirley Martin
Villa Rose, Bethalto – Mary Barnes, Betty Langenwalter
Stearns in Granite City – Beth Forrester
Cedarhurst, Bethalto – Linda Duncan
Villas of Holly Brook – Jeane Slayden

NEXT STEPS & SIGNUPS

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church
2550 Rock Hill Rd, Wood River, IL 62095
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

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