



Worship
Presbytery Gathering
August 24, 2023

Gathering

Words of Welcome

* Call to Worship

from Psalm 9

We will give thanks to you, O LORD, with our whole heart;
we will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
We will be glad and exult in you;
we will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 835

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Awesome and compassionate God,
you have loved us with unfailing,
self-giving mercy, but we have not loved you.
You constantly call us, but we do not listen.
You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need,
wrapped in our own concerns.
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.
God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and
in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.
Amen.**

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

* Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings

Genesis 33:1–12
Acts 15:36–41
2 Timothy 4:11b

Sermon

God's Power of Reconciliation is Through Love

Rev. Jimmie Hawkins

* Hymn 317

In Christ There Is No East or West

Table

Offering our Gifts

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church has designated the Boys and Girls Club of Alton as the beneficiary of today's offering. Please make checks out to "GLPBY" with Gathering Offering in the Memo Line and place them in the offering baskets. You may also give online: <https://bit.ly/3l2ruF3> under "Gathering Offering."

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

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 of the People

Please come down the center aisle and receive a piece of bread and a cup of juice (red) or wine (white). 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.

Prayer after Communion

Sending

* Hymn Insert

Jesus Be With Us

* Charge & Benediction

Worship Notes

Portions of today's service are adapted from the Book of Common Worship and The Worship Sourcebook.

We are grateful for our host, LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church.

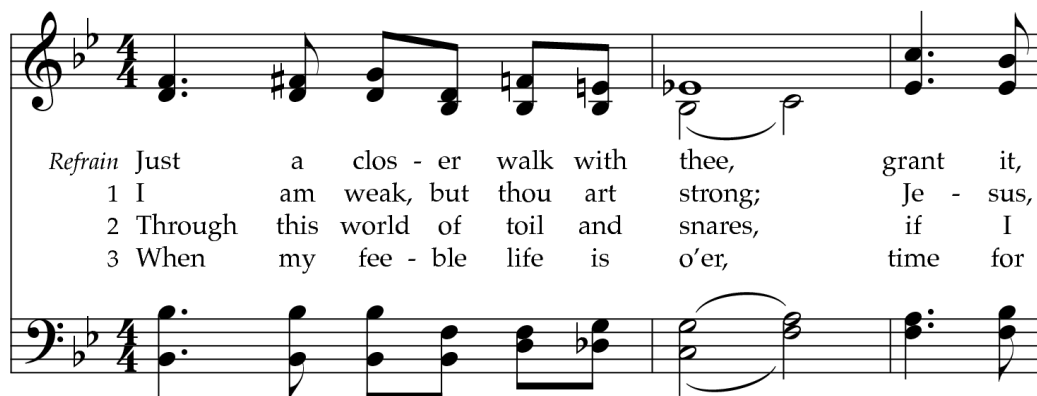
Special thanks also to Larry Strohbeck, who is our musical accompanist.

Land Acknowledgment

We gather today at LoveJoy United 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.

Just a Closer Walk with Thee 835



Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it,
 1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus,
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for



Je - sus, is my plea, dai - ly walk - ing close to
 keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
 fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
 me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly



thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
 long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*
 shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*
 o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. *Ref.*

The chromatic musical style of this anonymous short hymn suggests that it probably dates from the early 20th century. It also seems to owe much of its popularity to radio broadcasts and recordings as well as to evangelistic meetings and singing conventions of that era.

Jesus, Be with Us

A hymn for Matthew 25 churches in the PC(USA)

Swing ♩ = $\overset{\sim}{\underset{\sim}{\underset{\sim}{\text{J}}}}^3$

Refrain Je - sus, be with us. Help us each day to fol - low the

gos - pel and live as we pray. Send us your Spir - it and

show us your way. Je - sus, be with us to - day.

Leader 1 Where there is hun - ger and thirst in the land,
or all 2 Where there is ha - tred be - cause of our skin,
 3 Where there are val - leys of bones, dry as dust,

shat - ter the sys - tems of greed.
 break down the walls of our fear.
 build up the bod - y of Christ.

Je - sus, be with us; make use of our hands.
 Je - sus, be with us to save us from sin.
 Je - sus, be with us, and help us to trust.

Lift up your great peo - ple in need.
 In your love, draw us near.
 Teach us a new way of life.

This hymn celebrates God's work through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Matthew 25 invitation (pcusa.org/matthew25)—eradicating systemic poverty, dismantling structural racism, and building congregational vitality. The refrain is based on Matthew 1:23, "and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us,'" and Jesus' closing words in Matthew 28:20, "I am with you always, to the end of the age."