



# WORSHIP

*Sanctuary*

September 17, 2023

*There is nothing but God's grace. We walk upon it; we breathe it; we live and die by it; it makes the nails and axles of the universe. ~ Robert Louis Stevenson*

## THE GATHERING

### PRELUDE

*Etude in E Major*  
Gloria Song, piano

F. Chopin

### WELCOME

Rev. Brian Paulson

### ❖ CALL TO WORSHIP - *Psalm 24:1; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18*

Leader: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it;

People: **the world, and those who live in it.**

Leader: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

All: **You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself.**

### ❖ HYMN #610

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley

**Almighty God, you have granted us grace in the life of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Yet we hoard your blessing of grace as if something precious might be lost if our hearts make the risk of sharing kindness and forgiveness. We close our hearts, close our minds, and we we close our hands far more often than we care to admit. But today in your presence, and in the presence of our siblings in Christ, we confess the error of our ways. Forgive our sin, O God. Open our hearts with the goodness of your grace. Help us risk the spiritual work of forgiveness. Make our faith more than just lip service. Teach us a disciplined life of goodness and grace. Thank you for loving us, O God. Thank you for helping us live new lives.**

*(Silence for personal confession.)*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

### ❖ GLORIA PATRI (*Glory to God*)

Hymnal #581

### ❖ PASSING THE PEACE

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Gary Holland

### FIRST READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE *Genesis 50:15-21*

### ANTHEM

*Wash Me Thoroughly* Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810 - 1876)  
Chancel Choir - David Edelfelt, director

### SECOND READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE *Matthew 18:21-35*

### ❖ BLESSING THE CHILDREN

(As the congregation stands to sing, children are greeted and depart for Sunday School)

❖ THE SENDING SONG - HYMN #649 *Amazing Grace* (vv. 1 & 2) AMAZING GRACE

1. *Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was bound but now I'm free.*

2. *'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!*

SERMON

*Forgive and Live*

Dr. Paulson

### THE RESPONSE

### MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

### ❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*2022 Statement on the War in Ukraine by the national Consistory of The Evangelical Reformed Church in the Republic of Poland*

In the face of recent events, we see, first and foremost, the tragedy of ordinary people forced to experience the nightmare of war. As Christians, we want to help our neighbors in need. We call on all people of good will - all those who are not indifferent to the fate of others - to look for ways of reconciliation and to make plans for help as a wave of people seeking safety and shelter reaches us. As a Church, we want to actively help, support and provide for those who need it. That is why we appeal to our churches, pastors and parishioners to actively participate in aid projects.

As Christians, we call for prayer in which we will all ask God for peace and rescue for those who now have to face the reality of ongoing military operations. The biblical text, the revelation of God in his Word, speaks of God as a Rock, a Rescuer, a Giver of Peace and a Peacemaker. Let us ask the Lord of the Church to give His Spirit now to all those in need of comfort and support, but also to give wisdom to those who have any influence on the development of the situation. God is able to turn hearts of stone into hearts of flesh so we ask God to influence the course of events this time so that all those involved act in accordance with God's commandments - observe God's Law of Love and live it.

### TABLE TALK

MOMENT FOR MISSION - Rev. Marek Kucharski-Chancellor, Evangelical School of Theology, Wroclaw, Poland

### INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: We give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### OFFERING

*Thanks Be to Thee*  
Chancel Choir

George Frederick Handel (1685 - 1759)

### ❖ PRAISE GOD - HYMN #608 (*The Doxology*)

PRAISE GOD

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, DEDICATION, AND 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.

### ❖ HYMN #410

*God Is Calling through the Whisper*

W ZLOBIE LEZY

### THE SENDING

### ❖ CHARGE AND BLESSING

### POSTLUDE

*Largo from Xerxes*  
Gloria Song, organ

G. F. Handel

# Community Notes

Learn more in our online *Parish Life* newsletter at [www.firstpreslibertyville.org](http://www.firstpreslibertyville.org)

The flowers in the sanctuary today are placed to the glory of God by Bill & Kathy Chapman in celebration of their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Sept. 24; and by Amy Kite in memory of her mother, Kathleen G. Decker.

## Sunday, September 17

- 10:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Brian R. Paulson and Chancel Choir
- 10:00 AM Worship in the Chapel with Kim Mendoza, M.Div., and Chapel Music Team
- 10:20 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Social Hour (Social Hall & Courtyard)
- 11:10 AM Junior/Senior High Choir (Sanctuary)
- 11:15 AM Conversation with Rev. Mark Kucharski about Ukraine and Poland (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:15 AM Confirmation Class
- 11:15 AM Alpha Omega Chimers (Belfry)
- 4:00 PM JHF (Youth Lounge)
- 5:30 PM Dinner for Parent of Youth (Social Hall)
- 5:30 PM: Youth Bells (Belfry)
- 7:00 PM SHF (Youth Lounge)

## Tuesday, September 19

- 12:00 PM Lunch & Learn with Rev. Dr. Brian R. Paulson (Social Hall)

## Thursday, September 21

- 9:00 AM Bel Canto Ringers (Belfry)
- 4:15 PM Cherub Choir (Chapel)
- 4:15 PM Faith Choir (Sanctuary)
- 4:30 PM Joyful Noise Choir (Choir Room)
- 6:00 PM Chapel Music Team (Chapel)
- 6:30 PM Motet Choir (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)

## Sunday, September 24

- 10:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary with Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley
- 10:00 AM Worship in the Chapel with Rev. Dr. Brian R. Paulson
- 10:20 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Social Hour (Social Hall & Courtyard)
- 11:15 AM Confirmation Class

## Sunday, October 1 - World Communion

- 10:00 AM Combined Communion Worship in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Brian Paulson, Chapel Music Team & Chancel Choir
- 11:15 AM Tackle Hunger Tailgate (Brainerd Field)
- 4:00 PM JHF & 7:00 PM SHF (Youth Lounge)

### Upcoming Events

- Lunch & Learn with Rev. Dr. Brian R. Paulson (Sept. 19)
- Tackle Hunger Tailgate (Oct. 1)
- Adult Ed Series: "Doing the Right Thing" (Oct. 6, 13 & 20)
- Inquirers Class for Prospective New Members (Oct. 8 & 15)
- World Mission Conversations with Luciano Kovacs (Oct. 14 & 15)
- Women's Fall Retreat with Rev. Melanie Hammond Clark (Oct. 21)
- Love Every Neighbor: "Exploring Filipino-American Perspectives" (Oct. 22)
- Coffee & Conversation with Pastors George & Regina Moore (Oct. 29)
- Men's Overnight Retreat with Rev. Dr. Craig Howard (Nov.10-11)

## Today

### Conversation about Ukraine & Poland at 11 a.m.

Rev. Marek Kucharski, Chancellor of the Evangelical School of Theology in Wroclaw, Poland, will join us after worship in Fellowship Hall for a conversation about the Polish protestant church and its support of Ukrainian and other refugees in Poland.

### **Dinner for Parents of Youth at 5:30 p.m.**

Parents of middle school and high school students, join us for a special dinner **tonight** from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in Social Hall. We will walk through the programming calendar, share some resources, and fellowship around some food. Ultimately, we hope it is a time for parents to know one another as we all seek to nurture the faith of our youth. Youth are welcome to attend Email your RSVP to Pastoral Resident, Kim Mendoza at [kmendoza@boxp.net](mailto:kmendoza@boxp.net). We hope to see you there!

### **Tuesday**

#### **Lunch & Learn with Rev. Dr. Brian R. Paulson on Sept. 19**

Join us on Tuesday, Sept. 19 from 12-1:30 p.m. for the fall kick-off of our monthly Lunch & Learn series. Dr. Paulson will share stories from his journey to Poland during his sabbatical. Brian will share about the work of partner churches to shelter and equip Ukrainian refugees and will describe the journey of an interfaith delegation of religious leaders from Chicago and what they learned about the history of Judaism leading up the holocaust and beyond. RSVP at [www.firstpreslibertyville.org](http://www.firstpreslibertyville.org) or call the church office at 847-362-2174.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Home Team: Volunteers needed on Sept. 30**

Join us on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 10:30 a.m. to help with our fall garden clean-up efforts on Maple Avenue! Bring your own garden gloves and tools and help us keep our church grounds beautiful! Questions? Call the church office or email Gini Baker at [GBReadLA@hotmail.com](mailto:GBReadLA@hotmail.com)

#### **Tackle Hunger Tailgate on Oct. 1**

Grab your favorite team jersey and join us on Brainerd Field right after worship on Oct. 1 for the Tackle Hunger Tailgate! We'll have games for all ages, hotdogs and other treats and we'll be selling raffle tickets to help end hunger in Lake County. Donations of canned goods and other non-perishable food items are encouraged!

#### **Inquirers Class for Prospective New Members**

If you've been worshipping with us and are thinking of becoming a member of First Pres Libertyville, we invite you to attend our Inquirers Class to discover more about our church and how we are joined together by God's love. Join us on Sunday, Oct. 8 and Sunday, Oct. 15 from 11:15 a.m. -1:30 p.m. upstairs in the Conference Room. If you choose to formally join the church, you'll meet with our Session on Monday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. and then be recognized in front of the congregation on Sunday, Oct. 22. Please email us at [office@boxp.net](mailto:office@boxp.net) or call 847-362-2174 for more information!

#### **Women's Retreat on Oct. 21 with Rev. Melanie Hammond Clark**

Join us for our Women's Fall Retreat at Ragdale Retreat Center in Lake Forest, where we'll delve into the theme: **"NEXT? When Everything Is Unraveling, What Comes Next? Opening Our Hearts & Listening to God."** In a world marked by change, unpredictability and anxiety, this retreat invites you into practices to help you lean into deeper trust in God. Rev. Melanie Hammond Clark, a spiritual director with a passion for deepening discipleship and igniting spiritual transformation, will guide us on our journey. For more information and to secure your spot, visit our website for a link to the registration page. Questions? Call the church office at 847-363-2174.

#### **World Mission Conversation with Luciano Kovacs**

Join us after worship on Sunday, Oct. 15 for a special presentation on World Mission with Luciano Kovacs, Area Director for the Middle East and Europe on behalf of PC(USA) World Mission.