



WORSHIP

Sanctuary

September 8, 2024—Rally Day

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. ~ Galatians 5:22-23

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude, Fugue, and Chaconne
Gloria Song, organ

D. Buxtehude

WELCOME

Rev. Brian Paulson

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Ricky Christian

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing!

❖ HYMN #308

O God in Whom All Life Begins

NOEL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world.

Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas.

The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation.

We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression.

Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

(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 & BLESSING THE CHILDREN

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Preston Carter

FIRST READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 26:1-13

ANTHEM

We Are Called

B. S. Mayo

Chancel Choir—David Edelfelt, director; Youth Choir—Gloria Song, director; Kitty Snyder, piano; Adam Gohr, trumpet

SECOND READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:16-26

❖ HYMN #292

As the Wind Song

WAIKUA TAPU

SERMON

Flourish!

Dr. Paulson

THE RESPONSE

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—*Philippians 2:5–11*

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

TABLE TALK

SESSION REPORT

Elder Liz White

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

Illumined By Your Light
Chancel Choir; Judy Brame & Ed Koehler, percussion

J. E. Clemens

❖ 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.

THE SENDING

❖ HYMN #36

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

❖ THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Festive Trumpet Tune
Gloria Song, organ

Douglas Wagner

❖ *Please stand in body or in spirit, as you are comfortable.*

Community Notes

Learn more in our online *Parish Life* newsletter at www.firstpreslibertyville.org

The flowers in the sanctuary today are placed to the glory of God by the Kowal family with love and in memory of their mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Harriet Donndelinger, on her birthday; and by Deb Tischendorf in celebration of Grandparents Day—"Grandparents, we salute you! You put the 'grand' in grandparenting!"; and in the chapel by LeAnn Malecha in honor of the Chapel Music Team!

Sunday, September 8

- 9:00 AM Coffee & Donuts (Sanctuary Portico)
- 9:30 AM Special Meeting of the Congregation (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School (Christian Ed wing)
- 11:00 AM Rally Day (Social Hall)
- 1:30 PM Green Oaks Senior Living Worship Service (Offsite)
- 4:00 PM Junior High Fellowship (Youth Lounge)
- 5:30 PM Youth Bells (Bell Rooms)
- 6:30 PM Youth Leadership Meeting (Youth Lounge)
- 7:00 PM Senior High Fellowship (Youth Lounge)

Monday, September 9

- 9:00 AM Habitat Quilters (Social Hall)
- 6:30 PM Vesper Bells (Bell Room)
- 6:30 PM Deacon Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 PM Scout Troop 71 Meeting (Social Hall)

Tuesday, September 10

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 11

- 7:30 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Zoom)
- 4:00 PM PADS Food Donation Drop-off (Sanctuary Narthex)

Thursday, September 12

- 9:00 AM Bel Canto Ringers (Bell Room)
- 4:20 PM Faith Choir (Sanctuary)
- 4:30 PM Cherub Choir (Chapel)
- 6:00 PM Chapel Music Team (Chapel)
- 6:30 PM Motet Choir (Sanctuary)
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)

Saturday, September 14

- 8:30 AM God's Gardeners (Winchester Road garden)

Sunday, September 15

- 10:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School for PreK-8th Grade (Christian Ed wing)
- 11:00 AM Social Hour (Social Hall)
- 11:15 AM Cuba Partner Coffee & Conversation (Chapel)
- 11:15 AM Summer Book Read Discussion (Dougherty Room)
- 11:15 AM Trinity Choir – Junior & Sr High (Choir Room)
- 11:15 AM Alpha Chimers (Bell Room)
- 11:45 AM Confirmation (Youth Education Room)
- 1:30 PM Sedgebrook Senior Living Worship Service (Offsite)
- 4:00 PM Junior High Fellowship (Youth Lounge)
- 5:30 PM Youth Bells
- 7:00 PM Senior High Fellowship (Youth Lounge)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Coffee & Conversation with Rev. Maricela Gonzalez (Sept. 15)
- Chicago Presbytery Meeting (Sept. 17)
- Summer Book Discussions (Sept. 15 & 18)
- Christian Nationalism Webinar (Sept. 19)
- Tackle Hunger (Sept. 29)

PADS Food Collection on Wednesdays: Drop off on Wednesdays between 4-6 PM in the Sanctuary Narthex. See our website and our Parish Life newsletter for the specific items needed.

Coffee & Conversation: Come meet Rev. Maricela Gonzalez from our partner church in San Nicolas de Bari, Cuba. She'll be in worship with us next Sunday, Sept. 15. Following worship, she'll be in the chapel to share more in depth about her congregation and the situation in Cuba.

Book Discussion on *The Sum of Us*: Please join First Pres for our all-church summer book read of Heather McGhee's *The Sum of Us*, sponsored by the Committee on Anti-Racism and Equity (CARE). Brian Smith will be leading an in-person book discussion next Sunday, Sept. 15 from 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM in the Dougherty Room. There will also be a discussion on Wednesday, Sept. 18 from 7:00-8:30 PM via Zoom. Please RSVP using the link in Parish Life.

Presbytery of Chicago Assembly: We're excited to be hosting the Presbytery of Chicago Assembly on Tuesday, Sept. 17. We expect to have about 100 members of the Chicago Presbytery here that day and another 80 or more members will be attending via Zoom. If Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley's nomination to the role of Associate Pastor is approved by the congregation this morning, the Assembly will vote on whether to approve the call. If you would like to attend the meeting, please pre-register using the link in Parish Life. To make sure we have room for all of our presbytery guests, we're asking that members of the congregation use the parking garage on Maple Ave. and to please sit in the chapel balcony or in the chairs that will be set up in the hallway that looks into the chapel from the second floor. Please call the church with any questions!

Confronting White Christian Nationalism Webinar: Join Rev. Amy Heinrich in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, Sept. 19 at 4:45 PM for a webinar hosted by Christian Century and FaithandReason.org featuring three renowned thought leaders on the current state of Christianity in the United States. Dr. Obery Hendricks, Dr. Gary Dorrien, and Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim, are internationally known for their insights on the Christian faith and the role that it can play for those committed to democracy, peace, and social justice. This conversation will explore the challenges that the growing presence of white Christian nationalism poses to congregations and people of faith and conscience.

Bring your dinner, we will supply the beverages. We'll view the webinar together on the big screen and then have conversation facilitated by Rev. Amy. Please RSVP by Wednesday, Sept. 18 using the link in Parish Life or by calling the church at 847-362-2174.

Flower Dedications: If you'd like to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion by dedicating a Sunday worship floral arrangement, please visit our website or call the church office at 847-362-2174.

Sermon Podcasts: Look for our church on the podcast platform of your choice, including Spotify, Apple, and YouTube Music. The sermons are generally uploaded midweek.