



# WORSHIP

*Sanctuary*

July 6, 2025 - BLUEGRASS SUNDAY

## THE GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

Bourbon Aristocracy

WELCOME

Rev. Amy Heinrich

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our God has made all the people of the earth for God's glory and invites us to serve in freedom and in peace.

People: **Therefore we ask God to give our nation a zeal for justice and the strength for forbearance,**

Leader: that we may use our religious and political liberty in accordance with God's gracious will.

All: **Inspire us to live and worship in your freedom, Creator.**

❖ SONG OF PRAISE - HYMN #338

*O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

MATERNA

(Substitute "servanthood" for "brotherhood")

❖ SONG OF PREPARATION

*Down to the River to Pray*

Alison Krauss

*1. As I went down to the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!  
O brothers let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
Come on brothers let's go down  
Down in the river to pray*

*2. As I went down to the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!  
O mothers let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
Come on mothers let's go down  
Down in the river to pray*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Brian Paulson

Our God,

We remember the dream that gave birth to our country and our constitution.

We give you thanks for the holy imagination that envisioned a land of freedom and opportunity—  
a land in which to grow respect for all its citizens.

We give you thanks for all who sacrificed in so many ways to create and to sustain such dreaming.

But we also confess to you the many ways in which we fall short of our best dreaming—  
fall into immaturity, and selfishness—into shortsightedness—  
into too much of a focus on immediate benefits for some with an unsustainable tomorrow for all.

We confess, at times, to honor the dream in word only—not in words made flesh.

Re-instill in us the dreaming, God, with a commitment to future generations  
that theirs should be a better land than ours is now—

with more mature leaders and citizens than we are—

with greater opportunities for the most vulnerable than we have known—

with deeper dignity and compassion for all who reside within our borders—

a farther reaching vision—

with richer examples of freedom and bravery

because that's the way we dream it to be.

Ah, may it be so. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

❖ GLORIA PATRI (*Glory to God*)

Hymnal #581

❖ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## THE WORD

### SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*I Saw the Light*

Hank Williams

*1. I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin  
I wouldn't let my dear Savior in  
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light!*

(Chorus): *I saw the light, I saw the light  
No more darkness, no more night  
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light!*

*2. Just like a blind man, I wandered alone  
Worries and fears I claimed for my own  
Then like a blind man that God gave back his sight  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light!* (Chorus)

*3. I was a fool to wander and stray,  
For straight is the gate and narrow the way  
Now I have traded the wrong for the right  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light!* (Chorus)

An NRSV pew Bible is available for your convenience. You may access other versions with your mobile device at [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com).

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 3:17

Kenny Maxie

### SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Galatians 5:1, 13 - 14, 22 - 23, 25

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley

### ❖ SONG OF BLESSING

Reprise: *I Saw the Light*

### MEDITATION

*Freedom to Love*

Rev. Amy Heinrich

## THE RESPONSE

### ❖ SONG OF AFFIRMATION

*Be Assured*

Roy Block

*1. I'm human, flesh and blood  
Of just one thing I'm sure  
I was made from the dust  
And to dust I will return  
But the dust ain't the end  
Cause in my heart I know  
I'm spirit and so  
To the Father's home I go*

(Chorus): *Be assured, be assured  
If your trusting in the Lord  
All who call on His name  
Are gonna live forever more*

*2. Oh I know, oh I know  
Cause the spirit lives in me  
The spirit of the son  
Says a son I'll ever be  
Well I can be assured  
That my home is up on high  
I found it in the word  
Of the one who'll never lie*

(Chorus x 2)

*3. If you live, if you live  
In the darkness and the fear  
There is love from above  
He will wash away the tears  
Pouring love into you  
The spirit of the son  
Can flow through you  
Into every one*

(Chorus)

Alex Barnes, M.Div.

### TABLE TALK

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE AND THE OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*Saint Anne's Reel*  
Bourbon Aristocracy

Joseph Allard

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

#### Sanctus

*Holy, Holy, Holy (sung in unison)*

Hymnal #552 (v. 1)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.*

#### Words of Institution

**The Great Mystery of Faith** *Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen (sung in unison)*

Hymnal #553

*Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.*

## The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

**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.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

*(Please note that communion is gluten free bread and grape juice so that there may be no barriers to the table.)*

*Hold the bread so we may share it together as a sign of our unity in Christ.  
Drink the cup as it arrives as a sign of your individual communion with your Savior.*

### Communion Music

*Ashokaon Farewell  
Bourbon Aristocracy*

Jay Ungar

## THE SENDING

### ❖ PRAYER OF RESPONSE

**Leader:** You have given yourself to us, Lord;

**People:** Now we give ourselves for others,

**Leader:** Your love has made us a new people;

**People:** As a people of love we will serve you with joy.

**Leader:** Your glory has filled our hearts;

**All:** Source of life, and breath, and being, breathe into the dry dust of our existence.

Nourished in body by bread and juice, may we strive for the nourishment of all bodies:  
may we work to end hunger in this creation that provides amply for all.

Nourished in spirit by the Body which is within our own, may we strive for the incorporation  
of all: may we work to heal our country and break the barriers that divide us from one  
another and from you.

In the love that sustains us, and the Spirit that animates us, may we give all thanks and praise  
to you, O God of all. Amen.

### ❖ SONG OF SENDING

*This Land Is Your Land*

Woody Guthrie

*1. This land is your land, this land is my land  
from California to the New York Island  
from the redwood forests to the Gulf Stream waters  
this land was made for you and me*

*2. As I was walking that ribbon of highway  
I saw above me that endless skyway  
I saw below me that golden valley  
this land was made for you and me*

*3. I've roamed and rambled and I followed my footsteps  
to their sparkling sands of her diamond deserts  
And all around me a voice was sounding:  
This land was made for you and me.*

### ❖ CHARGE AND BLESSING

#### POSTLUDE

Bourbon Aristocracy

*You are welcome to leave in silence during the postlude. Meet and greet joyfully in our Social Hour!*

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

### Sermon Questions for Reflection and courtyard conversation:

*How did this sermon land with your life experience?*

*Was it resonant, dissonant or confusing to you?*

*Independent of your external circumstances, do you experience inner freedom as a gift of God?*

### Bluegrass Band Members

Ryan Hinshaw - fiddle, vocals    Ethan Sellers - guitar, vocals  
Steve Martin - banjo, vocals    Pete Wojtowicz - bass

# Community Notes

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

The flowers today are placed to the glory of God by Amy Kite in memory of her mother, Kathleen Decker, for her birthday on July 5.

## Upcoming Events

Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering (July 19)

Flower Fest Sunday (July 20)

Holy Conversations Luncheon (Aug. 3)

Blessing of the Backpacks (Aug. 10)

**Courtyard Convos:** After worship, come to the Social Hall for coffee and sweets and then join Rev. Amy in the courtyard for the launch of our Courtyard Convos for the opportunity to talk about the message of the day.

**Nursey & Pre-K:** Caregiving is available throughout the summer for children from birth to age 2 in the nursery, and for ages 3–4 in the PreK–K room (Room 105/106). This is a great option for little ones who may not be quite ready to sit through the full service.

**Drive for Independence:** The Deacons are collecting new, everyday household items and non-perishable food items benefiting the Lake County Haven, FIT Moms, the Libertyville Township Food Pantry and the St. Joseph's Food Pantry. Items can be donated through an Amazon Wish List or dropped off under the sign in the Narthex. Please pick up a flyer in the narthex or visit [www.firstpreslibertyville.org](http://www.firstpreslibertyville.org) for more information.

**PADS Food Collection:** Drop off on Wednesdays between 4-5:30 PM in the Sanctuary Narthex. Please visit [www.firstpreslibertyville.org](http://www.firstpreslibertyville.org) for the items that are needed.

## Flower Fest: Bring a Bouquet to Church – Sunday, July 20

Do you have summer flowers blooming in your garden? We'd love for you to share their beauty with the congregation! You're invited to bring a bouquet—large or small, simple or elaborate—to decorate our sanctuary for worship on Sunday, July 20.

**Holy Conversations Lunch:** You're invited to the launch of a new fellowship initiative called *Holy Conversations* on Sunday, August 3 in Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served at 11:15 AM and the program will run from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our topic for August will be "Human and Animal Connections: Exploring the Comfort and Therapeutic Bond Between Us" with guest speakers from Canine 4 Comfort and Green Tree Animal Hospital. Please RSVP online or call 847-362-2174.

**C.A.R.E. Summer Book Read:** Discussions of "The Distance Between Us" by Reyna Grande will be held on Sunday, August 24 at 11:30 a.m. in the Dougherty Room and Wednesday, August 27 from 7-8:15 p.m. on Zoom.