



WORSHIP

Sanctuary

September 21, 2025

THE GATHERING

Scherzo

Gloria Song, organ

Betsy Holmberg (1860-1900)

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Rev. Amy Heinrich

Alex Barnes, M.Div.

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Hope nonetheless.

People: Hope despite.

Leader: Hope regardless.

People: Hope still.

Leader: Hope where we had ceased to hope.

People: Hope amid what threatens hope.

Leader: Hope with those who feed our hope.

People: Hope beyond what we had hoped.

Leader: Hope that draws us past our limits.

People: Hope that defies expectations.

Leader: Hope that questions what we have known.

People: Hope that makes a way where there is none.

Leader: Hope that takes us past our fear.

People: Hope that calls us into life.

Leader: Hope that holds us beyond death.

People: Hope that blesses those to come.

❖ HYMN #610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we must confess that we often speak when we should listen and we fail to speak up when you call us to challenge what is unjust. We often use our words as weapons rather than as sources of healing and hope.

Forgive us for the ways our words have wounded and degraded rather than been instruments of inspiration and encouragement for the upbuilding of community. You have promised that the Spirit will give us the words to speak, so may we wait and listen for your wisdom. May we have the restraint to tame our tongues from hot headed rhetoric that does damage. May we find the grace to speak our truth in love.

(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

❖ SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Our Lord Jesus said:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

❖ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST & BLESSING THE CHILDREN

As the congregation greets one another, children are invited to join our Sunday School teachers and depart for Sunday School.

THE WORD

An NRSV pew Bible is available for your convenience. You may access other versions using your mobile device at biblegateway.com.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Susan Henning

READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 15:21-28 (NRSVue)

ANTHEM

May the Words

William Sharlin

Motet Choir - David H. Edelfelt, director; Gloria Song, piano

SERMON

Speaking Hope Into Being

Rev. Amy Heinrich

THE RESPONSE

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

TABLE TALK

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY - Stewardship 2026

Session Elder Essie Pochron

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

The God of Hope

Mical Thurow

Motet Choir; Gloria Song, piano

❖ **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 #731**

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm

REPTON

❖ **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

❖ **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

O Christ, Surround Me

GREEN TYLER

Voice

Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that hear my voice,

5

V.

Christ in the hearts of all who know me: O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The first staff is labeled 'Voice' and the second is labeled 'V.'. Both staves are in 6/8 time and G-clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a comma, and the second staff begins with a measure rest marked '5'.

❖ *Please rise in body or spirit.*

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Ministers

Officers

Pastor

Associate Pastor

Associate Pastor

Pastoral Resident

Music, Department Head

The Congregation

The Session and the Board of Deacons

The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Paulson (*In Chapel today*)

The Rev. Amy Heinrich

The Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley

Alex Barnes, M.Div.

Gloria Song

A complete list of our staff team is found at FirstPresLibertyville.org

Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley is away visiting family.

Sunday School

Sunday School (Ages 3–8th Grade, 10:15–11:00 AM)

- **Check-in kiosks:** Chapel narthex, Sanctuary narthex, CE Wing
- **Name tags:** For all children (and accompanying adults of younger children)
- **Dismissal:** Teachers/helpers with signs will guide kids to classrooms
- **Pick-up:** Please pick up promptly after worship so leaders can join the Congregational Meeting

Classrooms:

- Ages 3–4 → Rooms 105/106
- Grades K–1 → Rooms 204/205
- Grades 2–3 → Room 209
- Grades 4–5 → Room 202
- Grades 6–8 → Room 207

Need help? Ask any usher or pastor



Community Notes

Church Calendar: www.firstpreslibertyville.org/calendar

Today

10:00 AM Worship in the Chapel & Sanctuary

10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-8th Grade

11:00 AM Social Hour (Social Hall & Courtyard)

3:00 PM Confirmation Class

4:00 PM Junior High Fellowship (Chapel, Youth Lounge & Social Hall)

Next Sunday

10:00 AM Worship in the Chapel & Sanctuary

10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5th Grade

11:00 AM Social Hour (Social Hall & Courtyard)

12:15 PM Fourth & Fifth Grade Fellowship

3:00 PM First Communion Class (Sanctuary)

4:00 PM Junior High Fellowship (Chapel, Youth Lounge & Social Hall)



Parish Life Newsletter: www.firstpreslibertyville.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Phil Butin (Sept. 28)

First Communion Class (Sept. 28)

Cuba Conversation (Oct. 5)

Winter Coat Drive (Oct. 5)

Women's Fall Retreat at Ragdale (Oct. 18)

Love Every Neighbor (Oct. 19)

Inquirers Class (Nov. 9)

Men's Overnight Retreat (Nov. 21-22)

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Men's Tuesday Morning Zoom Bible Study: Back from summer break! Join us every Tuesday at **7:00 AM via Zoom** as we dive into the previous week's sermon scripture, exploring insights and real-life applications. Interested? Reach out to **Brian Tischendorf** at betischendorf@gmail.com to get connected.



PADS Fund Drive: The Deacon Board invites you to support PADS through the annual fund drive. Your generous contributions help PADS leaders provide groceries and essential supplies to keep their facilities fully stocked for those they serve. To give, scan the code or visit our website. If you prefer to give by check, please note "PADS Fund Drive" in the memo line.

Women's Retreat: Recharge your body, mind, and spirit at the "Women's Fall Retreat: Finding Balance" on October 18 at Ragdale, Lake Forest. Enjoy gentle yoga (chair options available), prayer, conversation, a contemplative walk, reflection, and a shared meal. Sign up at firstpreslibertyville.org—Early Bird gets \$5 off!

Men's Overnight Retreat: Men of all ages are invited to the Men's Overnight Retreat with Rev. Dr. Phil Butin, November 21–22 at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, WI. Together we'll step away from daily demands to explore how Christ-like qualities of humility, servanthood, and vulnerability can shape our lives at work, at home, and in our church. Registration is now open! Sign up at www.firstpreslibertyville.org.

Love Every Neighbor: LGBTQ+ Perspectives: Join us on Sunday, October 19 to learn and consider the lived experiences of our LGBTQ+ neighbors through a faith lens. Pizza and salad will be served from 6:00-6:30 PM and the program will run from 6:30-7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Visit www.firstpreslibertyville.org to register.

Anywhere Anytime Bible Podcast for Kids: Rev. Amy Heinrich presents the story of Noah's Ark on our latest "Anywhere Anytime Bible" podcast for kids and families. You can find it on your favorite listening platform.

Feed Our Youth! Shared meals are a key part of our Youth Groups' new format this year, and you can help! Sign up to provide a Sunday dinner through our **Meal Train**. Details are in **Parish Life**!

PADS Food Collection: Donations may be dropped off on Wednesdays between 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary Narthex. Please see www.firstpreslibertyville.org for items needed.