



WORSHIP

Combined Service

January 18, 2026

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Love and Hate

Kiwanuka, Burton & Cover

Chapel Music Team - Adam Hendrickson, director

WELCOME

Rev. Brian Paulson

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Alex Barnes, M.Div.

One: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. We live sustained by God's presence and love.
All: **Thanks be to God.**
One: As we mourn the wounds of God's children,
All: **God weeps with us.**
One: As we give thanks for brothers and sisters who have lived in faith,
All: **God gives thanks with us.**
One: As we struggle for justice,
All: **God struggles with us.**
One: As we strive for peace,
All: **God strives with us.**
One: As we work to build the beloved community,
All: **God works with us.**
One: As we offer our gifts to all,
All: **God blesses us.**
One: Sisters and brothers, rejoice.
All: **Sustained by God's presence and love we worship God.**

❖ HYMN #475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Amy Heinrich

Most holy and merciful God: we have condemned racial injustice in our pronouncements, yet we cling to the privileges derived from social inequities. All too often we are blind to our complicity in maintaining systems of oppression and deferring the hopes and dreams of the oppressed for freedom. Give us the courage to name our sin, give us the strength to claim responsibility for our actions. Give us the grace to pay the price for changing our behavior. Through Jesus Christ we pray.

(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*)

Hymn #581

❖ SUMMARY OF GOD'S COMMANDS

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 welcomed by 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

Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley

FIRST READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE *Genesis 12:1-7, 10-13 (NRSVue)*

ANTHEM

No Rocks A-Cryin'
Chancel Choir - David H. Edelfelt, director; Gloria Song, piano

Rollo Dilworth

SECOND READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE *Romans 4:1-3 (NRSVue)*

HYMN #450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

SERMON

The God Who Calls

Rev. Dr. William Yoo

THE RESPONSE

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land
Bel Canto Ringers - Judy Brame, director

arr. Mark Arnold

- ❖ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** - from writings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Session Elder Essie Pochron

I refuse to believe that we are unable to influence the events around us.

I refuse to believe we are bound by racism, war, and injustice.

I believe those around me are my brother and my sister.

I believe in dignity every day and that our brokenness can be healed.

I believe we can overcome oppression and violence, without resorting to it.

This means I seek to reject revenge and retaliation.

I remember, "Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can.

TABLE TALK

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

OFFERTORY

A Change Is Gonna Come
Chapel Music Team

Sam Cooke

- ❖ **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 #792** *There Is a Balm in Gilead* BALM IN GILEAD

- ❖ **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Come On Up to the House
Chapel Music Team

Waits and Brennan

- ❖ *Please rise in body or spirit.*

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Ministers	The Congregation
Officers	The Session and the Board of Deacons
Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Paulson
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Amy Heinrich
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley
Pastoral Resident	Alex Barnes, M.Div.
Music, Department Head	Gloria Song

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



Community Notes

Church Calendar: www.firstpreslibertyville.org/calendar

Today

- 10:00 AM Combined Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School Pre-K-8th grade
- 11:00 AM Cake Reception sponsored by CARE (Social Hall)
- 11:15 AM MLK Learning Event with Rev. William Yoo (Fellowship Hall)
- 4:00 PM Youth Group for Grades 6-12 (Youth Lounge)

Sunday, January 25—Youth Sunday

- 10:00 AM Combined Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 AM All Church Lunch (Fellowship Hall)
- 12:15 PM 4th & 5th Fellowship
- 4:00 PM Youth Group for Grades 6-12 (Youth Lounge)



Parish Life Newsletter: www.firstpreslibertyville.org

UPCOMING

- Youth Sunday (Jan. 25)
- All Church “Tacos on the Beach” Lunch (Jan. 25)
- Annual Meeting (Feb. 8)
- Volunteer Appreciation Brunch (Feb. 15)
- Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18)
- Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering (Feb. 21)
- Sermon on the Mount Book Study (Begins Feb. 23)

Flower Dedication: The flowers today are placed to the glory of God by Linda and Kirk Ergang in honor of their children: Nick and Alexis Ergang, Santosh and Allison Dawson, and Chris and Emily Pappas.

Our Guest Preacher: We're excited to welcome Rev. Dr. William Yoo, Associate Professor of American Religious and Cultural History at Columbia Theological Seminary, as our guest preacher this morning. Dr. Yoo has published books on African American Christianity, Asian American Christianity, Presbyterian history, and the histories of Indigenous rights activism and abolitionism in the United States. His book, *What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church*, received the 2023 Award of Excellence from the Religion Communicators Council. His most recent book is *Reckoning with History: Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and the Making of American Christianity*. He is a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a member of Cherokee Presbytery.

MLK Day Learning Event with Dr. Yoo: After worship today, visit Social Hall for cake and coffee, hosted by the Committee on Anti-Racism & Equity (CARE), and then head downstairs to Fellowship Hall for an MLK Day learning event with our guest preacher. Highlighting the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. Yoo will speak about how the history of faith and politics can inform how churches today may work toward making a real difference in ending poverty and racism. We hope you'll stay, listen, and join the Q&A as we learn together.

Tacos on the Beach on January 25: It's cold out and we're dreaming of the beach! The Deacons Hospitality Team is hosting an all church "Tacos on the Beach" lunch in Fellowship Hall next Sunday after worship. They'll be serving their popular "walking tacos" along with chips & salsa, fresh fruit, and lemonade. Join us for some warm-hearted fun, food and fellowship!

Church Nursery Childcare Provider: Are you available on Sunday mornings to help provide childcare in the nursery? This is a paid 2.5 hour a week position. The full job description is posted on our website. Call the church office at 847-362-2174 to apply.

Blanket Collection for The Penny's Purpose: Troop 71 scout Andrew Schinler is collecting new and gently used blankets as part of his Eagle Scout project. He's working with Penny's Purpose, a local non-profit organization that provides blankets to organizations that help those in need, including veterans' groups, shelters for people experiencing homelessness, and pet rescue organizations. You'll find the collection box in the hallway just outside the church office through the end of the month.

Youth Sunday & Taco Lunch: Our Youth Sunday worship service is coming up! Join us for this special worship service in the sanctuary on Sunday, Jan. 25. After worship, the Deacons Hospitality Team will be serving a delicious beach-themed lunch in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

Lent Devotion Writers: This Lent, we invite you to lend your voice to our church's annual devotional series. Our theme, "*Hymns of Lent and Easter*," will explore the prayers we sing—songs of lament, hope, repentance, and resurrection that have carried our faith through generations. Whether a hymn has shaped your spirituality, sustained you through a hard season, or opened your heart to new joy, your reflection matters. Writers of all ages and experience levels are welcome. Email abarnes@boxp.net to sign up and help our congregation journey toward Easter, one hymn at a time!