



WORSHIP

Sanctuary

March 15, 2026 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Wherever the waters flow, they bring health. ~ Ezekiel 47:9

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE *Love Divine, All Lives Excelling* arr. Michael Burkhardt
Gloria Song, organ

WELCOME Rev. Brian Paulson

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *Welcome, This Little Light of Mine* Mark Burrow, African Spiritual
Cherub Choir - LeAnn Malecha, director; Ellie Summers, student leader

❖ **HYMN #749** *Come! Live in the Light* WE ARE CALLED

PRAYER OF CONFESSION - by Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy

In your holy love, you have given us so much: talents and treasure in unlimited supply. But often, we spend these on superficial needs. We throw away our plenty on little hungers and petty desires. We seek the fleeting delight of novelty, of prettiness, and of vane. We follow the urges to momentary importance; to the notice of a fickle society more interested in noise and sparkle than in mundane sturdiness. We chase after happiness while neglecting joy; we chase after romance while neglecting love; we skim the surface while fearing the depths.

God of grace, we are hungry. God of mercy, quench our thirst.

Forgive us, we pray, for our fearfulness, as we rely more upon our own human illusions of control and satisfaction, even though we know that these illusions separate us from you. Forgive us for not trusting in your grace, in your abundance, in the covenant promises that you have renewed with every generation. In Christ, may we learn to love you more than we love ourselves.

(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** Barb Gatewood

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 AND 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

FIRST READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE *Isaiah 55:1-3 (NRSVue)*

ANTHEM

The Power of the Cross
Trinity Choir - Kitty Snyder, director; Rose Snyder, piano

arr. Jack Schrader

SECOND READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE *Matthew 5:1-2, 6 (NRSVue)*

❖ HYMN - #796 *We Come to You for Healing, Lord* (vv. 1, 4) LAND OF REST

SERMON *Our Deepest Need* Dr. Paulson

THE RESPONSE

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

❖ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - from *The Confession of Belhar*

We believe

- that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear
Motet Choir - David H. Edelfelt, director; Gloria Song, organ

Jacob B. Weber

❖ PRAISE GOD - HYMN #607 (*The Doxology*) OLD HUNDREDTH

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

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 - #803 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* RESIGNATION

❖ CHARGE AND BLESSING

❖ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - #172 *Blest Are They* (v. 2) BLEST ARE THEY

*Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!*

❖ *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 (<i>in Chapel</i>)
Pastoral Resident	Alex Barnes, M.Div.
Music, Department Head	Gloria Song

*A complete list of our staff team is found at FirstPresLibertyville.org
Alex Barnes is away through March 25 serving with our Waldensian affiliates in Milan.
Rev. Amy Heinrich is away on vacation through March 18.*

Community Notes

Our full Church Calendar & Parish Life Newsletter are available at www.firstpreslibertyville.org

Sunday, March 15

- 10:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-8th grade
- 11:00 AM Pi Day Pie Sale & Social Hour (Social Hall)
- 12:00 PM College Care Packages (Room 207)
- 4:00 PM Youth Group (Youth Lounge)

Monday, March 16

- 2:00 PM Lent Book Study (Conference Room)
- 6:00 PM Lent Book Study (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 18

- 4:00 PM PADS Food Donation Drop-Off (Sanctuary Entrance)

Saturday, March 21

- 7:30 AM Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering

Sunday, March 22

- 10:00 AM Combined Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 AM Social Hour

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering (March 21)

Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday – March 29 at 10:00 AM
Maundy Thursday – April 2 at 5:30 PM
Good Friday – April 3 at 7:30 PM
Easter Sunday – April 5 at 9:00 & 11:00 AM

April

Congregational Gathering #2 (April 12)
Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering (April 18)
Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers (April 19)
Inquirers Class for Prospective New Members (April 19)
Jazz for Cuba Concert (April 19)
Earth Care Sunday & Frog Lady Eco-Fair (April 26)

May

Women's Spring Retreat (May 2)
"This I Believe" Confirmation Service & Celebration (May 9)
Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering (May 16)
Chancel Choir Major Work (May 17)
Congregational Gathering #3 (May 17)
Confirmation & Baccalaureate Sunday (May 31)

Easter Plant Dedications: Celebrate the joy of Easter by dedicating a plant in memory or in honor of a loved one. Dedications will be printed in our Easter Sunday bulletin. The cost is \$13 per plant. Please submit your order by March 23. Plants may be picked up following the 11:00 AM Easter service on April 5. If you would like to donate your plant to our Senior Ministry, simply note that on your order form. The dedication form is in Parish Life and on our website.

Pi Day Youth Fundraiser: The annual Pi Day Pie Sale is today! Come to Social Hall after worship and buy a slice of pie for \$3.14, or a whole pie for \$20, to support our youth programs.

Confirmation Fundraiser: Our Confirmation Class is partnering with One Tree Planted, a global nonprofit dedicated to restoring forests and rebuilding ecosystems around the world and you are invited to support their efforts. Please see Parish Life for details.

Lent Devotions: To start receiving devotions or to be removed from the list, please email mhuber@boxp.net. Please don't use the "unsubscribe" button, as it will remove you from all church emails.

Podcasts: Sunday sermons and our *Anywhere Anytime Bible* podcasts are available on the listening platform of your choice, including Spotify and Apple.

