



# WORSHIP

*Combined Service*



April 26, 2026 - Earth Care Sunday

## THE GATHERING

### PRELUDE

*Give Me Jesus*  
*How Can I Keep from Singing*  
Youth & College Bells, Kirk Townander, director

arr. Larry Sue

### INTROIT

*This Is the Day (Psalm 118)*  
*All of the Animals*  
Cherub Choir - LeAnn Malecha, director; Gloria Song, piano

L. Garrett  
C. & D. Spurr

### WELCOME

Rev. Amy Heinrich

### ❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Friends, listen with all your being so you can hear the call of the earth. Mother Earth is saying, "I'm offering all this for you, to bless you with beauty and teach you my ways of wonder and wisdom."  
People: **We are called from our busyness and distractions to simply BE—grateful—for whispers of wind, refreshing rain and warmth of sunshine, singing birds, clear streams, the blossoms in spring, and the beauty of the four seasons.**  
Leader: May our worship bring enough inner stillness and silence that we may listen more deeply and learn from the creation.  
All: **Let us join everything that lives and breaths in praising our Creator God.**

### PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS OF CREATION

Earth Care Team

### ❖ HYMN #17

*Sing Praise to God, You Heavens*

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

### LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFTS OF CREATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION - *For the Land* by Cole Arthur Riley

Rev. Barb Peter

*(silence for personal confession followed by breath prayer 3x)*

Inhale: I am rooted.

Exhale: This is Holy Ground.

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

### ❖ GLORIA PATRI (*Glory to God*)

Hymnal #581

### ❖ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Children may come forward to the chancel for the children's message.*

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Amy & the Frog Lady  
*At the conclusion of the message, children depart for Sunday School.*

### MOMENT FOR MINISTRY TO ACKNOWLEDGE SERVICE

Gloria Song

### ANTHEM

*Viva la Vida*  
Youth & College Bells, Ed Koehler, percussion

Coldplay, arr. Kirk Townander

## THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READINGS - *Various*

Earth Care Team Member  
*Psalm 8:3-6a; Matthew 6:26-27; Psalm 24:1; Leviticus 25:23-24; Deuteronomy 25:4; Proverbs 12:10; Galatians 6:7-10a; John 3:8a; Psalm 104:24-25; Romans 1:20*

### MEDITATION ON VARIOUS SCRIPTURES *Let the Earth Teach You*

Rev. Amy Heinrich

## THE RESPONSE

### MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH IN ACTION      *One Tree Planted*      Ben Bucciero and Ricky Christian  
Mosaic Garden      Camila Aponte Freeman

TABLE TALK      Alex Barnes, M.Div.

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY      Leadership Team

OFFERING OURSELVES TO CARE FOR GOD'S WEB OF LIFE      Earth Care Team

### 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.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM      *Nothin Gonna Stumble My Feet*      G. Gilpin and J. Parker  
Trinity Choir - Kitty Snyder; director

❖ 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 & AN ECOLOGICAL LORD'S PRAYER - Cláudio Carvalhaes Alex Barnes, M.Div.

**Our God who are in pluriverses, the skies and the earth, blessed be your name: life. May your pulsing life come to be seen, heard, touched and felt through the oceans, the forests, in the rocks, in the life of plants and in the sounds of animals and singing birds.**

**May the atmosphere of the sky that carries our ability to breathe continue balanced as fossil presences are kept under the earth.**

**Give us this day our daily bread through a variety of seeds and grains and leaves without pesticides, without monocultures, from local farms and agro-biodiverse-cultures.**

**Forgive our plundering of the earth, our total lack of relation and reciprocity with the earth and more than human beings; as cells, mycelium, fungi and infinite processes of symbiosis forgive us daily by giving life back when we destroy it.**

**And lead us not into consumerism and devouring the earth, but deliver us from the apathy that says nothing can be changed. For life is kinship and reciprocity. Now and forever. Amen.**

### THE SENDING

❖ CLOSING HYMN #715      *The Earth Belongs to God Alone*      SIMMONS

❖ CHARGE FROM THE LAND

❖ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #36      *For the Fruit of All Creation* (v. 1)      AR HYD Y NOS

❖ *Please stand in body or in spirit.*

**Earth Care Team:** Rev. Barb Peter, Sue Bogseth, Stacey Friday, Sally Kowal, Nancy Roach, Robert Shears, Kelly Nelson, Dana and Chris Sullivan, Rev. Amy Heinrich

### IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

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

*A complete list of our staff team is found at [FirstPresLibertyville.org](http://FirstPresLibertyville.org)  
Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley is away visiting family.*

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT



The land that First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville stands on today was stewarded by hundreds of generations of Native Peoples dating back at least 10,000 years, including the Peoria, Myaamia (Miami), Očhéthi Šakówiŋ (Sioux), Hoocąk (Ho-Chunk), and Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo).

Most recently, Lake County was home to the Bodéwadmi, or Potawatomi Nation, a society centered around villages where people practiced agriculture, hunting, trapping, and artistic crafts. By the late 1700s, the Potawatomi people oversaw a vast network in present-day Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, trading furs and using local waterways like the Des Plaines River and trails like the Milwalky Trace (Milwaukee Road) for transportation. The Potawatomi are still known today for their intricate beadwork designs and sleek birchbark canoes.

As white colonizers entered the area in the early 1800s, the Potawatomi people were forced to cede the land on which they lived and move west of the Mississippi River after signing the 1833 Treaty of Chicago. This removal, which began when the U.S. Senate ratified the treaty in 1835, was brutally managed. As a result, the Nation was scattered, and many people died along the way. Thirty-four years later, our church was founded in Libertyville.

Today, the Potawatomi Nation has established bands in Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Kansas, and Ontario. In addition, the Chicago area is home to one of the largest urban Native populations in the country, representing over a hundred different tribes.

With this acknowledgment, we seek God's wisdom and guidance as we lament the sins of colonization and the generational harm done to Native Peoples, both in the past and in the present. We work to counteract Indigenous erasure, respect Native sovereignty, and be good stewards of the land. We strive through word and deed to build Beloved Community for all God's children.

We speak these words in short form regularly in worship and other activities at First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville as an expression of God's abundant love for all people. By adopting, repeating, and reconsidering these words, we also hope to foster justice and grow Beloved Community now and in the future.

## Community Notes

**Church Calendar & Parish Life newsletter:** [www.firstpreslibertyville.org](http://www.firstpreslibertyville.org)

The flowers in the sanctuary are placed to the glory of God by Andrea Moore in memory of Kevin William Moore.

### **Sunday, April 26 - Earth Care Sunday**

- 10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM — Sunday School (Ages 3–8th Grade)
- 11:00 AM — Frog Lady Eco-Fair
- 4:00 PM — Youth Group (Grades 6–12)

### **Tuesday, April 28**

- 7:00 PM — Adult Ed: Biblical Hospitality (Conference Room)

### **Wednesday, April 29**

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

### **Saturday, May 2**

- 10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)

### **Sunday, May 3**

- 10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)
- 10:15 AM — Sunday School (Ages 3–5th Grade)
- 11:00 AM — New Member Cake Reception (Social Hall)
- 11:30 AM — Confirmation Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
- 4:00 PM — Youth Group (Grades 6–12)

### **Looking Ahead**

- May 9 — *This I Believe* Confirmation Service & Celebration
- May 16 — Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering
- May 17 — Chancel Choir Major Work & Vision Plan Conversation
- May 31 — Confirmation & Baccalaureate
- June 7 — Retirement Celebration for Rev. Amy M. Heinrich
- June 21 — Ordination & Installation of Church Offices
- June 28 — Pride Sunday
- July 19 — Bluegrass Sunday

**One Week Away: Don't Miss This Special Retreat**  
**Saturday May 2 | Waukegan History Museum at the Carnegie**

Our Women's Spring Retreat is almost here, and this year carries added meaning; it will be Rev. Amy Heinrich's final Women's Retreat before her retirement. Join us next Saturday, May 2 from 9 AM – 1 PM for *Temporary: Loosening Our Grip, Opening Our Hearts*, a morning of reflection, connection, and renewal as we consider how to hold life with gratitude and open hands. Spots are still open! Register today! \$20 (lunch included). Scholarships are available.

**Graduate Info Needed**

We'd love to celebrate your graduate! Please submit your student's high school or college graduation information to the church office by May 24. High school graduates will be recognized during worship, and all graduates will be included in the May 31 bulletin. Join us afterward for a cake reception to celebrate together! You can call the church office or fill out the form on our website.

**Apply for the Savidis Fine Arts Scholarship**

The family of Janice and Chuck Savidis, longtime members of this church, dedicated participants in the Chancel Choir, and enthusiastic supporters of the arts, established this Fine Arts Scholarship to provide financial support for students in our congregation pursuing a college major or minor in music, theater, dance or visual arts. Applicants must be active members of the First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville to be eligible. Each year, a total of \$1,000 is awarded at the discretion of the Music Subcommittee of the Worship Committee. If multiple recipients are selected, the award will be divided equally among them. The application is available on our website.

**Have You Ever Wondered? | Wednesday, May 6 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall**

As Pride Sunday approaches, the First Pres LGBTQ+ Workgroup is offering a variety of classes and activities to help our community learn together, grow in understanding, and celebrate the diversity of God's beloved people - especially our LGBTQ+ siblings. Classes led by Alex Barnes and Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley. Sign up online.

**Spring Harvest Food Drive — Goal: 1,500 Items**

Our Deacons invite you to "Help Feed the Need" this April by supporting our Spring Harvest Food Drive. Our goal is to collect 1,500 non-perishable food items for local families in need. Order via Amazon delivery to the church, give financially, or bring donations to the Spring Harvest table in the narthex through April 26. All donations benefit the Libertyville and St. Joseph's food pantries. This is our primary food drive of the year. Thank you for your generous support!

**Flower Dedications**

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion with a beautiful floral arrangement in our worship spaces on Sunday mornings. The cost is \$45. Fill out the form on our website or call the church office.

**Podcasts**

Check out our podcasts! You can find [Sunday Sermons](#) and [Anywhere Anytime Bible](#) on the listening platform of your choice, including Spotify and Apple.