



WORSHIP

Sanctuary

September 20, 2026

I do not pretend to understand the moral universe. The arc is a long one. My eye reaches but little ways.
I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by experience of sight. I can divine it by conscience.
And from what I see I am sure it bends toward justice. ~ Rev. Theodore Parker, 1853

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Improvisation on Thaxted
Gloria Song, organ

G.Holst/arr.A. Davis

INTROIT

This Little Light of Mine
Cherub Choir – LeAnn Malecha, director; Gloria Song, piano

WELCOME

Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Alex Barnes, M.Div.

Leader: Whether we embrace God's call in our lives or try to avoid it,
People: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Leader: Whether we are longtimers or latecomers in the life of faith,
People: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Leader: Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable or bring hardship,
All: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
We praise God's name forever and ever!

❖ HYMN #822

When We Are Living

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

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 SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 16:2-15 (NRSVue)

Sadie Gibson

ANTHEM

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

Randy Cox/Kris Crunk

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 1:12-26 (NRSVue)

SERMON

The Long Game

Rev. Nicole Chapman

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Renewing the Call of God's Grace

Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Water

❖ The Apostles' Creed

Leader: Do you believe in God the Father?
People: I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Presentation

Session Elder Matt Gibson

Commitment and Covenant

Leader: Do you, the members of this congregation, in the name of the whole church of Christ, undertake, with these parents, the Christian nurture of **Benjamin**, by word and deed, with love and prayer, so that in due time he may profess faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior? Do you?

People: We do.

Baptism

Charge to the Congregation and Parents

Welcome and Blessing

TABLE TALK

MOMENT FOR MISSION – Youth Conservation Corps

Deacon Jennifer Yonan

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

For the Beauty of the Earth
Motet Choir

Rene Clausen

❖ **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 THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SENDING

❖ **HYMN #542**

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

GOD BE WITH YOU

❖ **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

❖ **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #295**

Go to the World! (v. 3)

SINE NOMINE

**Go to the world! Go into all the earth. Go struggle, bless, and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.**

As servant church, you follow Christ's own way. Alleluia. Alleluia.

❖ *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 (<i>In the Chapel today.</i>)
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley
Interim Associate Pastor	The Rev. Nanette Sawyer (<i>In the Chapel today.</i>)
Transitional Minister for Pastoral Care	Alex Barnes, M.Div.
Music, Dept. Head	Gloria Song

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

Community Notes

Church Calendar & Parish Life newsletter: www.firstpreslibertyville.org

The flowers in the sanctuary are placed to the glory of God by Bob and Helen Jackson in memory of his parents, Nettie Mae and J.C. Jackson; and by Phil and Lesley Judson in celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary!

Sunday, September 20

10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)

11:10 AM — Current Events, Eternal Question (CEEQ) “Let’s Talk AI” (Conference Room)

2:00 PM — Inquirers Class for Prospective New Members (Dougherty Room)

2:00 PM — Confirmation

4:00 PM — Youth Group

Wednesday, September 23

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

Saturday, September 26

5:00 PM — Feed My Starving Children Packing Event

Sunday, September 27

10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)

4:00 PM — Youth Group

Looking Ahead

October 3 — Women's Fall Retreat: "Hidden Gems & Poison Pills"

October 4 — Vision Plan Celebration

October 12 — All Committee Night

Let’s Talk AI

Join us today after worship in the Conference Room for the start of our monthly “Current Events, Eternal Questions” (CEEQ) series as we “seek” to connect our faith with what’s happening in the world around us. Our first conversation will explore Artificial Intelligence on Sunday, September 20. No homework, no expertise, and no right answers required—just come ready for a flexible, discussion-based conversation. **Look for a new topic on the third Sunday of each month!**

New Members Inquirers Class

Considering First Presbyterian as your spiritual home? Join us for our Inquirers Class today at 2 PM in the Dougherty Room. Questions? Contact Michelle at 847-362-2174 or office@boxp.net.

Help us pack meal boxes at FMSC – Saturday, September 26

Join us next Sunday at our local **Feed My Starving Children** packing site on Saturday, September 26 from 5:00-6:30 PM. Sign up at www.firstpreslibertyville.org.

Women's Fall Retreat led by Rev. Nanette Sawyer on Saturday, October 3

Hidden Gems & Poison Pills: Searching the Bible for the God of Love

Join Rev. Nanette Sawyer and the Women's Ministry Board on **Saturday, October 3 from 8:45 AM - Noon** for a thoughtful exploration of women's stories in the Bible, including the passages that are hard, confronting, or confusing. Together, we'll put these stories into context and look more deeply for the hidden gems: the poetry, wisdom, courage, and glimpses of God's love that can be found beneath a superficial reading of the text. **Only 7 spots remain!** Sign up at www.firstpreslibertyville.org.

Vision Plan Celebration on Sunday, October 4 from 11:00-11:45 AM in Fellowship Hall

Thank you for your input in the three listening sessions this spring. We collected so much valuable feedback from all of you, and your commitment to the process and to the future of this church was overwhelming. Since then, the Vision Team has been hard at work. We reviewed everything you told us, studied data on our surrounding community, and shaped what we learned into a final Vision Plan. Session reviewed and approved the plan at their August retreat. On October 4, we will share the report with you. You will hear what we found, where First Pres is headed, and how each of you can be part of the next steps.

Adult Ed: Following Christ While Confronting Injustice: Christianity and Resistance

October 6, 13, 20, 27 at 7 PM in the Conference Room

The headlines daily confront the Christian conscience. Injustice seems to surround us. Federal agents take people from their homes, workplaces, and places of leisure; families are torn apart; and masked federal agents have taken human life in Minnesota, Texas, and Maine. This four-part class led by Brian Smith will explore ways followers of Christ have resisted and addressed injustice for centuries. Through Scripture, political theory, and theology, we will consider the options available to us as we seek faithful answers to the question: "What can I do?" Sign up at www.firstpreslibertyville.org.

Sunday School | ages 3–7th grade

Come learn, play, create, and discover! Kids explore Bible stories through games, crafts, activities, and conversation. Families begin together in worship, then children head to their classrooms at 10:15 AM.

Childcare | Birth–4

Free childcare is available in our Nursery (birth–2) and Pre-K room (ages 3–4).

Youth Group

Grades 6–12: Come hang out! Youth Group meets on Sundays from 4:00–5:30 PM in the Youth Lounge. Expect games, laughs, good conversations, and time to be yourself.