



WORSHIP

Sanctuary

October 18, 2026

This is the famous stone / That turneth all to gold; / For that which God doth touch and own / Cannot for less be told.

~ George Herbert, from "The Elixir" (1633)

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Hallelujah

arr. Joel Raney

Jubilate Bells - Gloria Song, director

INTROIT

He's Got the Whole World

Traditional Spiritual

Cherub Choir – Bonnie Rhodes, director; Lenore Wold, piano

WELCOME

Rev. Brian Paulson

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP - adapted from *Psalm 19:1, 9–10, 14; Philippians 1:2*

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God;

People: the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

Leader: God's ways are more to be desired than gold, even much fine gold,

People: sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God, our rock and our redeemer, and from Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Let us worship God.

❖ HYMN #394

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Alex Barnes, M.Div.

Eternal God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
whose face is hidden from us by our sins,
and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts:
Cleanse us from all our offenses,
and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires,
that with reverent and humble hearts
we may draw near to you,
confessing our faults,
confiding in your grace,
and finding in you our refuge and strength;
through Jesus Christ your Son.

(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 AND BLESSING THE CHILDREN**

MOMENT FOR MISSION – Roberti House

Pam Fisher

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

Deacon Liz Tanner

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 19 (NRSVue)

ANTHEM

Christus Paradox

arr. Alfred V. Fedak

Chancel Choir – David H. Edelfelt, director; Gloria Song, organ

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3:1-11 (NRSVue)

SERMON

What Really Matters?

Dr. Paulson

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

THE RESPONSE

❖ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** – from the *Study Catechism* PCUSA, 1998

Leader: What is God's purpose for your life?

**People: God wills that I should live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the love of God,
and in the communion of the Holy Spirit.**

Leader: How do you live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**People: I am not my own. I have been bought with a price. The Lord Jesus Christ loved me and gave himself
for me. I entrust myself completely to his care, giving thanks each day for his wonderful goodness.**

Leader: How do you live for the love of God?

**People: I love because God first loved me. God loves me in Christ with a love that never ends. Amazed by grace,
I no longer live for myself. I live for the Lord who died and rose again, triumphant over death,
for my sake. Therefore, I take those around me to heart, especially those in particular need,
knowing that Christ died for them no less than for me.**

TABLE TALK

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY – Stewardship

Richard Alexander

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

Blessed Assurance
Chancel Choir

arr. Mark Hayes

❖ **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 #630**

Fairest Lord Jesus

CRUSADERS' HYMN

❖ **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

❖ **POSTLUDE**

Joy and Elation
Jubilate Bells

Cynthia Dobrinski

❖ *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. Nicole Chapman-Farley
Interim Associate Pastor	The Rev. Nanette Sawyer (<i>In 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
Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley is away this week on vacation.*

Community Notes

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

Sunday, October 18

- 10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)
- 10:15 AM — Sunday School
- 11:00 AM — Social Hour
- 11:10 AM — CEEQ Discussion: Voter Rights
- 4:00 PM — Youth Group

Tuesday, October 20

- 7:00 PM — “Following Christ While Confronting Injustice: Christianity and Resistance” (Conference Room)

Wednesday, October 21

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

Sunday, October 25 - Commitment Sunday

- 10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)
- 10:15 AM — Sunday School
- 11:00 AM — Fall Fest Social Hour
- 4:00 PM — Youth Group
- 6:00 PM — Love Every Neighbor: Disability Perspectives - FH

Looking Ahead

- November 1 — All Saints Sunday
- November 6 — David Edelfelt Concert
- November 7 — First Pres Coffee Tour to Karina’s Bakery
- November 8 — Congregational Meeting to elect APNC

Save the Date

- November 21 — Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering
- November 22 — Advent Wreath Lunch
- November 22 — First Light Service
- November 29 — First Sunday in Advent

CEEQ: “Voting Rights” at 11:10 AM in the Conference Room

Join CARE and Christian Education as we “seek” to connect our faith with what’s happening in the world around us. Our October conversation will explore **Voting Rights**. No homework, no expertise, and no right answers required—just come ready for a flexible, discussion-based conversation.

Following Christ While Confronting Injustice: “Christianity and Resistance”

October 20 & 27 at 7 PM in the Conference Room

This class is exploring 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.

Love Every Neighbor: “Disability Perspectives” on Sunday, October 25 at 6 PM

Join us on Sunday, October 25, from 6–7:30 PM. in Fellowship Hall for a conversation about the experiences of our neighbors with disabilities and how we can love better. Tacos and conversation begin at 6 PM, followed by the program at 6:30 PM.

Families are welcome, with a kids’ program and childcare provided. Registration is encouraged but not required.

Sign up at www.firstpreslibertyville.org.

David Edelfelt in Concert! Friday, November 6 at 7 PM

In this one-man performance, David shares his most personal show to date, offering songs about love, life and laughter - through the lens of joy, gratitude and inspiration. Come for the fun and bring a friend!

Coffee at Karina's Bakery on Saturday, November 7 at 10 AM

First Pres folks will be hanging out at Karina's Bakery in Mundelein on Saturday, November 7 from 10:00-11:00 AM. It's part of our monthly First Pres Coffee Tour to support local Black- and Brown-owned businesses. No program, no agenda, just a chance to grab a drink and hang out with First Pres folks for as much or as little of the hour as you’d like. We hope you'll join us.

Bring a friend!

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).

Wiggly Worship Tables

Little hands are welcome here! Kids in 3rd grade and younger can join us at our Wiggly Worship tables, where hands-on activities help them participate, explore, and engage with worship. Sit nearby and worship together!