



WORSHIP

Sanctuary

October 25, 2026

Lord, now steady the cart yourself, / or all our journey will go askew / Help, that all bitterness depart, / and the old faithfulness return, made new. ~ Huldrych Zwingli (c. 1525-29)

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress
Gloria Song, organ

Vaclav Nelhybel

WELCOME

Rev. Brian Paulson

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP - adapted from *Psalm 27:1, 4* and *Philippians 3:12-13*

Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation;

People: whom shall we fear?

Leader: One thing we ask of the Lord, this we seek:

People: to live in the house of the Lord all our days.

Leader: And Paul writes, "This one thing I do: straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on."

All: Christ Jesus has made us his own. Let us worship God.

❖ HYMN #15 *All Creatures of Our God and King*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Nanette Sawyer

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be,
that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways
to the glory of your holy name.

(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

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

Elder Anna Groebe

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 27 (NRSVue)

ANTHEM

Breathe on Me, Breath of God
Chancel Choir – David H. Edelfelt, director

John Leo Lewis

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3:12-4.1 (NRSVue)

SERMON

This One Thing

Dr. Paulson

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

THE RESPONSE

❖ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** – the *Heidelberg Catechism*

Leader: Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace through Christ without any merit of our own, why then should we do good works?

People: Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, is also restoring us by his Spirit into his image, so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits, so that he may be praised through us, so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits, and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ.

TABLE TALK

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY – Stewardship

Session Elder Matt Gibson

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

Prayer of St. Francis
Chancel Choir; Susan Henning, soloist

Carl Mueller

❖ **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**

How Great a Refuge

EIN' FESTE BURG

1. How great a refuge is our God, whose might and help surround us.
Awak'ning hope, secure and strong; what ceaseless joy has found us!
The Lord comes to our aid; calls nations, unafraid,
To ease the world's distress, to shield the powerless;
For Love there is no equal.
2. If we in selfish strength abide, our pride then turns to losing.
Here joined in trust, we will not hide, but find a path for choosing;
The One who leads in peace, whose justice must increase.
The Christ, whose name we bear, will lead us in his care;
Thus conflict's wounds are mended.

3. E'en though the world, with hatred filled, may threaten to undo us,;
We trust the Spirit's fiery will to work God's graces through us.
No fear of shadows grim can make our courage dim;
For life endures all rage, then writes a clearer page—
The word, in truth, will conquer.

4. That Word above all earthly force guides every land and nation.
One Spirit guides our global course to seek out liberation.
Let walls of hatred fall, Good News uniting all;
Though human hearts be frail, let unity prevail.
God's mercy reigns forever!

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

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

Tuesday, October 27

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

Wednesday, October 28

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

Sunday, November 1 - Dedication & All Saints Sunday

10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM — Sunday School
11:00 AM — Social Hour
4:00 PM — Youth Group

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

Rescheduled: Love Every Neighbor: “Disability Perspectives”

We’ve moved the date to January 31 in hopes more people will be able to attend! Join us on Sunday, January 31 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. RSVP at www.firstpreslibertyville.org.

David Edelfelt in Concert - Friday, November 6 at 7 PM in the First Pres Chapel

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! Doors open at 6:30 PM.

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!

Congregational Meeting on November 8

The Session has called a special meeting of the congregation for Sunday, November 8, immediately following worship, to elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) and elect at large members of the Congregational Nominating Committee.

Holiday Meal Boxes for Mobile Food Pantry

This holiday season, the church will provide Thanksgiving turkeys and Christmas hams to local families in need. A gift of \$23 covers the cost of a complete turkey or ham dinner—enough to feed up to eight people. You may donate online or by writing a check with “Holiday Meal Box” in the memo line. Thank you for helping share the joy of the holidays with our neighbors!