First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville

WORSHIP

Sanctuary

November 8, 2026

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE *Cantabile* Emily Li
Bel Canto Ringers – Judy Brame, director

INTROIT *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN
Alpha Chimers – Gloria Song, director

WELCOME Rev. Nanette Sawyer

❖ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God summons us to this place,
People: where we learn how to serve God and God's people.
Leader: God has gathered us in this place,
People: where we hear stories that teach us what the kingdom of God is like.
Leader: God will send us from this place,
People: to share God's love and tell of God's hopes and dreams for a world of beauty, peace and justice.

❖ **HYMN #686** ***God of Our Life*** SANDON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Brian Paulson

God of Compassion, you have called us to live in community, caring for each other.
Forgive us when we live with a spirit of scarcity and fear,
selfishly caring only for ourselves.
Give us courage to trust that you will care for us and
generosity to share what we have received.
Forgive us when we allow lethargy and apathy to grip us.
Inspire in us a spirit of sharing that creates abundance for the good of all.
Open our hearts to the expansive love we know in Jesus Christ.

(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

❖ **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

MOMENT FOR MINISTRY Elyse Danckers

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 Session Elder Tony Cacich
FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Psalm 78:1-7 (NRSVue)*

Children are welcomed by our Sunday School teachers and depart for Sunday School at this time.

ANTHEM *Keep Your Lamp Trimmed and Burning* arr. Andre Thomas
Chancel Choir – David H. Edelfelt, director

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Matthew 25:1-13 (NRSVue)*

SERMON ***The Future Begins Now*** Rev. Nanette Sawyer

HYMN #684 *Faith Begins by Letting Go* LUX PRIMA

THE RESPONSE

❖ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** – *Brief Statement of Faith,* excerpts

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children, healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

TABLE TALK

SESSION REPORT Session Elder Hannah Rumple

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 *Give Ear, O Lord* G. F. Handel
Chancel Choir; Gloria Song, organ

❖ **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 #432** ***How Clear Is Our Vocation*** REPTON

❖ **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

❖ **POSTLUDE** *This Little Light of Mine* arr. Alan Parker
Bel Canto Ringers

❖ *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 *(In Chapel today)*
Interim Associate Pastor	The Rev. Nanette Sawyer
Transitional Minister for Pastoral Care	Alex Barnes, M.Div. *(In Chapel today)*
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 Dean Starr in remembrance of a dear friend, Tom Bartlett-Svehla.

Sunday, November 8
10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)
10:15 AM — Sunday School
11:00 AM —Special Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
4:00 PM — Youth Group

Wednesday, November 11
4:00 PM — PADS Food Donation Drop-Off (Sanctuary Entrance)

Sunday, November 15
10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM — Sunday School
11:00 AM — Social Hour
11:10 AM — CEEQ Discussion with Alex Barnes: El Nino
4:00 PM — Youth Group

Looking Ahead
November
November 21— Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering
November 22 — Advent Wreath & Crèche Lunch
November 22 — First Light Service: *Love Finds Us Here*
November 23 — Advent Book Study Begins
December
December 6 — Advent Vespers
December 13 — Christmas Pageant
December 13 — Holiday Taizé
December 19 — Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering
December 20 — Chancel Choir Major Work
December 24 — Christmas Eve Services at 4, 7 & 10 PM

TODAY: Congregational Meeting at 11 AM in the Sanctuary
The Session has called a special meeting of the congregation, immediately following worship, to elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) and at-large members of the Congregational Nominating Committee.

NEXT SUNDAY: Current Events, Eternal Questions (CEEQ) at 11:10 AM in the Conference Room
Alex Barnes is leading next Sunday's CEEQ discussion about El Niño. All are welcome! No registration required.

Advent Wreath Workshop & All-Church Lunch
Join us in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, November 22 for lunch and a hands-on Advent wreath-making activity using fresh-cut greenery. Also, if you've been creating handmade crèche pieces each year, your next piece will be waiting for you. If you're new to the tradition, come pick up your first piece and begin building your own nativity set. All are welcome! Please RSVP online so we have enough food and wreath materials for everyone!

First Light Service: *Love Finds Us Here*
Sunday, November 22 at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary
Sometimes life takes us down roads we never expected to travel. Whether we are grieving a loved one, facing an uncertain future, or carrying losses we can't easily name, the holiday season can make the journey feel especially lonely. At First Light, we gather to remember that we do not have to know the way forward to be accompanied by love. Through scripture, prayer, music, and reflection, we will make space for our sorrow and find comfort in the promise that God's love meets us wherever we are.

Advent Candlelighters Needed!
We'd love to have you help light our Advent candles. Families, individuals, friends, or any combination are invited!
Sign up online by Sunday, Nov. 15.

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 at www.firstpreslibertyville.org or by writing a check with "Holiday Meal Box" in the memo line.

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!