First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville

# WORSHIP

Sanctuary

**November 22, 2026**

*This is what you shall do: Love the earth and sun and the animals, despise riches, give alms to every one that asks, … devote your income and labor to others …* ~ Walt Whitman, preface to *Leaves of Grass* (1855)

## THE GATHERING

**PRELUDE** *Cornerstone* Hillsong
Chapel Music Team - Adam Hendrickson, director

**WELCOME** Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley

❖ **CALL TO WORSHIP** - *Written by Rev. Thomas Weitzel* GG & Mike Hilty

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
**People: God's steadfast love endures forever.**
Leader: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.
**People: Make known God's deeds among the peoples!**
Leader: God blesses us with gifts of love:
**People: with food and clothing, home and family.**
Leader: God blesses us with daily work:
**People: and all we need from day to day.**
Leader: God protects us in time of danger:
**People: and guards us from every evil.**
Leader: God calls us into relationship with him:
**People: and forms us into one holy people, the Church of Jesus Christ in this place.**
Leader: Therefore shall we offer thanks and praise to the Lord our God.
**People: O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.**

❖ **HYMN #336** ***We Gather Together*** KREMSER

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** - *Adapted from liturgy by Thom Shuman* Rev. Nanette Sawyer

**We stock the food pantries,**
**but brush aside those**
**who hunger for friendship.**
**We give our hand-me-downs away,**
**but overlook those whose hopes**
**have been stripped away.**
**We glad-hand those just like us,**
**but disregard**
**our neighbors whose voices differ from our own.**

**Forgive us, O Hope of the ages.**
**You persistently search for us in the side streets of the world, gathering us up and bringing us home, so we may be drenched in the waters of your bottomless pool of forgiveness, watched over by your Child, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

**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**

## 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 Brian Tischendorf

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** *Philippians 2:5-6, 9-11 (NRSVue)*

**ANTHEM** *Ubi Caritas* Maurice Duruflé
(*"Where charity and love are, God is there"*)
Chancel Choir - David H. Edelfelt, director

**WORD FOR THE CHILDREN** Rev. Brian Paulson

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** *Matthew 25:31-46 (NRSVue)*

❖ **HYMN #203** ***Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*** CHEREPONI

**SERMON** ***Gratitude into Action*** Dr. Paulson

**MUSIC FOR REFLECTION**

## THE RESPONSE

❖ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH -** *The Study Catechism,* PC(USA) (1998)

Leader: What do you affirm when you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as "our Lord"?
**People: That having been raised from the dead he reigns with compassion and justice over all things in heaven and on earth, especially over those who confess him by faith; and that by loving and serving him above all else, I give glory and honor to God.**

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**

**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** *Let All the World* Robert Baker
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** Alex Barnes, M.Div.

## THE SENDING

- **HYMN #643** ***Now Thank We All Our God*** (vv. 1 & 2) NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
- **CHARGE AND BLESSING**
- **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #643** ***Now Thank We All Our God*** (v. 3) NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
- *Please rise in body or spirit.*

**IN MINISTRY TOGETHER**

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| **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 |
| **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

**Sunday, November 22**
10:00 AM — Combined Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00 AM — Advent Wreath Workshop & All-Church Lunch (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 PM — First Light Service: *Love Finds Us Here* (Chapel)

**Monday, November 23**
2:00 PM —Advent Book Study (Dougherty Room)
6:00 PM —Advent Book Study (Online)

**Tuesday, November 24 - Office open until 2:00 PM**

**Wednesday, November 25 - Office open until 2:00 PM**
4:00 PM — PADS Food Donation Drop-Off (Sanctuary Entrance)

**Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving – Office Closed**

**Friday, November 27 - Office Closed**

**Sunday, November 29 - First Sunday in Advent**
10:00 AM — Worship (Sanctuary & Chapel)
11:00 AM — Social Hour (Socal Hall)

**December**
December 5 — Coffee Tour to Queen Yemeni Coffee
December 6 — Advent Vespers
December 13 — Christmas Pageant
December 13 — Holiday Taizé
December 14 — Poinsettia Orders Due
December 19 — Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering
December 20 — Chancel Choir Major Work
December 24 — Christmas Eve Services at 4, 7 & 10 PM

**Today: 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!

**Poinsettia Dedications**
Dedicate a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of someone special. Your dedication will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Each plant is $12. Please submit online or call the church office by December 14. You may take your poinsettia home after the 10:00 PM Christmas Eve service or donate it to our Senior Ministry.

**Support Our Advent Giving Tree**
Gifts through our Advent Giving Tree program bring hope and love to people in need through several community partner organizations. To participate, take an ornament from the tree in the Narthex and scan the QR code on the ornament to select a gift. Please return gifts to the Sanctuary Narthex by **11 AM on Sunday, December 13**. The SignUpGenius link is also available in Parish Life and on our church website. Please keep your gift recipients in your prayers!

**Tonight: First Light Service: *Love Finds Us Here***
**6:00 PM in the Chapel**
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.

**Tomorrow: Advent Book Study at 2 PM (Dougherty Room) & 6 PM (Online)**
**"Advent Can Still Change the World: Bringing Christmas Past *into* Christmas Present,"**
Led by Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley, this four-week Advent study invites you into the historical and cultural world of the nativity narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Explore how the birth of Jesus fulfills Old Testament hopes, revealing God entering human history as the Word made flesh. You'll discover how reading these texts in their original context opens fresh meaning for contemporary faith, illuminating the gifts and challenges of Christmas for our lives today. Sign up online or call the church at 847-362-2174

**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 if you would like to participate.