First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville

WORSHIP

Sanctuary

November 29, 2026

But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting.
~ T. S. Eliot, *"East Coker," Four Quartets*

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* arr. John R. Behnke
Gloria Song, organ

WELCOME Rev. Brian Paulson

❖ **ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING** The Baird Family

Leader: Today is the first Sunday of Advent, a season where we wait for the coming of the Christ child.
People: We long for a Savior to come into our weary and hurting world.
Leader: The time is nearing for bright hope to be born again into our world.
People: We need the warmth of a love that reminds us we belong, exactly as we are.
Leader: This day we light the candle of hope, for our hope in the peace, justice, and healing that Jesus exemplifies and encourages in us.
People: Our hope is in the one who has come and who is coming.
All: Thanks be to God.

❖ **HYMN #93** ***Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*** TRURO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Nicole Chapman-Farley

God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth,
and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world.

(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**

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 Jodi Craiglow

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSVue)*

ANTHEM *The Eyes of All* Jean Berger

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (NRSVue)*

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

❖ **HYMN #92** ***While We Are Waiting, Come*** (vv. 1 & 3) WAITING (Cason)

SERMON ***Earthly Expectations*** Dr. Paulson

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

THE RESPONSE

❖ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH -** From *The Confession of 1967*

With an urgency born of this hope,
the church applies itself to present tasks
and strives for a better world.
It does not identify limited progress
with the kingdom of God on earth,
nor does it despair
in the face of disappointment and defeat.
In steadfast hope,
the church looks beyond all partial achievement
to the final triumph of God.

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 *Spirit of the Living God* Daniel Iverson/arr. Malcolm Kogut

Chancel Choir; Gloria Song, piano

❖ **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 #82** ***Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*** HYFRYDOL

❖ **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

❖ **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #92** ***While We Are Waiting, Come*** (v. 2) WAITING (Cason)

❖ *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 *(In Chapel today)*
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
Alex Barnes is away on vacation this week.

Community Notes

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

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

Monday, November 30
2:00 PM —Advent Book Study (Dougherty Room)
6:00 PM —Advent Book Study (Online)

Wednesday, December 2
4:00 PM — PADS Food Donation Drop-Off (Sanctuary Entrance)

Saturday, December 5
10:00 — Coffee Tour to Queen Yemeni Coffee (Libertyville)

Sunday, December 6 - Second Sunday in Advent
10:00 AM — Combined Worship (Sanctuary)
10:15 AM — Sunday School (PreK-Grade 7)
11:00 AM — Social Hour (Socal Hall)
2:00 PM — Confirmation Class (Youth Ed. Room)
4:00 PM — Youth Group
5:30 PM — Advent Vespers: Mary, Mother of Our Lord (Sanctuary)

Upcoming Events
December 13 — Christmas Pageant
December 13 — Holiday Taizé
December 13 — Advent Giving Tree Packages Due
December 19 — Mobile Food Pantry Volunteering
December 20 — Chancel Choir Major Work
December 24 — Christmas Eve Services at 4, 7 & 10 PM

First Pres Coffee Tour to Queen Yemeni Coffee on Saturday, December 5 at 10 AM
Join the First Pres Coffee Tour next Saturday, December 5, as we visit Queen Yemeni Coffee in downtown Libertyville (606 N. Milwaukee Ave). Stop by anytime between 10 and 11 AM for coffee and conversation. It's a relaxed way to spend some time with church friends while supporting a local Black- and Brown-owned business.

Advent Vespers on Sunday, December 6 at 5:30 PM
As the days grow shorter and the waiting of Advent deepens, join us for an evening of candlelit worship and reflection on Mary, the mother of Jesus. Her willingness to say yes, her song of justice and joy, and her quiet courage invite us to prepare our own hearts for the coming of Christ. This Advent Vespers service will be filled with music, including the Jubilate Bells, the women's chorus, a men's quartet, and instrumentalists. Together, scripture, prayer, and song will guide us through the stillness of the season toward the wonder of Bethlehem.

We're excited to introduce "Holiday Family Choir"!
If you like to sing and want to join the multi-generational Holiday Family Choir at the 4 PM Christmas Eve service, please call the church office at 847-362-2174 or email Gloria Song for details!

Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 13 at 10 AM
Come enjoy our Christmas Pageant, presented by the children and youth during worship! After the service, head to the Social Hall for a fun reception hosted by the Deacons, with a chocolate fountain, hot cocoa, punch and cookies.

Holiday Taizé on Sunday, December 13 at 5:30 PM
Step away from the holiday rush and join us for a Holiday Taizé service on Sunday, December 13 at 5:30 PM in the Chapel. Taizé (pronounced teh-ZAY) is a quiet, contemplative style of worship centered on candlelight, simple songs from around the world, prayer, and silence. Afterward, linger for fellowship in the Social Hall with herbal tea, sparkling water, and Christmas cookies. Led by Rev. Nanette Sawyer and our musicians. Hosted by the Women's Ministry Board. All are welcome.
Bring a friend!

Chancel Choir Major Work on Sunday, December 20 at 10 AM
Join us on Sunday, December 20 for a festive musical offering as our Chancel Choir presents *Gloria* by Randol Alan Bass during the 10 AM worship service. Joined by organ, brass, and percussion, the choir will lift the angels' song of praise in a celebration of sound and joy. Come hear this celebration of Christ's birth in the sanctuary!

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 tag 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!

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 by Monday, December 14. You may take your poinsettia home after the 10:00 PM Christmas Eve service or after worship on Sunday, December 27. Or you may donate your plant to our Senior Ministry.