

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK**  
**26 NOVEMBER 2017**



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

"I do not know much about God and prayer, but I have come to believe, over the past twenty-five years, that there's something to be said about keeping prayer simple.

Help. Thanks. Wow."

Anne Lamott, *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*

\*Please stand in body or spirit. Please silence cell phones.

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Now Thank We All Our God  
Sleepers, Wake!*

J. S. Bach

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the connections pew pad.

Deborah Kapp

# GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

The world belongs to God,

**The earth and all its people.**

How good and lovely it is

**To live together in unity.**

Love and faith come together,

**Justice and peace join hands.**

If the Lord's disciples keep silent,

**These stones would shout aloud.**

Lord, open our lips

**And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

## \* HYMN 551

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

Blue hymnal

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, your ways are not our ways: your thoughts are not our thoughts: What to us seems an eternity is only a moment to you. In the face of eternity, help us to be humble. If we have been singing praises with our voices and kept the joy out of our hearts, have mercy upon us. If we have prayed only for what is possible and hoped only for what we could see, have mercy upon us. If we have allowed waiting on your Spirit to slip into laziness, and waiting on the Kingdom to be replaced by apathy, have mercy upon us. If we have prayed, "Holy Spirit, transform and sanctify us," and not expected the Spirit to change our lives, have mercy upon us.**

SILENCE IS KEPT.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Listen, for this is the true word of God; blessed are all who wait for the Lord. God is merciful, and God's love is sure and strong. By the grace of God in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven.

### \*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

### TIME FOR SHARING

Alicia Reese

### SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*Come, O Holy Spirit, Come*

TRADITIONAL YORUBA TUNE

Come, O Ho - ly Spi - rit, come, Come, al - might - y Spir - it,  
Wa wa wa E - mi - mi - mo, Wa wa wa A - lag - ba -

come, ra, Come, — Wa - o come, — wa - o come. — wa - o. —

### READING

Psalm 107: 1-9 (OT p. 559)

Alicia Reese

### SERMON

Thanks!

Deborah Kapp

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### \*HYMN 280

*Amazing Grace*

AMAZING GRACE

Blue hymnal

### FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lydia Mulkey

Offerings are a sacred act of worship. We invite you to use the green giving cards in the pew rack to celebrate what you've already given or to make an additional donation.

**OFFERTORY**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

John Rutter

**\*DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below.  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lydia Mulkey

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION AND SERVICE

**\*HYMN 538**

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*

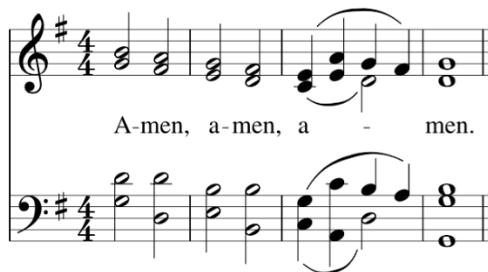
SICILIAN MARINERS

Blue hymnal

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*Danish Amen*



A-men, a-men, a - men.

**SENDING MUSIC**

*Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne*

Dietrich Buxtehude

# TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

**NOVEMBER'S FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING** will be donated to the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry, an organization with which many of you are already familiar. The OPRF Food Pantry, which is housed on the ground floor of First United, serves people in 13 zip codes. Annually the Pantry provides food for about 15,000 families (45,000 individuals). The Pantry also provides summer meals for children, delivers food to about 50 homebound seniors each month, connects people with benefits, and teaches its patrons and volunteers about nutrition and cooking. The Pantry thrives through the gifts and volunteer efforts of hundreds of people. We are grateful for your gifts this morning; they will be used to meet immediate and long-term needs in our neighborhood.

**SHOP THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS STORE IN THE LOUNGE.** Crafts, ornaments and fair-trade food items including pecans, coffee, chocolate, and soups. Support our mission partners and de-stress your holidays. Open 10-11 a.m.; 12-12:30 p.m., Sundays through Deceember 17. Rethink your giving.

**2017 POINSETTIAS.** It's time to order and dedicate 2017 poinsettias! Fill out an order envelope, located at either sanctuary entrance, and return in the offering plate or to the First United office by December 11.

**SANCTUARY GUILD IS ASKING FOR YOUR HELP!** We need your help to clean out the votive candle holders. Please pick up a bag full of holders in the lounge this Sunday and return by next Sunday so we will have clean votives the next time we need them. Candle removal suggestions in each bag/container. Thank you!



**PLEASE RECYCLE** your bulletin in one of the bins near the Sanctuary exits.

**JOIN THE DEACONS** for prayer and anointing in the chapel following Worship.

**HEARING AMPLIFICATION DEVICES--INCLUDING T-COIL CABLES, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, BIBLES AND HYMNALS** are available for use during worship. Please talk to a greeter to obtain these items and return the amplification device to the greeter. Large print bibles and hymnals should be returned to the table behind the middle pews.

## EVENTS AND UPDATES

**DINNER AND A MOVIE**, Friday, December 1: *Joyeux Noel*. As French, Scottish and German soldiers prepare to open their presents on Christmas Eve 1914, a momentous event occurs that changes the destinies of four people: an Anglican priest, a French lieutenant, a world-class tenor and his soprano lover. Dinner at 6 p.m. (\$5 donation); movie at 6:30 (free). Call Nancy Pennington 708-386-9195.

**NURSERY SCHOOL REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 1** for those with priority. Priority is granted to Church families, those registering their child for another year and siblings of FUNS children. Nursery School Director Joan White is happy to answer questions and give a tour of the school at any time. Call 708-848-4910 or email Joan at [jwhite@firstunitedschool.com](mailto:jwhite@firstunitedschool.com). FUNS has a long history of providing a literacy-rich, play-based curriculum that supports children's curiosity, creativity, initiative and confidence.

**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH THE MIDPOINT** group at our annual Christmas party and white elephant exchange! Saturday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Jane Barker and Melinda Haag's house, 7426 Iowa in River Forest. Bring a silly gift for the exchange and feel free to wear your best or worst Christmas sweater. As usual, please bring your favorite wine/beer to share, along with an appetizer or dessert. Bring a friend, too! Contact [barbarametric@comcast.net](mailto:barbarametric@comcast.net) with any questions.

### **NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 – ADVENT 1**

Hanging of the Greens worship

**SPONSOR-A-FAMILY GIFTS DUE NEXT SUNDAY!** Thanks for agreeing to buy gifts for local needy families. Gifts are due back at church next Sunday, December 3. Sher Watts Spooner will be in the conference room to accept wrapped and tagged gifts. If you can't make it on December 3, let Sher know ([sandaspoooner@comcast.net](mailto:sandaspooner@comcast.net); 708-383-4408) and we'll make other arrangements.

**CAROLING FOR OPEN BETHLEHEM, DECEMBER 2.** Join friends and neighbors to sing carols for peace and justice. Rehearse in the warm Chapel at 10:30 a.m., then bundle up at 11:15 and progress to the village's annual Cookie Walk on Marion Street, where we'll share musical cheer and information about the economic and political circumstances Palestinians face in contemporary Bethlehem. Information: Martina Reese, [martha@martinreese.com](mailto:martha@martinreese.com)

**NATIONAL VIGIL TO #ENDGUNVIOLENCE** December 7, 7 p.m. Come to the First United front steps, pick up a candle and join our procession and vigil to honor gun violence victims. We are participating in the National Vigil to #EndGunViolence with hundreds of other vigils across the country marking the fifth Anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy, and honoring the 500,000 victims and survivors since December 2012.

**FIRST UNITED FIELD TRIP: LINCOLN PARK ZOO LIGHTS.** Saturday, December 16, 4:30 p.m. Begin the holiday season with your First United friends under the holiday lights. Come into the big city of Chicago and walk among the holiday lights and zoo animals. The rumor is that Santa will join us! RSVP at the desk in the lounge or email Britt (bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com). We will email about where our meet up place will be.

**THE KID'S KLOSET NEEDS YOUR HELP!** Since we opened one month ago, the winter jackets have flown out the door. Our supply of jackets, sized three-month to 18 youth, is extremely low. If you have any jackets to donate, please drop them off at church. Questions? Susan Zaruba, susanzaruba@gmail.com

**SUNDAYS DURING ADVENT: DONUTS WITH THE DEACONS**

Spend time getting to know First United's Deacons—a group of people committed to the prayer and care of the congregation, including you! Grab a donut in the Lounge before worship, find out who your deacon is and fellowship for as long as you'd like!



11th Annual

SING WE

Joyous!

Sat., Dec. 9  
6:30pm Silent Auction  
& Treats  
7:30pm Concert

Sun., Dec. 10  
4:00pm Concert

Featuring:  
The Rookery ★ City Voices  
Pro Musica Youth Chorus

The beloved highlight  
of Oak Park's holiday season!

First United Church of Oak Park 848 Lake St.



tickets: [singwejoyous.brownpapertickets.com](http://singwejoyous.brownpapertickets.com)

info: [facebook/musicat1st](https://www.facebook.com/musicat1st)

# WORSHIP MUSINGS



# Moving from

*words to witness*  
in our relationship with God,

*individualism to intimate*  
fellowship in our relationship with other members of the church community,

*charity to changing*  
structures in our relationship with the world.

**WELCOME-** We're glad you joined us for worship. Learn about First United:

- Visit the welcome desk in the lounge or the visitor table in the narthex to receive more information about the church and a gift to take home with you.
- Sign the connections pad when it's passed. Include your email to receive our weekly e-news and devotional!
- Speak with any greeter or minister or join us for coffee hour following worship.
- Contact Britt Cox at 708.386.5215 or [bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com) for information about Newcomers Gatherings and any additional questions.

**ABOUT US -** We are a union church of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ. We seek to be an inclusive expression of Christ's body celebrating our diversity while finding our unity in Christ. We are a More Light/Open and Affirming congregation, committed to full inclusion of GLBTQ people in membership & ministry.

**ABOUT WORSHIP -** Worship is our time to praise and grow closer to God. Worship each week includes song, prayer, learning, silence and giving. If you have any questions about what we do, please ask a minister or a member.

**WORSHIP WITH CHILDREN -** We welcome all children to participate fully in worship. Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the sanctuary. We offer safe, quality childcare and quiet play for children five and under in our nursery (just off the lounge). Accompanied by a parent, these children may leave after Time for Sharing.

**RESTROOMS & WIFI -** Accessible restrooms are located off the church lounge. Free Wireless Internet is available in all areas except the Sanctuary. Network: 'FirstGuest', password: 'FirstUnited'.

**GIVING -** Offering envelopes are in the pew racks. You can also give one time or recurring gifts online at [www.firstunitedoakpark.com/giving](http://www.firstunitedoakpark.com/giving).



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848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301 | 708.386.5215

[www.firstunitedoakpark.com](http://www.firstunitedoakpark.com) | [facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://www.facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

9:30 am Education for All  
 10:00 am Alternative Christmas Store Pre-Sale  
 11:00 am Worship  
 3:00 pm PFLAG  
 6:00 pm FUJI/FUSH

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

8:30 am Nursery School Staff meeting  
 9:00 am CPM meeting (Presbytery)  
 6:30 pm Pack 16 Meeting  
 6:30 pm CMA Justice and Witness (UCC)  
 7:00 pm Personnel Committee meeting  
 7:00 pm Stewardship Committee meeting  
 7:00 pm White Privilege: Let's Talk

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus  
 7:00 pm Rookery rehearsal

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group  
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring  
 7:00 pm City Voices rehearsal

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1**

12:00 pm Interim Pastors Lunch  
 6:00 pm Dinner and a Movie  
 6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 16

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2**

9:00 am Book Fair (First United Library)

10:00 am Caroling Rehearsal

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 – ADVENT ONE**

9:30 am Education for All  
 10:00 am Alternative Christmas Store  
 11:00 am Worship  
 3:00 pm Cookie Bake Shift  
 5:00 pm Cookie Bake Shift  
 6:00 pm Sing We Joyous rehearsal  
 6:00 pm FUJI/FUSH

**CONTACT THE FIRST UNITED OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9 AM TO 5 PM  
 708-386-5215**

Deborah Kapp, Interim Lead Pastor (ext. 101)  
 Britt Cox, Associate Pastor of Discipleship (ext. 105)  
 Lydia Mulkey, Associate Pastor of Education (ext. 103)  
 Alicia Reese, Coordinator of Youth & Children's Ministry  
 William Chin, Director of Music (ext. 108)  
 Michael Surratt, Organist  
 Amanda Swanson, Administrative Assistant (ext. 100)  
 Maureen Wheeler, Financial Consultant (ext. 106)  
 Keith Liesse, Head Custodian  
 First United Church Nursery School  
 Housing Forward  
 Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry  
 The Kid's Closet, children's clothing ministry  
 Cluster Tutoring

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 708-386-1324, www.oprffoodpantry.org  
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