

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
7 JANUARY 2018 - EPIPHANY



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“And you, who are here, you are the ones to whom God is saying: be bearers of hope, have courage to go from here into the world and proclaim that this world is God's world, and that God has the last word. This world is made for beauty and goodness. Peace, friendship, and affection should reign in this world. And God says: you are all my children, you can all call me Abba: Abba, Father God.” -Desmond Tutu

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

GATHERING MUSIC

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

Dietrich Buxtehude

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the connections pew pad.

Britt Cox

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

We begin our worship in the name of God the Father, the Mother,

**Who has chosen us to be channels of blessing;**

In the name of Jesus,

**Who became one like us;**

In the name of the Holy Spirit,

**Who has given us wisdom and strength.**

Creator of the cosmos, of eternity and time,

**Be with us in this place.**

Breath of all that lives, of people near and far,

**Be with us in our hearts.**

Creator-Redeemer-Sustainer,

God of here and now,

**Stir within our lives.**

### \* HYMN 69

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

Blue hymnal

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Alicia Reese

Trusting in the mercy and grace of God, let us together admit our frailty and confess our failings.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness: to the way we wound our own lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world.**

SILENCE IS KEPT.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. May Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

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

# LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

## TIME FOR SHARING

Lydia Mulkey

## SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

APPALACHIAN FOLK MELODY



Bless the Lord, O — my soul; And all that is with-in me, bless God's ho-ly name!



Bless the Lord, O — my soul, And for - get not all God's be-ne-fits.

## READING

Genesis 12: 1-5

Deborah Kapp

## READING

Matthew 4:23 – 5:10

## SERMON

Blessed

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## \*HYMN 324

*Open my Eyes*

OPEN MY EYES

Blue hymnal

## 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

*Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit*

John Preston

## \*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.**

## INVITATION

Lydia Mulkey

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Britt Cox and Alicia Reese

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Out of the whirlwind, you reveal yourself to us, O Lord (minister continues). . .

We join our voices to all the faithful, who forever sing to the glory of your name.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, (congregation singing)*

*heav'n and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.*

With incomprehensible mystery and kindness (minister continues). . .

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Love divine (minister continues). . .

Who taught us to pray, saying,

**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.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Lydia Mulkey

### SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC     *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* (two settings) Max Reger, Niels Gade

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

Deborah Kapp

O Savior Christ,

in whose way of life lies the secret of all life,

and the hopes of all the people,

we pray for quiet courage to meet this hour.

We did not choose to be born or to live in such an age.

But let its problems challenge us,

its discoveries exhilarate us,  
its injustice angers us,  
its possibilities inspire us,  
and its vigor renew us,  
for your Kingdom's sake. Amen.

## GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION AND SERVICE

\*HYMN 432

*Canto de Esperanza/ Song of Hope*

ARGENTINA

Blue hymnal

Stanza one in Spanish; stanza two in English

### \*RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Let us go into the world in peace. In our everyday living, may we embody the faith and hope that we express in worship:

**We are moving from words to witness in our relationship with God,  
From individualism to intimate fellowship in our relationship with each other,  
From charity to changing structures of injustice in our relationship with the world.**

May God grant us grace to love and serve faithfully, and may God bless us with kindness, courage, and peace.

### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Amen, Siyakudumisa*

South African

A - men, sing prais - es to our God. A - men, sing prais - es to our God.

A - men, re - joice, a - men, re - joice. A - men, sing prais - es to our God.

### SENDING MUSIC

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*

Paul Manz

## TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

THE CALL TO WORSHIP and the Prayer following Communion are from resources published by the World Council of Churches.

TWELFTH NIGHT CONCERT AT UNITY TEMPLE (875 Lake Street, Oak Park) Today at 4 p.m.  
Offering to benefit Thrive Counseling Center.

## EVENTS AND UPDATES

**BUDGET CHAT.** Council approved the 2018 First United budget at its meeting in December. Want to learn more? Come to a budget chat after worship on Sunday, January 21, in Centennial Hall. You'll learn the details behind our expected receipts and expenses and be well-prepared to vote at the January 28 Congregational Meeting and luncheon. Mark your calendars now.

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, January 28, immediately following worship. A congregational lunch will follow in Centennial Hall. Our lunch program will be interactive and child-friendly. Please plan to join us.

**WINTER FARMER'S MARKET!** Enjoy a wide range of seasonal goods from local farmers and vendors. Saturday, January 13, 9-1 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 Division St., River Forest. Link cards accepted, with double value coupon available for fruits and vegetables. Organized by Faith in Place, supported by Interfaith Green Network.

**2030 YOUNG ADULT GATHERING.** Thursday, January 18, 7 p.m. at the Beer Shop, 1026 North Blvd, Oak Park. Are you a young adult at First United in your 20s or 30s? Would you like to connect with other young adults in the church?

Meet us for a drink, pizza and conversation about what young adults at First United would like to experience in both their discipleship and fellowship together. Contact Britt for questions (bc0x@firstunitedoakpark.com).

### **NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**

Salt and Light – Genesis 12: 1-5 and Matthew 5: 13-16

**FIRST UNITED ZERO WASTE PROGRAM ROLL-OUT NEXT WEEK.** Are you confused if your trash is recyclable, compostable or landfill-bound? Drop by the Environmental Justice Team table for a trash-sorting activity or take an online quiz, and learn more about the Zero Waste Program. Informational flyers and suggested books are also available.

Color-coded and labeled bins (Recycle/Compost/Landfill) on convenient dollies will be available during Coffee Hour.

**SHARE-A-BAG/TAKE-A-BAG.** Do you have extra reusable bags, or do you need one? To help promote and implement the Village 10-cent bag fee, the Environmental Justice Team is collecting clean reusable bags. Hang extra bags you would like to share on the 'bag rack' provided in the lounge, or take a bag if you need one. Bags collected will also benefit Food Pantry client.

# 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).



**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK**

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

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7**

8:30 am Church School Leader Breakfast  
 9:30 am Education for All  
 11:00 am Worship  
 12:00 pm FUSH Work Camp Info Meeting  
 6:00 pm FUJI & FUSH  
 7:00 pm Gargoyle Brass & Organ Rehearsal

**MONDAY, JANUARY 8**

6:30 pm Pack 16 meeting  
 7:00 pm Deacon Board meeting  
 7:00 pm Food Pantry Board meeting  
 7:00 pm Worship, Music and Arts meeting

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 9**

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus  
 6:30 pm Tech committee meeting  
 7:00 pm Finance committee meeting  
 7:00 pm Troop 16 committee meeting  
 7:00 pm Youth committee meeting  
 7:00 pm Newcomers committee meeting  
 7:30 pm Faith in Action committee meeting

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10**

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

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 11**

8:15 am Mission Partner meeting  
 6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring  
 7:00 pm Personnel committee meeting

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 12**

6:00 pm Troop 16 meeting

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 13****SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**

9:30 am Education for All  
 11:00 am Worship  
 6:00 pm FUJI  
 7:00 pm Gargoyle Brass & Organ Rehearsal

**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, Manager of Operations (ext. 100)  
 Maureen Wheeler, Financial Consultant (ext. 106)  
 Keith Liesse, Manager of Building and Grounds  
 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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