

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
29 OCTOBER 2017



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“What is hateful to you, do not to your neighbor: that is the whole Torah; the rest is commentary; go and learn it.” -*Rabbi Hillel from the Babylonian Talmud*

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

GATHERING MUSIC	<i>Fugue in E-flat "St. Anne"</i>	J. S. Bach
INTROIT	<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i>	J. S. Bach
OUR LIFE TOGETHER	Please sign and pass the connections pew pad.	Lydia Mulkey

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** Lydia Mulkey

God is our dwelling place from year to year, age to age.

And yet, we become complacent, forgetting who we are.

God reforms us and makes prosperous the work of our hands!

God's life surges forth through creation, like grass that renews every morning.

And yet we prefer to be dust, swept away in the wind of every new idea and new fad.

God reforms us

and makes prosperous the work of our hands!

God turns to us, and has compassion on us,

so the great work of our lives manifests Christ's glorious love to the world.

God reforms us

and makes prosperous the work of our hands!

* **HYMN 260** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN' FESTE BURG
Blue hymnal

CALL TO CONFESSION Lydia Mulkey

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Living God,

You are the One who is always on the move, always creating and re-creating, always doing a new thing.

And yet, we confess, O Lord, that our lives can become static, routinely paralyzed by doubt and fear.

We remain ossified in patterns of greed, covetousness, and self-interest.

We doubt your promises of abundant, everlasting life, and so we live in dread of our neighbors, our friends, and our enemies.

Our souls remain still. We do not love as you love.

Nor do we live as you would have us live, with courage, generosity or the boldness of the gospel.

So in the silence of our hearts, we offer up to you those things we have done and those we have left undone.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, the good news of the gospel is that God's love in Christ stretches so deep and so wide that it infiltrates every broken place in our hearts and in our world.

Our hatred is met with love, our cruelty is met with compassion, our sins and our trespasses are met with forgiveness.

It is greater than anything you have ever done, or could do.

Open your hearts to let the love of God in, because in Christ you are forgiven, freed, made new.

Believe in this great good news.

*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

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

Psalms 46

Alicia Reese

The Beloved is our refuge and our strength,
a loving Presence in times of trouble.

Continued on next page

**Therefore, we will not fear though
the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the
heart of the sea;**

Though the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble
with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams
make glad the Holy City,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**The Beloved is in the midst of it,
it shall not be moved;**

**Our loving Creator is an
ever-present help.**

The nations may be at war,
countries left in ruin,
yet is the Voice of the Almighty heard,
melting hearts of stone.

**The Beloved is with us,
the infinite Heart of Love.**

Come, behold the works of the Beloved,
how love does reign even in
humanity's desolation.

**For the Beloved makes wars to cease,
breaking the barriers of fear;
shattering the greedy and oppressors,
refining hearts of iron.**

"Be still and know that I am Love.

I am exalted among the nations,

I am exalted in the earth!"

**The One who knows all hearts is with us;
The Beloved is our refuge and our strength.**

READING

Matthew 22:34-46 (NT p. 25)

SERMON

The Rest is Commentary

Rev. Britt Cox

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN 335

Blue hymnal

Though I may Speak

O WALY WALY

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Rick Ashton

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Alicia Reese

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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Phillip K. Jones II
Soloist: Sandy Jefferson

***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

Alicia Reese

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 391**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

NEW DIMENSIONS

Black hymnal

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Danish Amen



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

SENDING MUSIC

Tocatta and Fugue in D minor

J. S. Bach

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

STEWARDSHIP 2018. Today is Stewardship Sunday. If you feel called to be a disciple at First United, make a pledge. Our goal is for \$750,000 in pledges, which is a 15% increase from last year due to new expenses. So far, we have met \$315,527 of our \$750,000 goal. You can still drop a pledge card in the collection plate or pledge online. Demonstrations showing how to make your pledge online will be provided following worship today in the Lounge. **To celebrate First United and our commitment to our church, cake and coffee will be served after service today for Stewardship Sunday.**

PSALM 46 was translated by Nan C. Merrill

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

EVENTS AND UPDATES

LAST WEEK'S FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING benefiting Housing Forward raised \$1361.00.

NEXT SUNDAY: ADULT EDUCATION 9:30 A.M. IN CENTENNIAL HALL

THE WAY TO A WILL, A PATH TOWARD YOUR LEGACY

The Planned Giving Committee will reinterpret the adage: "Where there's a will, there's a way" and invite you to be a part of this interactive exercise. Come and take the first simple steps to define your financial legacy.

LUMINOUS NIGHT OF THE SOUL is the concert by City Voices this coming Saturday, 7:30 pm in the sanctuary. Bill Chin directs them in the title work for chorus, string quartet, and piano by Ola Gjeilo. They'll also perform Lauridsen's cantata *Lux Aeterna* for chorus and chamber orchestra, and other pieces ranging from a setting of a text by Mother Teresa to an arrangement of the jazz standard *I'm Beginning to See the Light*. Admission is \$20, \$15 seniors, and students 18 and under free. Advance tickets are half price! Get more info at (708) 386-5215, ext. 108.

IT'S TIME TO SPONSOR-A-FAMILY! The Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program needs sponsors to buy Christmas presents for needy families. Sign up on November Sundays and pick a gift tag for one individual or a family. Gifts are due on Sunday, December 3. Look for Sher Watts Spooner by the little Christmas tree in the lounge, starting November 5; call 708-383-4408; or e-mail sandaspooner@comcast.net.

"THE NATIVE POPULATIONS OFF RESERVATIONS; COMMUNITY AND VETERANS"

Evening Division dinner and program Thursday November 9 in Centennial Hall. Speaker Joe Podlask, founder and executive director of Trickster Gallery, Schaumburg and formerly longtime director of the American Indian Center, Chicago will feature "The Native Populations off Reservations; Community and Veterans". Dinner at 6 p.m. \$15 donation. Program at 7 p.m. FREE. Reservations: 708-383-5632 or sign up in the lounge.

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 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.



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848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301 | 708.386.5215

www.firstunitedoakpark.com | facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:30 am Education for All
 11:00 am Worship
 6:00 pm FUJI/FUSH
 6:00 pm City Voices rehearsal

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
 6:30 pm Pack 16 meeting
 7:00 pm Personnel Committee meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

12:00 pm Cooking Matters: Heart Health

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring
 7:00 pm Stewardship Committee meeting

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

6:00 pm Troop 16 meeting
 7:00 pm City Voices Dress Rehearsal
 8:00 pm FUJI Lock-In

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5****ALL SAINTS' DAY**

9:00 am Sponsor-a-Family Gift Sign-Up
 9:30 am Education for All
 11:00 am Worship
 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 Kloset, children's clothing ministry
 Cluster Tutoring

dkapp@firstunitedoakpark.com
 bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com
 lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com
 areese@firstunitedoakpark.com
 bill@firstunitedoakpark.com
 msurratt@firstunitedoakpark.com
 office@firstunitedoakpark.com
 mwheeler@firstunitedoakpark.com
 kliesse@firstunitedoakpark.com
 708-848-4910, www.firstunitedschool.com
 708-338-1724, www.housingforward.org
 708-386-1324, www.oprffoodpantry.org
 susanzaruba@gmail.com
 773-378-5530, www.clustertutoring.org