

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
18 FEBRUARY 2018
LENT ONE



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Many in our culture (Christians and non-Christians) think of the Sermon on the Mount as high ideals or hard teachings. They admire it from a distance. . . [Yet] the Christian life is not just hard human effort to live up to high ideals; nor is it just a bunch of duties. It is about God's grace. It is about living in the presence of God. It is the invitation of Jesus to participate in the new things God is doing all the time.

—Glenn H. Stassen

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Lord God, Creator, Have Mercy Upon Us

Lord Jesus Christ, Have Mercy Upon Us

J. S. Bach

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the connections pew pad.

Lydia Mulkey

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

In Christ, the God of heaven has made a home on earth.

Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.

He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

Come now, all who thirst,

And drink the water of life.

Come now, all who hunger,

And be filled with good things.

Come now, all who seek,

And be warmed by the fire of love.

* HYMN 382

Come We, Who Love God's Name

MARCHING TO ZION

Black hymnal

CALL TO CONFESSION

Deborah Kapp

Jesus came so that we all might have life and have it abundantly. With trust in God's desire for our lives to be whole rather than broken, redeemed rather than lost, let us together ask God for healing and grace. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful and gracious God, we confess that, when we try to live our lives, we sometimes worry about the wrong things. We tend to judge things in the moment, and forget that the arc of the moral universe is long. We fuss and fume about little things, and fail to recognize the wide embrace of your generous love. As we struggle to live with honor and integrity, remind us of

your tender care for the whole creation—even us. Expand our capacity to trust; widen our vision of your goodness; awaken us every day to the beauty of life, lived with your grace.

SILENCE IS KEPT

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The God who challenges us is also the God who encourages us. The God who confronts us is also the God who accepts us. Be assured that God is with us, accepting, guiding, and forgiving.

*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

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

TAIZÉ



O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, an-swer me. O



Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis-ten to me.

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READING

Psalm 37: 1-11; 37-40

READING

Matthew 6:25-34

Deborah Kapp

SERMON

The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 475

God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

SPARROW

Black hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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.

From your abundant gifts, O God, we make this offering, brought from our daily living. With your grace and blessing, may our gifts be used in ways that help us to fulfill our mission: to move from words to witness in our relationship with you, from individualism to intimate fellowship in our relationship with each other, and from charity to changing structures of injustice in our relationship with the world. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Call to Remembrance

Richard Farrant

Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercy and thy loving kindness, which hath been ever of old. O remember not the sins and offenses of my youth, but according to thy mercy, think thou on me, O Lord, for thy goodness.

***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 75**

Lord, Make Me More Holy

LORD, MAKE ME MORE HOLY

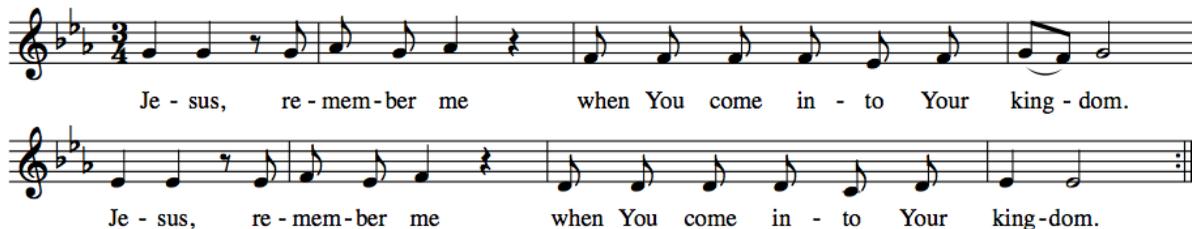
Black hymnal

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Jesus, Remember Me

TAIZÉ



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom.

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SENDING MUSIC

Lord God, Holy Spirit, Have Mercy Upon Us

J. S. Bach

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

We invite interested congregants to join us for lunch and discussion following worship, in Centennial Hall. The focus of our conversation will be the staff departures that occurred in 2016 and 2017. Through this conversation we hope to allow people space to give voice to important feelings and concerns, learn more about our congregation and its challenges, and identify constructive ways to move forward from here. Nursery and child care will be provided.



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.

HOSPITALITY IN WORSHIP - It takes many hands and hearts to make our worship pleasing in the sight of God. We are grateful to our worship and music leaders as well as the folks who minister in the background in other profoundly important ways. This week we thank Art Guild members Jane Barker, Emory Mead, Steve Pederson, Linda Sandman, Sara Stevenson, Ally Vertigan and John Zaruba; Sanctuary Guild members Joanne Despotes, Marilyn Heinrichs, James Morrison, Cindy Palombi and Nina Roher; Lead Usher Gene Armstrong; Recording Asst. Ted Despotes; Greeters Rose Buckner, Marsha Hubbuch, Jim Wisuri & Vicky Lekovish, and the Church School Acolytes. We ask forgiveness in advance for any omissions.

If you think one or more of these Hospitality Ministries would be a fit for you, please contact Joanne Despotes at jdespotes@gmail.com or 708-209-1377.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

WORSHIP 101 - Each Sunday in March, we will explore the ins and outs of designing a worship service. All who attend these four sessions will have the opportunity to sit on a worship planning team that will design one of our worship services this Spring! Sundays 9:30-10:45 a.m. in Centennial Hall.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REQUEST - If you are thinking about using your gifts and talents in a more formal way to contribute to our life together, the "Nominations" card in the pew racks lists a variety of ways to get involved. Several committees are listed. And, if you would consider serving as an officer of the congregation (elections in May) or serving on the Pastor Nominating Committee which will be put together over the next few months, you can also indicate that on the card. (Self-nomination doesn't mean that you can be certain you will be invited to join the committee of your choice, but your input is a very important first step.)

There's plenty of room on the "Nominations" side of the card to recommend people you know to serve in specific roles. And, if you have even more ideas about who would be great, feel free to turn in two or even three cards...

Please think carefully and prayerfully about yourself, and about other members of the congregation. You can put the completed card in the offering plate when it is passed, or in the Nominating Committee mailbox. Blank cards are also available at the Elder's Desk in the Lounge.

EMPTY BOWLS – FILL YOUR BOWL AND HELP OTHERS. Select a pottery bowl and fill it with yummy soup from local restaurants. Soup for the Empty Bowls fundraiser for OPRF Food Pantry, Global Alliance for Africa and Housing Forward! \$15 per Adult \$10 per Student.

INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE? Opportunities to address gun violence range can just take a few minutes as well as more dedicated efforts. The Faith in Action team, Waging Peace, does this work and invites all to help. If you'd like to learn more, get in touch with Lois Thiessen Love, 708-386-5709 or lois@thiessenlove.com.

LENTEN BOOK GROUPS - VARIOUS TIMES AND LOCATIONS. During the Season of Lent, book groups will be gathering to read one of two books: "Dare We Speak of Hope?" by Allan A. Boesak and "Accidental Saints" by Nadia Bolz-Weber. You may signup online here: <http://bit.do/lentgroups> or on the signup sheet located at the elder desk in the lounge. Books are available locally at Magic Tree Bookstore. Groups will begin meeting the week of Feb. 18 and meet for 5 weeks. Contact Britt Cox if you have questions or need help signing up, bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com.

LENTEN PRAYER STATIONS - Deacons available on Wednesday evenings for prayer. Throughout Lent, our sanctuary will be filled with interactive prayer stations. Engage them as many times as you would like between February 14 and March 31. The stations make up a prayer journey that can be taken alone, with a friend or with your family. This journey is open to all ages and stages of faith Every Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:15 p.m. Deacons will be available in the sanctuary for prayer. Blessings on your journey through Lent.

NEXT SUNDAY,

Ask, Seek, Knock- Matthew 7: 7-11

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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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

9:30 pm Education for All
 11:00 am Worship
 12:00 pm Congregational Conversations
 6:00 pm FUJI and FUSH
 6:00 pm SOPRF Chorus Rehearsal
 7:00 pm Men's Lenten Book Group

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

President's Day – Office Closed

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

10:00 am Project Green
 4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
 6:00 pm Council Meeting
 7:00 pm Youth Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

9:00 am Nursery School Board Meeting
 11:00 am Wednesday Small Group
 7:00 pm Food Pantry Volunteer Orientation
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring
 7:00 pm Housing Sub-Committee

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24****SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

9:30 am Education for All
 11:00 am Worship
 12:00 pm Evening Division Board Meeting
 3:00 pm PFLAG
 3:00 pm Quest World Religions Presentations
 5:00 pm Boulevard Birthdays – FUJI
 6:00 pm FUSH
 6:00 pm SOPRF Chorus Rehearsal
 7:00 pm Men's Lenten Book Group

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)
 Dennis Cobb, Administrative Assistant
 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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