

# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

24 DECEMBER 2017

8 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

"Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light." Genesis 1:3

\*Please stand if you are able. Please silence cell phones.

## GATHERING MUSIC

Jazz Carol Selections

Julian Chin Trio

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the red pew pad.

Britt Cox

As we prepare for worship, let us state why we gather as First United Church of Oak Park:

**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 we do so through our worship today.

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### \* CAROL 41

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

Blue hymnal

### \*LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Raducha Family

Why have you come to this place and this time?

**We come to worship and to wait.**

What is it you want from your God?

**We come hoping for hope, praying for peace, dreaming of joy and longing for love.**

Have you heard the words of John the Evangelist?

**We have heard the words of John,**

**"This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent God's only Son into the world so that we can live through him."**

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a time when those who walked in the shadows would see a great light. A light would shine and a child would be born to us. The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated the heavenly song of the angels, "Glory, peace on earth and goodwill!" John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh. This great light lives among us. By it we behold God's glory—full of grace and truth. Rejoice, people of God!

**The light has come into the world!**

The Christ candle is lit as we sing.

\* CAROL

*One Candle Is Lit*

Come, lis - ten, the\_ sounds of God - with - us ring clear,  
and\_ signs of a cross in the\_ dis - tance ap - pear.  
The Word once made flesh, yet the\_ Word ev - er near.  
One\_ can - dle is lit for the\_ Christ - birth - day here.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Deborah Kapp

Christ has been born and has come before us. Now let us come before him and confess that which we have done that is contrary to the peaceful kingdom that he brings. Let us sing together.

SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.  
O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

SILENCE IS KEPT.

SUNG ASSURANCE OF PARDON

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven.  
No one discerns God's coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where yearning souls long to be whole, the dear Christ enters in.

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

As we listen to God's Word, please remain seated for all hymns. Hymns are in the blue hymnal.

<b>HYMN 38</b>	<i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i> (vs. 1 and 3)	CAROL
<b>FIRST LESSON</b>	Luke 2:1-7	Lydia Mulkey
<b>HYMN 56</b>	<i>The First Nowell</i> (vs. 1-2)	THE FIRST NOWELL
<b>SECOND LESSON</b>	Luke 2:8-14	Alicia Reese
<b>HYMN 23</b>	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	GLORIA
<b>THIRD LESSON</b>	Luke 2:15-20	Deborah Kapp
<b>MEDITATION</b>	Making Room	Britt Cox

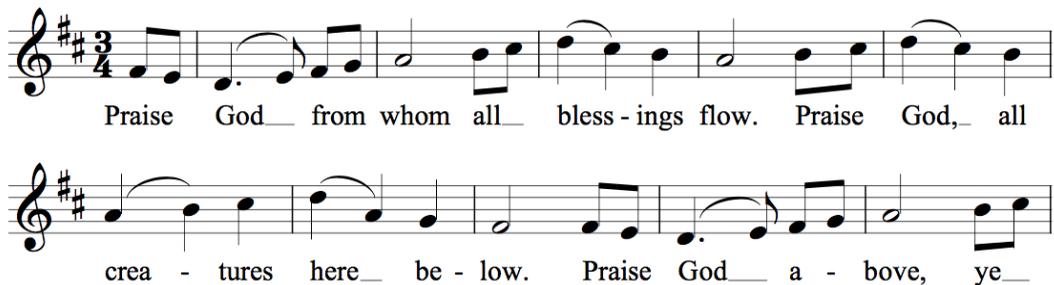
## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

<b>HYMN 29</b>	<i>Go, Tell it on the Mountain</i>	GO TELL IT
<b>PRAYER OF DEDICATION</b>		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.

<b>OFFERTORY</b>	<i>O Holy Night</i>	Adolphe Adam
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## \*DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all  
creatures here below. Praise God above, ye

heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674  
 Music: Trad. English Carol

*THE FIRST NOEL*  
 Irr. with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: [music@gbod.org](mailto:music@gbod.org). Text and tune are public domain.

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Life is a gift and we are to celebrate it.

**May we rejoice in the beauty of this special time.**

We thank you, God, that you have given yourself to us in love.

If we go to the heights of the mountains, or the ends of the earth, you are with us. If we go to the depths of the sea, your right hand holds us fast.

Therefore, we lift our hearts in joyful praise, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

### SANCTUS

The tune "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven 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.**

The pastor prays, concluding with: "Great is the mystery of faith."

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

## SHARING THE ELEMENTS

We serve communion by intinction. Beginning from the middle pews, come to the front or back to share in the joyful feast. Bring your candle and bulletin and walk along the two center aisles, ending in a circle around the sanctuary. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may join the circle around the outside aisles. Gluten-free bread is available at the station in the west transept.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*A Child Is Born*

Thad Jones

# GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION AND SERVICE

## \*LIGHTING OF ALL CANDLES

Alicia Reese

Christ, the light of the world, gives each one of us light

So that we too may shine with gratitude, hope and love.

Receive the light that comes to you: It comes from the Christ candle,

But it reaches you only through your neighbors.

Receive the light from a brother or sister in Christ.

Hold the light, enjoy the light, and be thankful.

Emmanuel. God is with us!

## \*HYMN 60

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,**

**Round yon virgin mother and child!**

**Holy Infant, so tender and mild,**

**Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

*Continued on next page*

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

**\*CHRIST AMONG US**

Lydia Mulkey

Christ among us, Light of the World,  
Heal our brokenness and bring us to wholeness,  
Ease our pain and bring us hope, strength, and life.  
Give us a new heart, new hope, and a new song,  
That our prayers and deeds may be one.  
We ask it in your holy name as we join in the prayer you taught us to say:  
**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.**

Christ is the way, the truth and the life.  
Rejoice, believe and follow.  
Blow out your candles now,  
but take the light of Christ with you  
out into the world.

**\*HYMN 40**

*Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing...**

*Continued on next page*

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:  
Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy...

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found...

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love...

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Britt Cox

**SENDING MUSIC**

*Jazz Carol Selections*

Julian Chin Trio

**GRATEFUL THANKS TO TONIGHT'S MUSICIANS:** Meredith McGuire *vocalist*, and the Julian Chin Trio, Julian Chin *piano*, Patrick Dinnen *bass*, and Jarad Kleinstein *drums*.

**OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING** supports mission programming here at First United. Ten percent of the offering will be shared with RefugeeOne, the agency through whom we sponsor a refugee family. RefugeeOne does incredible face-to-face work with families just arriving in the U.S., and walks with them as they get accustomed to living in a new country, speaking a new language, learning new ways of life, etc. The organization is also active in advocacy. We are grateful for all your gifts.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE STICKY CHURCH.** December 31 - 11 a.m. in Centennial Hall

Start the year with sticky faith alongside family and friends! Worship will be interactive and kid-friendly, filled with intergenerational fun. Together we'll sing and pray and hear the stories of scripture, munch on breakfast, sing some more and clean the space before going on our way.

## **2017 POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS**

In loving memory of Quigg and Joan Porter and Margaret Davis, from Reneé Davis.

In honor of Howard Davis, from Reneé Davis.

In honor of Charles and Leona Summers, and Andrew and Barbara Sorenson, from Dale Sorenson and Carol Summers.

In memory of Bill May and David Rickert and Carol Faust; in honor of Julia Faust, love Stan and Sara Faust.

In memory of our mama and grandmama, Janie Mae Arnold, love Jan Arnold and Mary Anderson.

In loving memory of Richard Waichler, from Nancy Waichler.

In memory of John R. Sibley, from the Sibley Family.

In memory of Gardner C. Borden and Christine B. Jennings, from the Sibley Family.

# WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED. JOIN US ANY SUNDAY.

We're glad you're here to share our Christmas Eve service. Learn more about our church:

**WORSHIP.** Worship is our time to praise and grow closer to God. Worship each week includes song, prayer, learning, silence, and giving. Children participate fully in worship. We offer safe, quality childcare and quiet play for children five and under in our nursery. A member of the pastoral staff preaches every Sunday to lead the congregation in interpreting the word of God. An upcoming series of sermons will focus on the Sermon on the Mount and segue into Lent. To learn more about First United's approach to preaching, contact Interim Lead Pastor Deborah Kapp, 708-386-5215 (ext. 101) or [dkapp@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:dkapp@firstunitedoakpark.com).

**EDUCATION FOR ALL.** Church school and adult education classes are held at 9:30 every Sunday morning from September through late May. Children focus on Bible study, singing, and mission. Adult ed focuses on issues from Bible study to faith journeys to church history to current events to international conflicts. To find out more about the church's education classes, contact Lydia Mulkey, Associate Pastor of Education, at 708-386-5215 (ext. 103) or [lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com).

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY.** Besides church school, First United also offers our NAEYC-accredited First United Nursery School. An open house for parents interested in enrolling children ages 2-5 will be Tuesday, January 16. Contact Nursery School Director Joan White at 708-848-4910 or [jwhite@firstunitedschool.com](mailto:jwhite@firstunitedschool.com).

**YOUTH MINISTRY.** On Sunday nights we welcome youth to FUJI (junior highs) and FUSH (senior highs) for dinner, fellowship, service projects and more. Both groups take weekend retreats to bond, relax, play and just chill. This summer's FUSH work camp will be in Port Orchard, Washington, to focus on housing. For more information, contact Alicia Reese, Coordinator of Youth & Children's Ministry, at [areese@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:areese@firstunitedoakpark.com).

**MUSIC.** First United offers our weekly Sanctuary Choir, our Casavant organ, and occasionally the added music of our Handbell Choir and church school children. Singers interested in joining our Sanctuary Choir can contact William Chin, Director of Music, at 386-5215 (ext. 108) or [bill@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:bill@firstunitedoakpark.com). Music at First offers a series of concerts throughout the year, starting with a program of Shakespeare-inspired music by brass and choirs on February 10.

**NEWCOMERS.** 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 LGBTQ people in membership and ministry. Interested in learning more? A New Members' class will start in late winter. Contact Britt Cox, Associate Pastor for Discipleship, at 708-386-5215 (ext. 105) or [bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com) for more information.

**MISSION.** We have mission partners that work both within the church and in the wider community, from Chicago's Austin neighborhood to the Middle East. We offer hands-on opportunities to tutor, to work with a refugee family, to help with the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry housed in our basement, and so much more. We're a church that "walks the walk," which is reflected in the three paths of our Vision 2020 statement. We are moving from:

- **Words to witness** in our relationship with God.
- **Individualism to intimate fellowship** with other members of the church community.
- **Charity to changing structures** in our relationship with the world.



# First United Church of Oak Park

An open community united in love & justice

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