

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
11 MARCH 2018
LENT FOUR



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“Why do you dwell on things that don’t matter when there are so many things that do?”
— Dennis Sharpe

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Prelude and Fugue in G minor
Reflection on Ubi Caritas

J. S. Bach
Robert Jones

INTROIT

We Come to Praise

Bill Ingram
Eighth Grade Handbell Ringers

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the connections pew pad.

Alicia Reese

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

It is the sabbath, we come to be fed.

Provider God, you feed us.

It is the sabbath, we come to be healed.

Healer God, you nurse our wounds.

It is the sabbath, we come feeling lost.

Shepherd God, you guide our souls.

It is the fourth Sunday of our Lenten journey, we come seeking strength and courage.

God of rule breakers, your love is steadfast, you walk this journey with us.

* HYMN 87

The Glory of these Forty Days

ERHALT UNS, HERR

Blue hymnal

CALL TO CONFESSION

Deborah Kapp

Our God is of love and justice, when we humble ourselves before God, God listens and examines our lives with love, forgiveness, and grace. Let us humble ourselves in prayer...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

With hearts of sorrow, we come before you, O God, to confess what you already know: we have failed to keep your laws. We continue to follow our own selfish path rather than your holy, life-giving way. We are full of faults and yet you call us beloved and claim us as your own. We look to you for guidance. Make us one with you and with one another, unify us. Send your Holy Spirit to bind us together and to grant us eyes to see the bigger picture of your desire for our lives.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, God knows you, God sees you as you truly are and loves you. Be whole, find peace in knowing you are forgiven.

Amen.

* 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

Matthew 12:1-14, NT p. 12

SERMON

The Bigger Picture

Alicia Reese

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN 79

Kind Maker of the World

A LA VENUE DE NOÉL

Blue hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Deborah Kapp

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

O God, Whose Healing Power

Luke Mayernik

*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

Britt Cox

Our Mother and 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.

ANOINTING

We invite you to receive a blessing through the ritual of anointing from Deacons at the front and back of the sanctuary. Oil is used to mark a prayer for peace, healing or blessing, whatever your need. All are welcome.

GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION AND SERVICE

* HYMN 85

What Wondrous Love is This

WONDROUS LOVE

Blue hymnal

* CHARGE (IN UNISON)

Have courage! Hold on to what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

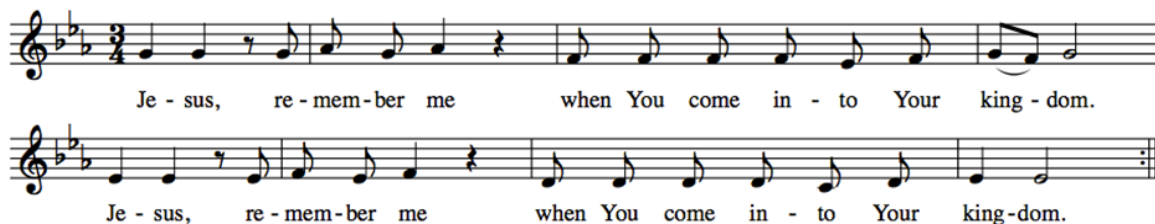
* BENEDICTION

Alicia Reese

* **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

Sonata No. 1 in D Major
Finale: Allegro assai

Alexandre Guilmant

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

GUEST ORGANIST - Today we welcome guest organist Christoph Hintermüller from Mainz, Germany. He has spent the past two weeks in Oak Park observing what Michael Surratt, Bill Chin and our musicians at First United Church do in an American protestant church, as well as enjoying many of the musical offerings that are available in the Chicago area. He will complete his undergraduate degree in Church Music at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz this spring. Christoph has played concerts in England, Austria, France, Spain, Norway, Italy, Switzerland and the United States. He spent the fall semester of 2016 studying organ at UCLA and he will begin a master's degree in organ performance this fall at North Texas State University in Denton, Texas. Christoph is especially interested in organ music by American composers. He will play the Gathering and Sending Music today. Please feel free to come up to the organ console after the service and greet him.



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. In addition to our worship and music leaders, we thank Lead Usher Bob Larson; Greeters Cynthia Collazo, Marsha Hubbuch, Clara Kearley, and Doug Thurman; Sanctuary Guild members James Morrison, Cindy Palombi and Nina Roher and the Church School Acolytes. We ask forgiveness 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

SECOND SUNDAY SUNDAES! Stop by in the lounge after service today for Second Sunday Sundaes. The second Sunday of every month, after service the Seventh Grade Sunday School class will provide ice cream and the toppings. Come for a sweet treat and fellowship!

TECHNOLOGY HELP DESK IS OPEN - If you have technology troubles, stop by the technology help desk in the lounge before or after worship.

INTERFAITH GREEN NETWORK - Ever wonder how you can turn your interest in sustainability and your faith experience into positive result for the whole community? Come join the Interfaith Green Network! The next meeting is Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE INPUT - If you are thinking about how you might contribute to our life together, the "Nominations" card in the pew racks lists many ways. Several committees are listed. And, if you would consider serving as an officer or serving on a Pastor Nominating Committee, you can also indicate that on the card. (Self-nomination doesn't mean that you can be certain you will be invited to join a committee, but your input is a very important first step.)

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.

CONVERSATIONS RECAP - On Sunday, March 18, Deborah Kapp will be available for conversation after worship for those who want to hear more about the conversations we held on February 11 and 18. All are welcome. We will gather in the sanctuary when worship is concluded.

NEXT SUNDAY IS LENTEN CANTATA SUNDAY, with the *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré presented by the Sanctuary Choir. Organist Michael Surratt is featured, along with vocal soloists and a chamber orchestra composed of church members and guest musicians.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION - First United's sanctuary is 100 years old, and we plan to celebrate! Following worship on April 15, come to the lounge to discover how "The Walls Tell Our Story." You will learn how our church building rose from the ashes in 1916 and emerged with increased strength and dedication. Photos, paintings, and windows reflect amazing faith, courage, and generosity. Contact Marcia Ashton to learn more (marciaashton@msn.com or 708-524-5126).

MORE PADS GUESTS THAN EVER – WILL YOU HELP? Each Sunday from April 8 to May 13, PADS will have a new site for 20 guests located at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, 545 South East Ave, OP. Volunteer opportunities include meal providers, evening and overnight shift teams, and laundry pickup and delivery. Contact Tonisha Daniel, tdaniel@housingforward.org or 708.338.1724 ext. 220 to attend a Shelter Training on March 3, March 15, or March 31. Find more information at www.housingforward.org/get-involved.

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.



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

an open community united in love & justice

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SUNDAY, MARCH 11**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME!**

- 9:00 am Technology Help Desk
- 9:30 am Education for all
- 11:00 am Worship
- 12:00 pm Second Sunday Sundaes
- 12:00 pm Social Media and Faith Formation
- 6:00 pm FUJI and FUSH
- 6:00 pm SOPRF Chorus Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Men's Lenten Book Group

MONDAY, MARCH 12

- 10:00 am Library Committee Work
- 12:00 pm AmeriCorps Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

- 4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
- 7:00 pm Finance Committee
- 7:00 pm Interfaith Green Network
- 7:00 pm Newcomers Committee
- 7:00 pm Youth Committee (away)
- 7:30 pm Faith in Action Committee

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

- 11:00 am Wednesday Small Group
- 6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm Lenten Prayer Stations
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

- 6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring

FRIDAY, MARCH 17**SATURDAY, MARCH 17**

- 8:00 am FUJI/O.W.L. Retreat
- 9:00 am Fauré Requiem Rehearsal
- 7:30 pm Bach & Sons

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

- 9:00 am Technology Help Desk
- 9:30 am Education for All
- 9:30 am *Jesus Christ Superstar* – 3d grade
- 9:30 am Council Breakfast w/ new members
- 11:00 am Worship
- 12:00 pm Conversation with Deborah
- 6:00 pm FUJI and FUSH
- 6:00 pm SOPRF Chorus Rehearsal
- 6:00 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. 102)
 Dennis Cobb, Administrative Assistant (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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