

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
15 APRIL 2018
EASTER THREE



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

"The sacred moments, the moments of miracle, are often the everyday moments, the moments which, if we do not look with more than our eyes or listen with more than our ears reveal only...a gardener, a stranger coming down the road behind us, a meal like any other meal.

But if we look with our hearts, if we listen with all our being and imagination. . . what we may see is Jesus himself."

—Frederick Buechner

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Prelude, Fugue and Variation

César Franck

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the red pew pad.

Alicia Reese

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Alicia Reese

We need your presence on the long road, Lord.

**The road between fear and hope,
the road between the place where all is lost
and the place of resurrection.**

Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus,
we are in need of your company!

**Jesus, stand among us, in your risen power,
let this time of worship, be a hallowed hour.**

*** HYMN 308**

At the Font We Start Our Journey

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

black hymnal

CALL TO PRAYER

Alicia Reese

When we confess our lives, we are calling on God who promises not only to hear us, but to heal us with forgiveness and hope. Join me, as we pray together saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We cut you to the heart, Loving God, with the silly choices we make. We had hoped our lives would reflect your presence, but those around us can see how empty we are. We had hoped

our words might bring healing, but they end up hurting those we love the most. We had hoped to find Jesus, but cannot see him in all those you send to us. Oh, how foolish we are to think we can go on without your mercy, O God. May this prayer in silence open our eyes to see you at work in the world and in our lives.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

This we know for certain—we are forgiven by our gracious God. This good news never ceases to astound us!

This promise is passed on to us, so we may share it with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

TIME FOR SHARING

Deborah Kapp

Pastor: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the Sacrament of Baptism for Noah Henry Vincent, with parents Elizabeth and Cahontas Vincent, and Godparents Jeff Heaton and Porsche Winfield.

There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

Council Member: When the poor and needy search for water, and none is to be found, and their tongues are parched with thirst, then God will answer them. God will not abandon them. God will make rivers run on barren heights and fountains in the valleys. God will turn the wilderness into lake and dry lands into springs of water.

Living Water to all who thirst, in you we live and have our being.

Pastor: Jesus said, "Whoever drinks the water that I shall give will never thirst again. For the water that I give will become a spring within, welling up to eternal life."

Living Water to all who thirst, in you we live and have our being.

Council Member: The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd. He will lead them to the springs of living water. And God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Living Water to all who thirst, in you we live and have our being.

Pastor: As we celebrate this sacrament today, let us all remember with joy our own baptism.

Let us remember that we all—now and forever—belong to God.

Council Member: On behalf of the Church Council, I present Noah Henry Vincent to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

QUESTIONS TO THE FAMILY

Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith, and to teach this faith to your children?

Do you promise, with the help of God, to be followers of God, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of the Holy as best you are able?

COMMUNITY COVENANT

Council Member: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations, and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ? If so, please join me in the congregational covenant:

In this act of surpassing grace, we witness the power of God.

In baptism, we become newly aware of God's abundant love and mercy.

God calls each of us wherever we are, whoever we are, to share in the joy of God's presence in a community of faith.

As people who strive to follow Jesus Christ more closely each day, we welcome you, Noah, to our common journey.

Trusting God, we offer you our support and care.

BLESSING AND POURING THE WATERS (Church school student pours water)

Source of love, Mother and Father of all living creatures,

Pour out your Spirit upon this water, that this font may be your womb of new birth.

May all who pass through these waters be delivered to new life,

From bondage to freedom, from sin to righteousness.

Bind them to the household of faith, guard them from all evil.

Strengthen them to serve you with joy until the day you make all things new.

To you be all praise, honor and glory; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

BAPTISM

What is the name of this child?

Noah Henry, I baptize you in the name of God our Creator, Jesus Christ our Redeemer and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer. You are a child of God, a disciple of Jesus Christ and a member of this church.

WELCOME

Council Member: Noah has been received into the church through baptism. God has made him a member of the household of God. Let us welcome our newest brother in Christ.

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Refrain



Verse



GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:13-35, NT p. 90

SERMON

Clear Eyes, Full Hearts

Britt Cox

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN 451

Be Now My Vision

SLANE

black hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Britt Cox

OFFERTORY

Abendlied

Josef Rheinberger

Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.

***DOXOLOGY**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below. Alleluia, alleluia.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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 391**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

NEW DIMENSIONS

Black hymnal

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le -

lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

SENDING MUSIC

Psalm XIX

Benedetto Marcello

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED



PLEASE RECYCLE your bulletin in one of the bins near the Sanctuary exits.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION - First United's sanctuary is 100 years old, and we're celebrating! Following worship today, 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. Also, learn about our chapel windows and the beautiful imagery contained in them.

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- HELP WANTED! 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 and also to the folks who minister in the background in other profoundly important ways. This week we thank Lead Usher Bob Larson; Greeters Marsha Hubbuch, Kate Larson, Sue Saliny and Doug Thurman; Sanctuary Guild members 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 might be a fit for you, please contact Joanne Despotes at jdespotes@gmail.com or 708-209-1377.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

NOTES FOR BRITT - Have you thought about writing to Britt Cox thanking her for her ministry to First United, and wishing her well? To collect your notes and cards, starting Sunday April 15 there will be a box in the hallway between the sanctuary and the lounge, which will be presented to Britt at the reception on Sunday April 22.

ARE YOU READ FOR SPRING? Come help the Buildings and Grounds Committee spruce up the church for Spring on April 21, 9 a.m. to noon. This is a rescheduled rain date from April 14. Bring your rake, gardening tools and/or leaf blower. We will focus on lawns, outdoor spaces, and indoor cleaning of the Sanctuary and the Narthexes. Questions? Call Paul Aeschleman 708-848-6023 or Bobbie Kmiec 708-848-6023.

PADS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - First United has committed to help Housing Forward by staffing one more night for PADS on May 6 at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Oak Park. We need people to fill up our roster for that night. This is important work: PADS has been turning away many people due to lack of space, and this is our opportunity to step forward and be part of the solution. Please sign up at this site for a shift on May 6: <https://tinyurl.com/PADS-May6>. Housing Forward will provide training for all volunteers.

ARTEMESIA TRIO: A Journey of Motherhood, TODAY at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. The Chicago trio of Kaitlin Foley, Diana Lawrence, and Alexandra Olsavsky harness a vast repertoire of vocal styles to take audiences on a journey of sound and spirit with every performance. Join us to hear a breathless Appalachian exaltation at the birth of a young daughter, a playful First Nations lullaby about a jumping prairie dog, a mournful Lithuanian graveside song from an orphaned daughter, an admonishing Yiddish dialogue from an exasperated mother to a love-stuck teenage daughter.

SEWING SUPPLIES DONATION NEEDED! Nadia, the mom of our refugee family and her two oldest daughters are learning how to sew thanks to the generous donation of a sewing machine by one of our congregants. We are now in need of fabric, thread and notions. If you have unwanted or extra sewing supplies, please bring them to the church office and mark the bag "Alsaad Sewing Supplies." Thanks in advance!

STOP EATING YOURSELF SICK! Protect your family from toxic chemicals in our food system. Presented by soil biologist Dr. Thierry Vrain, moderated discussion by Dr. Susan Buchanan from First United Church. Thursday, April 12, 7 p.m., Trinity High School Auditorium, 7574 Division, River Forest. For more information and free tickets, go to: www.gogreenoakpark.org/drvrain

BIKE TO CHURCH! Join hundreds of Oak Parkers who have pledged to bike, walk, carpool, and/or take public transportation for their trips from place-to-place during Earth Day weekend, April 20-22. Participate in the "Blessing of the Bikes" during Sunday worship. This is a campaign of the Interfaith Green Network, Bike Walk Oak Park, and Active Transportation Alliance.

FLOWER POWER! Leading into Mother's Day, Housing Justice is sponsoring a project to benefit New Moms, one of First United's key mission partners. New Moms serves struggling, often homeless, teenage mothers and their children with services that enable them to achieve independence and stability. Make a Flower Power tax-deductible donation today in the Lounge of \$10-\$15. First United Church School classes will plant pots of flowers for New Mom's clients on May 6.

"THE OCCUPATION OF THE AMERICAN MIND" will be shown at the Lake Theater in Oak Park on Wednesday, April 25 as part of the Palestinian Film Festival. The film has been described as "Harrowing and incendiary...a vital and unmissable film" by David Zirin, in The Nation. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., the film will be shown at 7:00 pm. Following, Milos Stehlik will conduct a brief discussion. Sponsored by the Middle East Task Force, CJPIP and the Chicago Palestine Film Festival.

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 registration 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.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

- 9:30 am Education for all ages
- 9:30 am Technology Help Desk
- 11:00 am Worship
- 12:00 pm Centennial Celebration Kick-Off
- 12:00 pm Tower, Tunnels and More
- 2:00 pm SOPRF Chorus Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm FUJI/FUSH
- 7:30 pm Artemisia Concert

MONDAY, APRIL 16

- 12:00 pm AmeriCorps meeting
- 6:30 pm Waging Peace meeting
- 7:00 pm Building and Grounds meeting
- 7:00 pm Nominating Committee meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 17

- 4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
- 7:00 pm Council meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

- 9:00 am Nursery School Board meeting
- 11:00 am Wednesday Small Group
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Cluster Tutoring Board meeting

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

- 6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

- 9:30 am Food Pantry Community Impact Tour
- 8:00 pm FUSH Lock-in

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

- 9:00 am All Church Clean-Up
- 10:00 am Northern Illinois PFLAG Council
- 11:00 am Organ Music Display

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

- 9:30 am Education for all ages
- 9:30 am Technology Help Desk
- 11:00 am Worship – Fourth Sunday Offering
- 12:00 pm Britt Cox Reception
- 6:00 pm FUJI

**CONTACT THE FIRST UNITED OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9 AM TO 5 PM
708.386.5215**

Deborah Kapp, Interim Lead Pastor (ext. 101)	dkapp@firstunitedoakpark.com
Britt Cox, Associate Pastor of Discipleship (ext. 105)	bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com
Lydia Mulkey, Associate Pastor of Education (ext. 103)	lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com
Alicia Reese, Coordinator of Youth & Children's Ministry	areese@firstunitedoakpark.com
William Chin, Director of Music (ext. 108)	bill@firstunitedoakpark.com
Michael Surratt, Organist	msurratt@firstunitedoakpark.com
Amanda Swanson, Manager of Operations (ext. 102)	aswanson@firstunitedoakpark.com
Dennis Cobb, Administrative Assistant (ext. 100)	dcobb@firstunitedoakpark.com
Maureen Wheeler, Financial Consultant (ext. 106)	mwheeler@firstunitedoakpark.com
Susan Samek, Financial Assistant (ext. 109)	ssamek@firstunitedoakpark.com
Keith Liesse, Manager of Building and Grounds	kliesse@firstunitedoakpark.com
First United Church Nursery School	708-848-4910, www.firstunitedschool.com
Housing Forward	708-338-1724, www.housingforward.org
Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry	708-386-1324, www.oprffoodpantry.org
The Kid's Klose, children's clothing ministry	susanzaruba@gmail.com
Cluster Tutoring	773-378-5530, www.clustertutoring.org
Pro Musica Youth Chorus	708-406-9597, www.promusicayouthchorus.org
Samaritan Counseling Center	847-446-6955, www.northshoresamaritan.org



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

an open community united in love & justice

848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301 | 708.386.5215

www.firstunitedoakpark.com | facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark