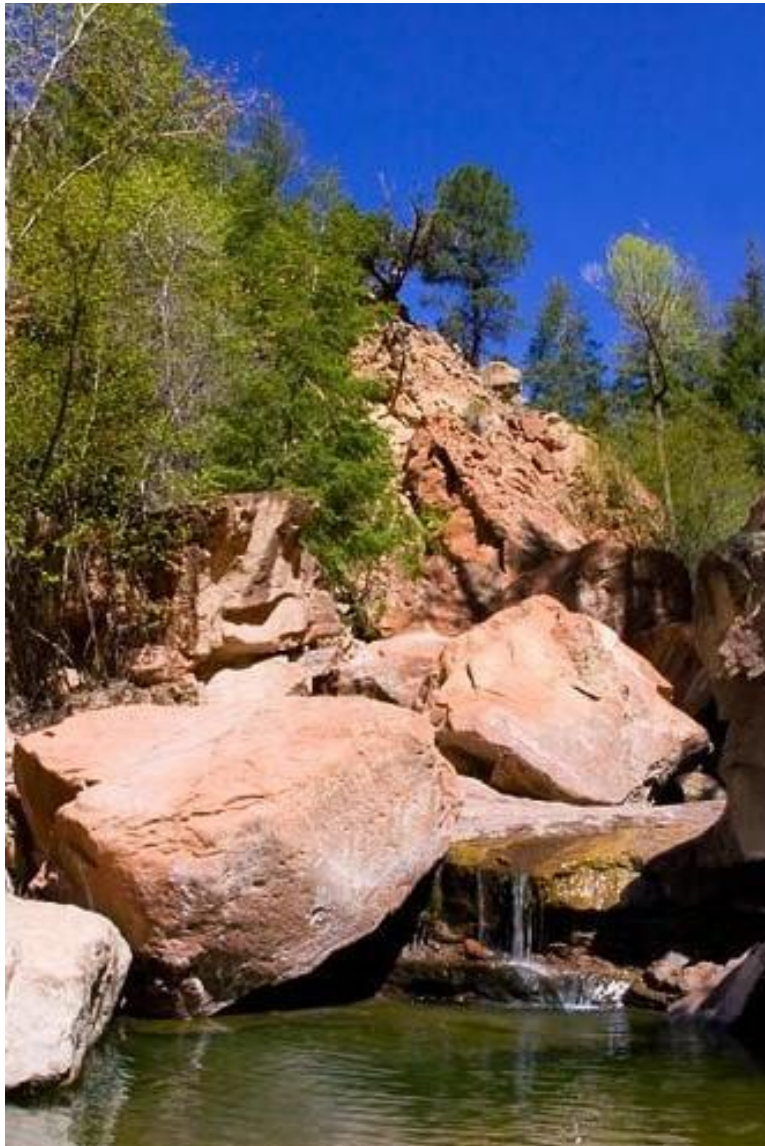


**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK**  
**23 SEPTEMBER 2018**



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

"The best criticism of the bad is the practice of the better."

Richard Rohr

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

**GATHERING MUSIC**

*Prelude, Fugue and Variation*

César Franck

**WELCOME**

Please sign and pass the black Connections pad.

Deborah Kapp

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**\*OPENING SONG**

*God Welcomes All*

**THEMBA AMEN**

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

The image shows the first line of musical notation for the opening song. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;".

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The image shows the second line of musical notation for the opening song. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.".

# GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Lydia Mulkey

We gather in the name of God our creator,  
**who called us into life and made us for love.**

We gather in commitment to Christ Jesus,  
**who calls us to follow and commanded us to love one another.**

We gather in the presence of the Holy Spirit,  
**who calls us into community and strengthens us for living and loving.**

God of grace, you have bound yourself to us in the covenant of the Word made flesh:

**Come among us,**

**that our worship and prayer may lead each of us further into fullness of life,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## \* HYMN 483

*Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Blue hymnal

## CALL TO PRAYER

When Jesus was born of Mary, he became like us. May we who have been reborn in him be free from our sinful ways. Let us confess our sin before God and one another. Let us pray:

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God of peace, who in the beginning spoke peace to confusion,  
we seek your pardon for the chaos we create in this world.**

**Forgive us for the violence we do to the environment.**

**Forgive us for the violence that we do to each other.**

**Forgive us for creating an illusion of peace.**

**We close our eyes to suffering;**

**we stop our ears to cries of pain;**

**we close our lips in the pretense of peace.**

**But now, O Lord, may your grace open our hearts to love.**

**May your love fill us with peace.**

**May your peace be born in our hearts and communities,  
to the honor of your name.**

SILENCE IS KEPT.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God the creator brings you new life, forgives, and redeems you.

Take hold of this forgiveness and live your life in the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

# LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

## BIBLE PRESENTATION

We believe the Bible tells of God's love in Jesus Christ. We believe God continues to speak through scripture to people today. We believe that God's word is central to our life as we grow in Christian faith. Because we so believe, we want all God's children to have a Bible, and to read and study it.

Third graders, as you accept your Bible, are you willing to study it, to learn from God's people who lived long ago, and to learn from the story of Jesus' life found in this book?

**Third Graders: Yes, we will study and learn from our Bibles.**

Parents, God has given you primary responsibility for the religious education of your children. Will you read and study the Bible with your children, help them relate these stories to their lives, and share your faith with them?

**Parents: Yes, we will read and study the Bible with our children.**

Members of First United, when a child is baptized, we promise to live in a way that enables them to grow among us in the knowledge and love of God. We also promise to support parents in their efforts to guide their children in the way of the gospel and to faithful service in Christ's church. Are you willing to renew this promise to the children and parents standing before you?

**Congregation: Yes, we renew our promise to support these families.**

## SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

Appalachian Folk Melody



Bless the Lord, O \_\_\_\_\_ my soul; And all that is with-in me, bless God's ho-ly name!



Bless the Lord, O \_\_\_\_\_ my soul, And for - get not all God's be-ne-fits.

## SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:1-12, OT p. 688

Rich Havard

## SERMON

Critique by Creating

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## \*HYMN 319

*Spirit*

Blue hymnal

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Deborah Kapp

## OFFERTORY

*God Be In My Head*

K. Lee Scott

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at mine end, and my departing.

## \*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDRETH

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

Deborah Kapp

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

*An Anniversary Hymn*

Text and lyrics by Philip Gehring

Verse 1: choir in unison; Verse 2: choir and congregation in unison;

Verse 3: choir in harmony; Verse 4: choir and congregation in harmony

1. THEN, LORD, — a seed was plant - ed and took root. Our fore - bears gath - er'd  
2. NOW, LORD, — the church that from that seed has grown Still sings and prays and  
3. WHEN, LORD, — more gen - er - a - tions have gone by, New con - gre - ga - tions  
4. SO, LORD, — we pledge to tend our lamps of faith In peace - ful times, and

in a faith - ful band To sing and pray to hear your word and raise a cross a -  
lis - tens - for your word, Still wel - comes all at tab - le and at font, And still it  
in some fu - ture year Will bring their hearts and spir - its to this place, And say with  
al - so times of stress, To speak for jus - tice with the pro - phet's voice And live the

bove Our homes in this young land.  
makes its gra - cious mes - sage heard.  
firm as - sur - ance, "God is here."  
Christ - ian life that we pro - fess. Let all the peo - ple say, "A - men."

\*BLESSING RESPONSE

*Danish Amen*



SENDING MUSIC

*Finale from Symphony No. 2*

Charles Marie Widor

## TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

**WE WELCOME TO OUR PULPIT** guest preacher Rich Havard, Pastor and Executive Director of The Inclusive Collective. The Inclusive Collective will receive today's 4th Sunday Offering.

As a Christian ministry serving students at the University of Illinois Chicago,

**MANIFESTO**

We are The Inclusive Collective.

We are a community.

We are Artists. Intellectuals. Realists. Weirdos. Doubters. Believers. Students. People.

We are a safe place to be our whole selves.

Unashamed of who we are. What we look like. Or who we love.

We are shamelessly Christian...

And we exist to inspire radically inclusive communities that explore, share, and flourish in Christ's grace.

**AN ANNIVERSARY HYMN:** Earlier this summer, Marcia Ashton and the Centennial Committee invited members of the congregation to write poetry about First United. Phil Gehring responded not only with a poem – he also set it to music! Thank you, Phil, for this lovely gift. We celebrate your gifts and look forward to singing this hymn for many years to come.

**TODAY'S FLOWERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN** by Ted and Joanne Despotes to celebrate the start of their 50th year of marriage.



**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 – 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 to those who provide Hospitality through various ministries. This week we thank Lead Usher Nell Lurain; Greeters: Vicky Lekovish, Marge Lyon, Susan Saliny and Jim Wisuri, 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 would be a fit for you, please contact Joanne Despotes at [jdespotes@gmail.com](mailto:jdespotes@gmail.com) or 708-209-1377.

## **EVENTS AND UPDATES**

**KING SOLOMON'S SINGERS** presents a concert in our sanctuary this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. This ensemble is dedicated to the performance of Renaissance polyphony and chant and will team up with the Rookery men's ensemble and Artemisia women's trio in works exploring the various representations of the Three Marys (the Virgin, Mary Magdalene, and "the other Mary") in Western vocal music.

### **HUNGER WALKATHON WEST 2018 REACHES NEW FUNDRAISING RECORD!**

First United helped HWW reach its new record high of \$82,000+ by raising \$11,146.00!

Thank you, First United participants and donors! A community celebration will be held on Saturday, September 29 at 2:00 p.m. at the Veterans Room of the Oak Park Library. All First United members, friends, and the community at large are invited. A representative from Church World Service will be making a presentation about international hunger programs and the ten local hunger fighting agencies HWW supports will be receiving their checks and giving an overview of their programs.



**EMBARK ON 'IMAGINARY JOURNEYS'** with Chicago Gargoyle Brass and Organ Ensemble Saturday, September 29 at 7:30 p.m. in First United's sanctuary. The novel chamber ensemble will perform new works and new arrangements of classical favorites. The Gargoyles will launch listeners on an interstellar space journey, a fantastical adventure steeped in ancient Russian legends and fairy tales, courtesy of Igor Stravinsky, and a visit to the English Baroque musical world. Tickets and information at [gargoylebrass.com](http://gargoylebrass.com).

**PEACE VIGIL.** Join us on the front steps of First United on Sunday night, September 30, at 7:00 p.m. for our quarterly peace vigil. Bring yourselves, your voices, and your longing for God's peace.

**HOUSE TO HOME KITS.** The Housing Team is collecting items for House to Home kits to relocate five families into permanent housing. Sign up in the church lounge or at SignUp Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e48a9ae2ba3f58-housing>. Questions? Contact Charlie Morris, ([cmorris91120@gmail.com](mailto:cmorris91120@gmail.com)) or Ann Armstrong ([geneann1113@yahoo.com](mailto:geneann1113@yahoo.com)). Bring items to the church by October 14.

**A NOTE OF THANKS - CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION PICNIC**, from Marcia Ashton, Centennial Coordinator. Thank You Volunteers!

Our Celebration Picnic last Sunday was a big success by every measure: beautiful weather, delicious potluck food, tasty Brown Palace ice cream sundaes, warm and lingering conversations on the lawn, Farmer's Market Band in the background, fun kiddie games, big fun games for youth capped with the GIANT bubble wand sailing spectacular bubbles over our gathering. The time slipped by as we enjoyed our church community.

How did all of this happen? The key is the volunteers who stepped up in many ways. Sincere thanks to these folks: Food Team: Leader Bobbie Kmiec, with members Lynn Raducha, Renee Davis, Clara Kearley, Andrea and Peter Alter, Cathy Cerniglia, Karin Pietrini, Linda Sandman, Janet Haisman, Rich Wheelock. Photographers: Debby Preiser and Mark Smylie. FM Band organizer: Len Palombi. Kiddie Games: Katherine Thurman, Ally Vertigan. Youth Games: Chip Reading, Jonathan Ashton (Cub Scout den leader) along with many Cub Scouts and their parents. Clean up crew: Pete Todd, Rick Ashton and scouts. Environmental protocol: Jim Babcock and Boy Scouts.

Special thanks to the First United Nursery School for the loan of games for young children and Brown Cow Ice Cream for a tasty sundae bar (providing everything at cost).

Our Centennial Celebration Picnic measured up to the long tradition of celebrating major church events with shared food while affirming that First United is an awesome church!!!

# 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 Lydia Mulkey at 708.386.5215 or [lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:lmulkey@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 of the building. 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](http://www.firstunitedoakpark.com/giving).

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8:30 am Third Grade Bible Breakfast  
9:30 am Church School for all ages  
9:30 am Technology Help Desk  
9:45 am House to Home Kit Sign-up  
11:00 am Worship with 4th Sunday Offering  
12:00 am Inclusive Collective Lunch  
12:30 am Spiritual Life Teams meeting  
3:00 pm King Solomon Singers concert

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9:00 am CPM meeting (presbytery)  
6:00 pm PADS Shelter  
6:30 pm CMA Justice & Witness meeting  
7:00 pm Food Pantry Board meeting  
7:00 pm Personnel Committee meeting

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

4:00 pm Pro Musica rehearsal  
6:00 pm FUNS Ice Cream Social  
6:30 pm PNC meeting

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal  
7:00 pm So You Want to Talk About Race

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

7:30 pm Gargoyle Brass & Organ concert

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9:30 am Church School for all ages  
9:30 am Technology Help Desk  
9:45 am House to Home Kit Sign-up  
11:00 am Worship  
12:00 pm PNC meeting  
1:45 pm FUJI Goes Apple Picking  
7:00 pm Fall Peace Vigil

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

**708.386.5215**

Gene Armstrong, Council Moderator

Barbara Metric, Council Clerk

Deborah Kapp, Interim Lead Pastor (ext. 101)

Lydia Mulkey, Associate Pastor of Education (ext. 103)

Alicia Reese, Pastoral Assoc., Youth & Cong. Care (ext. 104)

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 Kloset, children's clothing ministry

Cluster Tutoring

Pro Musica Youth Chorus

Samaritan Counseling Center

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708-338-1724, [www.housingforward.org](http://www.housingforward.org)

708-386-1324, [www.oprffoodpantry.org](http://www.oprffoodpantry.org)

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773-378-5530, [www.clustertutoring.org](http://www.clustertutoring.org)

708-406-9597, [www.promusicayouthchorus.org](http://www.promusicayouthchorus.org)

847-446-6955, [www.northshoresamaritan.org](http://www.northshoresamaritan.org)



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