

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
21 OCTOBER 2018**



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Follow me, He said.

Follow me on the discipleship road and into this house of the Lord.

What will you do with this place that God gives to you?

What kind of disciples will you be in this unsettled place of change and challenge,

Of community and contradiction?

What kind of disciple will you be in this place of faithful souls,

Who have welcomed you and taken you in,

Who have celebrated your greatest joys and shared your deepest sorrows?

Follow me, He said.

And I follow.

-Mark Smylie

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Variations on "O God, Our Faithful God" (Blue hymnal #277)

J. S. Bach

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 first line of musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. It also consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are written below the notes.

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

God of justice and mercy,

Where there is bigotry,

let us envision love.

Where we hear cruelty,

let us speak kindness.

Where we see injustice,

let us act with righteousness.

Where we lose justice,

let us find mercy.

Facing the brokenness of this world,

we ask for courage to seek your healing.

When the money changers fill your temple,

let our anger be righteous and directed toward building your realm.

This morning—and every morning that we draw breath—we ask for strength to be your voice

as we speak truth to power,

as we envision compassion and equity,

as we seek your justice, your mercy, and your peace.

*HYMN 260

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

Blue hymnal

Children are invited to come forward during the singing of the final verse.

TIME FOR SHARING

Alicia Reese

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

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

Jeremiah 29:1-9, OT, p. 731

SERMON

Care Enough for Your Neighbor

Stephen Ray

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 467

How Great Thou Art

O STORE GUD

Blue hymnal

A MOMENT FOR GIVING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Deborah Kapp

OFFERTORY

Don't Be Afraid

John L. Bell

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised to be always near.

*DOXOLOGY

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, Priscilla Sibley, Jane Vachon, Kathy Pederson, Steve Pederson

Today, we recognize that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This is a difficult topic. As we do the important work of naming and opposing violence, please make your own well-being your priority. If you need to tune out or step out, please do. Domestic violence is a pattern of violent and coercive behavior exercised by one adult over another in an intimate relationship. The abuse can be verbal, emotional, physical, and/or sexual. Surveys indicate that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men will experience domestic violence. As a church, we stand firm in saying that God hates abuse, and we will be a safe space for survivors of domestic violence. We also recognize that through the #metoo movement and the latest confirmation hearing of a Supreme Court justice, many have been grappling with the reality of sexual violence in our culture, whether perpetrated by an intimate partner, a family member, an acquaintance, or a stranger. So today, we pray with survivors of both domestic violence and sexual assault. We know God stands with the oppressed and weeps with us at the sight of violence and abuse. Let us pray together for survivors of violence and abuse.

Child Sexual Abuse

Every 98 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted, and every 8 minutes, that victim is a child.

O God, hear our prayers for those who suffer.

One candle is extinguished.

Teen Dating Violence

1 in 3 adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner. Only 33% of teenage dating abuse victims ever tell anyone about it.

O God, hear our prayers for those who suffer.

One candle is extinguished.

Domestic Violence

In the United States, an average of 20 people every minute experience intimate partner physical violence. Only 34% of people who are injured by intimate partners receive medical care for their injuries.

O God, hear our prayers for those who suffer.

One candle is extinguished.

Sexual Assault

One in 3 women and 1 in 7 men become victims of some kind of sexual violence in their lifetime. One in 5 women and 1 in 71 men become victims of rape.

O God, hear our prayers for those who suffer.

One candle is extinguished.

Hear us now, O God, as we name the ways we will work to change our culture of violence.

We will be a safe and sacred space for survivors of abuse and assault.

May we work to make it so.

A candle is relit.

We will learn all that we can about preventing and responding to domestic and sexual violence.

May we work to make it so.

A candle is relit.

We will speak out on domestic violence and sexual assault and will fight for legislation that protects survivors and hold perpetrators accountable.

May we work to make it so.

A candle is relit.

We will be a resource to survivors. We will respond with love and care, working with survivors toward safety before seeking accountability and healing.

May we work to make it so.

A candle is relit.

The Domestic Violence Hotline is 1-800-799-SAFE or thehotline.org.

The Sexual Assault Hotline is 1-800-656-4673.

Teen Dating Violence text LOVEIS TO 22522

The Child Abuse Hotline is 1-800-25-ABUSE.

We pray all of this in the name of Jesus who loved, trusted, and believed those who had been beaten, belittled, and dismissed. We seek to live like him, and to pray like him, saying...

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 276

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

Blue hymnal

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Alicia Reese

*CHARGE

Let us go into the world in peace. In our everyday living, may we embody the faith and hope that we express in worship:

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 God grant us grace to love and serve faithfully, and may God bless us with kindness, courage, and peace.

*BENEDICTION

Stephen Ray

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Danish Amen



A-men, a-men, a - men.

SENDING MUSIC

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Helmut Walcha

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

THIS MORNING WE WELCOME the Rev. Dr. Stephen Ray to our pulpit. Dr. Ray is the new president of Chicago Theological Seminary. A graduate of Charter Oak State College, Yale Divinity School, and Yale University, Dr. Ray's current work focuses on reinvigorating the public square and reclaiming a vital expression of progressive religion. He is best known to First United as one of the co-authors of the White Privilege curriculum that we used last year in our adult education program.

TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE DONATED BY SALLIE AND MARK SMYLIE in celebration of the birth of Jack Warner Gage, son of Lauren Smylie and Patrick Gage, and brother of Alice Rachel.

TODAY'S BULLETIN QUOTE is a poem written by Mark Smylie, in response to the invitation extended by the Centennial Committee last summer. Other original poems authored by our church members will be shared in various ways in the weeks and months to come. Thanks to Mark for this lovely contribution.

COMMITTEE FAIR! The committees of this church do an incredible amount of work to support our programs and our mission in this place. Please come to the Committee Fair before or after church today to learn more about what they are doing, and to thank them for all their good work!

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 Greeters: Marilyn Kauffmann, Vicky Lekovish, Bonnie Mize, Jim Wisuri; Lead Usher: Susan Buchanan; Sanctuary Guild members: Cindy Palombi and Nina Roher; and the Third Grade 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.



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

EVENTS AND UPDATES

MUSIC AT FIRST PRESENTS THE TERRY SULLIVAN JAZZ TRIO. Saturday, November 3, 7:30 p.m. Vocalist Terry Sullivan's singing and musicianship has been impressing Chicago music fans for decades. Terry brings another concert of jazz standards and more to the Music At First audience. Tickets: \$20/students 18 and under are free.

NEXT SUNDAY – FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING: Share generously to support homeless individuals and families as they achieve housing stability. Our gifts support the furnishing of housewares and linens to give the family a good start. Our financial gifts support the services and items needed for their success. Thank you for your generosity.

HEARTFELT THANKS AND A REMINDER - Heartfelt Thanks to the congregation for stepping up again this year and donating household goods from toothpaste and toilet paper to TVs, vacuum cleaners and microwaves to our House-to-Home effort. You have made it possible for five households to come out of homelessness and into a new home stocked with all the things needed to set up housekeeping. And a reminder: If you haven't yet dropped off the item(s) you signed up for, please bring them to church on Sunday or during the week.

RAISE THE ROOF – A FIRST UNITED TALENT SHOWCASE - As a capstone to our Centennial Celebration year, we are spotlighting First United's exceptional talent with a one-of-a-kind Talent Showcase featuring singers, instrumentalists, dancers and actors. The performance date is Friday, November 9, at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. Following the show, we will celebrate with a cast/audience party in the lounge. Advance tickets are available in the lounge before and after church on October 21, 28 and November 4. (\$10 individual and \$20 family) You are encouraged to invite your family, friends and neighbors to enjoy this amazing new chapter in our church life.

YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUB - Our text, "This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women," originated as a radio series so many of the essays are available online. Visit tinyurl.com/y9wcsdaj to see this week's reading assignment and meet up location! Happening each Monday in October. Contact Ally Vertigan with questions (allyvertigan@gmail.com)

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.
- 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 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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

9:00 am Committee Fair
9:30 am Church School for all ages
9:30 am Technology Help Desk
11:00 am Worship
6:00 pm FUJI and FUSH

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

9:00 am CPM Meeting (presbytery)
6:00 pm Monday Bible Study
6:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter
6:30 pm CMA Justice & Witness
7:00 pm Food Pantry Board meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

10:00 am Cooking Class for Seniors
4:00 pm Pro Musica rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group
6:00 pm Healing Service
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm So You Want to Talk About Race

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring
7:00 pm Housing Justice meeting

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

9:00 am Quest to Oriental Institute

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

9:30 am Church School for all ages
9:30 am Newcomers Class
9:30 am Technology Help Desk
11:00 am Worship
3:00 pm PFLAG
6:00 pm FUJI and FUSH

**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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