



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
24 DECEMBER 2018 – 9 P.M.
CHRISTMAS EVE

An open community united in love and justice

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still
The dear Christ enters in.
- Phillips Brooks

GATHERING MUSIC

Angels We Have Heard On High
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
The First Nowell
All Hail, this Brightest Day of Days

Paul Manz

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

Please sign and pass the connections pew pad

Alicia Reese

PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

OPENING SONG

(Sing twice)

Glo - - - - - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - - - - -
- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus came as a baby in a manger.

O come, let us adore him.

He came in a lowly stable.

O come, let us adore him.

Shepherds brought their worship.

O come, let us adore him.

Magi brought their gifts.

O come, let us adore him.

What shall we do?

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Blue hymnal

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Gehring/Miller Family

On this Christmas Eve, we arrive at the manger. As we wonder what this birth means to us, we recall the lights that marked our journey back to Bethlehem.

The light of hope... (Candle is lit)

The light of peace... (Candle is lit)

The light of joy... (Candle is lit)

The light of love... (Candle is lit)

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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"**

Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;

With the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!" *Continued on the next page*

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

THE GOOD NEWS IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lydia Mulkey

God of mystery and grace, as we gather together this night, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels. In heart and mind may we go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe, lying in a manger. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7, OT p. 638

Paul Raducha

SONG

For Unto Us a Child Is Born (from *Messiah*)

George Friderick Handel

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder;
and his name shall be called

Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9, OT p. 640

Donald Register

SONG

The Lamb

Bob Chilcott

Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life and bid thee feed By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight, Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice, Making all the vales rejoice:
Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee, Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:
He is called by thy name, For he calls himself a lamb.
He is meek and he is mild; He became a little child.
I a child and thou a lamb, We are called by his name.

Little Lamb, God bless thee, Little Lamb, God bless thee. (*William Blake, 1757–1827*)

THIRD LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a, OT p. 865

Caroline Raducha

SONG*Mary's Lullaby*

Almon C. Bock II

Sleep thou, my baby, my tiny child. Lullaby. Sleep in thy manger, my little child. Lullaby.
 Weep not, my baby, my tiny child. Lullaby. Lie still, my baby, my little child. Lullaby.
 O little town of Bethlehem Ephrathah has not an inn for thy bed.
 I have but straw to give thee, my little one; lay down thy sweet little head.
 Dear baby Jesus, my tiny child. Lullaby. Sleep in my arms, little tiny child. Lullaby.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38, NT p. 56

Adam Raducha

HYMN 16*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

Blue hymnal

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7, NT p. 58

Art Spooner

SONG*A Child Is Born*

Thad Jones

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16, NT p. 58

Deborah Kapp

MEDITATION

Re-Tuning

HYMN 24/25*Away in a Manger*

CRADLE SONG (VS 1-2) MUELLER (VS 3)

Blue hymnal

SEVENTH LESSON

John 1:1-5, 14, NT p. 91

Walter Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Deborah Kapp

OFFERTORY*God's Love Made Visible*

Dave Brubeck

God's love made visible! Incomprehensible! He is invincible! His love shall reign!
 From love so bountiful, blessings uncountable make death surmountable! His love shall reign!
 Joyfully pray for peace and goodwill! All of our yearning he will fulfill.
 Live in a loving way! Praise his for every day! Open your hearts and pray! His love shall reign!

God gave his Son to us to dwell as one of us, his blessing unto us! His love shall reign!
 To him all honor bring, heaven and earth will sing, praising our Lord and King!
 His love shall reign!
 Open all doors this day of his birth, all of goodwill inherit the earth.
 His star will always be guarding humanity throughout eternity! His love shall reign!

DOXOLOGY

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

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

BIDDING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lydia Mulkey and Alicia Reese

Let us unite our hearts in prayer.
Let us pray for the needs of the world and its people,
and for the peace on earth the angels proclaimed. . .

Let us pray for love and unity within the church;
and for goodwill among all people. . .

Let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed;
the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved;
the aged and the little children;
And all who by sin have grieved God's heart. . .

Lastly, let us remember all those who rejoice with us,
but upon another shore and in a greater light,
that multitude which no one can number,
with whom, through your mercy, we are forever one. . .

These prayers and praises we humbly offer to you, merciful God,
in the words that Jesus taught us, saying, our Creator, our Mother, . . .

**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

*LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Lydia Mulkey

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 through your neighbors.
Receive the light from a friend in Christ.
Hold the light, enjoy it, and be thankful.

***HYMN**

Silent 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.

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.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Deborah Kapp

East: May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth,
fill you with joy and make you heralds of the gospel.

West: May Jesus Christ, the sun of righteousness, who comes with healing in his wings,
fill you with the peace that passes all understanding.

All: May Almighty God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit
Hold us forever close.
May God prosper the work of our hands,
And may God bless us — everyone — now and forever.

***HYMN**

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare Christ room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing. *Continued on the next page*

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**Christ rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nation prove
the glories of God's righteousness
and wonders of God's love, and wonders of God's love,
and wonders, wonders of God's love.**

SENDING MUSIC

Someday at Christmas

Stevie Wonder

NEW YEAR'S EVE STICKY CHURCH. December 30 - 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.

OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING supports mission and programming here at First United. Ten percent of the offering will be shared with the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, and will be designated for their educational work with Syrian refugee children. Thank you for the many ways that you contribute to the mission of First United.

2018 POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

In memory of my mother, Mildred Johnson Follett, from Nancy Waichler.

In honor of Barb and Dave's 20th Anniversary, from Mary Lou and Lee Anderson.

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

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

In memory my mother, Mary Hunt, from Margaret Hunt Campbell.

In memory of those who now live in our hearts, from Karen and Dan Pietrini.

In loving memory of our parents, Carol Zdziarski and Alvin West, from Jacqueline and Paula Zdziarski-West.

In memory of Gardner C. Borden, Christine B. Jennings, and John R. Sibley, from Don and Priscilla Sibley.

In honor of and with thanks to our family, friends and caregivers for their unceasing love and care, from Claudette and Herb Zobel.

In memory of our parents, from Deborah Kapp and Tony Ruger.

In loving memory of Thomas D. Ferguson, from Carole A. Ferguson and family.

In memory of Connie Henderson-Damon, from Christopher Damon.

In loving memory of Rev. Jim and Katie Chapman who dedicated their lives to country, family, and above all, God, from Michelle and John Chapman-Rienstra.

In loving memory of Rachel Smylie, from Mark and Sallie Smylie.

In honor of Anna and Shane Caldwell, from Mark and Sallie Smylie.

In honor of Lauren, Alice, Jack, and Patrick Gage, from Mark and Sallie Smylie.

In loving memory of Nancy Hoey Hanson, from David L. Hanson.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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. For more information, contact Alicia Reese, Pastoral Associate for Youth & Congregational Care, at 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. Music at First offers a series of concerts throughout the year, starting with "The Book of Love," an early Valentine's Day concert by the Oriana Singers on February 9.

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 Lydia Mulkey, Associate Pastor for Education, at 708-386-5215 (ext. 103) or lmulkey@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 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

848 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL 60301 | 708-386-5215
firstunitedoakpark.com | facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark

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

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| 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 Kloset, 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 |

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