

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
6 JANUARY 2019



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

At least we know for certain that we are three old sinners,  
That this journey is much too long, that we want our dinners,  
And miss our wives, our books, our dogs,  
But have only the vaguest idea why we are what we are.  
To discover how to be human now  
Is the reason we follow this star.

- W. H. Auden, "For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio"

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

## GATHERING MUSIC

*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*

Dietrich Buxtehude

## WELCOME

Please sign and pass the black Connections pad.

Alicia Reese

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

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

## \*OPENING SONG

"Gloria" from *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

# GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine, for your light has come! The glory of God has risen upon you.

**Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Nations will come to his light and rulers will seek his radiance.

**Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Christ will judge the people with righteousness and defend the cause of the poor.

**Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Let us give him honor, glory, and praise.

Let us offer him the treasures of our hearts and lives.

**Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

## \*HYMN 158

*O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright*

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

Black hymnal

## CALL TO PRAYER

Deborah Kapp

Let us join together in prayer, laying before God our faults and failures, and asking God to forgive what we have been, to change what we are, and to direct what we shall be. Let us pray:

## PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

**O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead people to Christ,  
we confess our poor sense of direction.**

**We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way.**

**We fail to follow the signs you provide.**

**Forgive our waywardness, O God.**

**Lead us to Christ, so that we may follow his way to you.**

SILENCE IS KEPT.

## ASSURANCE

The mercy of the Lord is like rain, like showers that water the earth.

In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven and invited to walk with him.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## TIME FOR SHARING

Alicia Reese

# LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*Send Out Your Light*

John L. Bell



Send out your light, Lord, send your truth to be my guide.



Then let them lead me to the place where you re - side.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12, NT p. 2

Deborah Kapp

SERMON

The Reason We Follow this Star

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*HYMN 168

*O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word*

DICKINSON COLLEGE

Black hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

*Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

J.S. Bach

Break forth, O beauteous, heavenly light, And usher in the morning; Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, But hear the angels' warning. This Child, now weak in infancy, Our confidence and joy shall be, The power of Satan breaking, Our peace eternal making.

\*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.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

Deborah Kapp

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Alicia Reese

**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;**



# TODAY AT FIRST UNITED



**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.

## EVENTS AND UPDATES

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** - Please join us immediately following worship on Sunday, January 27, 2019 for the presentation of the Proposed 2019 Church Budget. Church Moderator Gene Armstrong will lead the discussion, Q&A, and the congregation will vote on the proposed budget. We will move to Centennial Hall for lunch following the vote.

**NEW "30S/40S SMALL GROUP" FORMING:** Want to experience a deeper, spiritually richer and more connected life in 2019? This intentional gathering, meeting regularly for the purpose of spiritual development and fellowship, will explore a variety of spiritual practices as a starting point for dialogue and discovery. All perspectives and journeys welcome. Meets nearby First United, 8 p.m. Mondays, January 21 through February 25. Contact Anne Paluck at [annekohlenberger@gmail.com](mailto:annekohlenberger@gmail.com) or 703-629-6188.

**DINNER & A MOVIE** – Friday, January 11: "Okja" In this adventure-drama, young Mija will go to any lengths to stop a powerful multinational corporation from kidnapping Okja, the massive but docile beast that has become her closest companion. Dinner at 6 p.m. (\$5 donation); movie at 6:30 p.m. (free). Sign up in the Lounge or call Cynthia Collazo, 708-383-9228.

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND PROGRAM LEADERS** – It's time to submit your Annual Report! You should have received an email with details about submitting your annual report. If you did not receive an email and think you should have, or if you have questions, please contact Dennis Cobb at [dcobb@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:dcobb@firstunitedoakpark.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](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).



**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK**

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[www.firstunitedoakpark.com](http://www.firstunitedoakpark.com) | [facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

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, JANUARY 7

6:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter  
6:30 pm PNC Meeting  
7:00 pm Food Pantry Board meeting

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus  
5:30 pm Communications Committee meeting  
7:00 pm Finance Committee meeting  
7:00 pm Newcomers Committee meeting  
7:00 pm Youth Committee meeting

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group  
3:30 pm Food Pantry distribution

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

8:15 am Mission Partner meeting  
6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring  
7:00 pm Planned Giving Committee meeting  
7:30 pm Faith in Action Committee meeting

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

5:30 pm Dinner & A Movie

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

8:30 am Church School Leader Breakfast  
9:30 am Church School for All Ages  
9:30 am Technology Help Desk  
11:00 am Worship  
12:00 pm Second Sunday Sundaes  
6:00 pm FUSH and FUJI Advisor Appreciation

**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)

Suzi Benes, Financial Assistant (ext. 109)

Keith Liesse, Manager of Building and Grounds (ext. 110)

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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