

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
24 MARCH 2019
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

The Christian outlook on repentance arcs toward joy.
And it finds grace experienced within
the awful precariousness and strange beauty of our fleeting existence.

- Matthew L. Skinner

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Variations on "Jesus, Priceless Treasure" Johann Gottfried Walther
(The hymn may be found in the black hymnal #480)

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

Seek Ye First, v. 1

LAFFERTY

Blue hymnal

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you. Kyrie eleison.**

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear God's gracious invitation to people who long for God's loving care:
All of you who are thirsty, come to the water!
**Whoever has no money, come, buy food and eat!
Without money, at no cost, buy wine and milk!
Why spend money for what isn't food,
and your earnings for what doesn't satisfy?**
Listen carefully to me and eat what is good;
enjoy the richest of feasts.
Listen and come to me;
listen and you will live.

CALL TO PRAYER (from Isaiah 55)

Lydia Mulkey

Seek the Lord when God can still be found; call upon God while God is yet near.
Let the wicked abandon their ways and the sinful their schemes.
Let them return to the Lord so that God may have mercy upon them,
to our God, who is generous with forgiveness. Let us pray:

PRAYER

God of growth and hope, we humbly ask you
to make us like trees planted by the waterside,
that we may bring forth fruits of good living in due season.
Forgive our past offenses, sanctify us now,
and direct all that we shall be in the future,
for the sake of Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF MERCY

Please join me in speaking words of assurance, as they come to us from the prophet Isaiah:
You will go out with celebration, and you will be brought back in peace.
Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you;
all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
In place of the thorn the cypress will grow;
in place of the nettle the myrtle will grow.
This shall be to God a memorial,
an enduring reminder that won't be removed. Amen.

TIME FOR SHARING

Alicia Reese

As children come forward, all sing:

Wherever Love Is

The musical score is written on two staves in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: 'Wher- ev- er Love is God is there too, God is in me 'cause'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: 'I love you! Wher- ev- er Love is God is there too, God is wher- ev- er Love is!'. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: F/G, C, F, C, F, C on the first staff; and Dm7, Dm7/G, C, C7, F, C, Dm7, Dm7/G, C on the second staff.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Day by Day, Dear Lord

541

Richard of Chichester (c. 1197-1253)

STONETHWAITE: 3. 8. 6. 5. 6. 3.
Arthur Somervell, 1931

Day by day, Dear Lord, of Thee three things I pray: To see Thee more
clear - ly, Love Thee more dear - ly, Fol - low Thee more near - ly, Day by day. A - MEN.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and rhythmic patterns in the bass line.

Music copyright. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:1-9, NT p. 76

Deborah Kapp

SERMON

Wake-Up Calls

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

Dream God's Dream



Dream God's dream. Ho-ly Spi-rit help us dream of a world where



there is jus-tice and where ev-'ry-one is free to build and grow and love



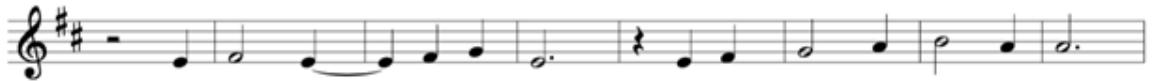
and to sim-ply have e-nough. The world will change when we dream God's dream.



1. I'm dream-ing of a world where the col-or of one's skin
2. I'm dream-ing of the call God is of-fer-ing to me,
3. I'm dream-ing of the way that I want my life to go.



will mean less than what's with-in that per-son's heart.
how to use my en-er-gy and my best gifts.
I've got hopes and I've got goals I'd like to meet.



A world where wa-ter's clean, and where air is safe to breathe
To do the work of Christ, to say God please use my life
I'll reach high for the stars, but I won't for-get the scars



and ev-'ry child born has e-nough to eat.
to spread your heal-ing love and to live your truth.
of Christ who died to show that the dream's for all.

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FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING

Pastoral Services Fund

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

Christ Hath a Garden

Gerald Near

Christ hath a garden walled around, A paradise of fruitful ground,
Chosen by love and fenced by grace From out the world's wide wilderness.

Like trees of spice his servants stand, There planted by his mighty hand,
By Eden's gracious streams, that flow To feed their beauty where they grow.

Awake, O wind of heav'n, and bear Their sweetest perfume through the air:
Stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom, Till the beloved Master come:

That he may come, and linger yet Among the trees that he hath set;
That he may evermore be seen To walk amid the springing green.

—Robert Bridges (after Isaac Watts)

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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

**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

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

***HYMN 76**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

THE ASH GROVE

Black hymnal

***CHARGE**

Deborah Kapp

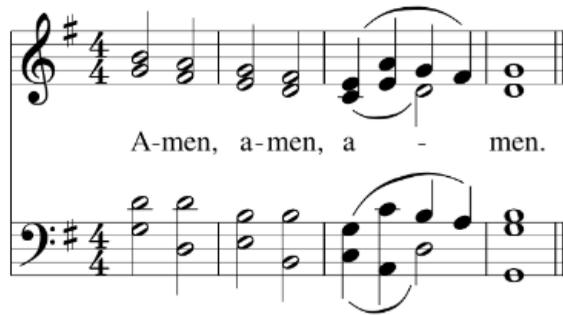
We are moving from words to witness in our relationship with God, from individualism to intimate fellowship in our relationship with other members of the church community, and from charity to changing structures in our relationship with the world.

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Threefold Amen

DANISH



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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a sharp sign. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and a sharp sign. The melody in the treble staff consists of a series of chords in the first four measures, followed by a melodic line in the fifth and sixth measures. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords in the first four measures and a melodic line in the fifth and sixth measures. The lyrics 'A-men, a-men, a - men.' are written below the treble staff, with the final 'men' having a long dash before it, indicating a sustained note.

SENDING MUSIC

Old Hundredth

Johann Pachelbel

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

OUR FLOWERS TODAY are given by Chris Damon in loving memory of Connie Henderson-Damon, January 28, 1949 – March 22, 2018.

FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING - The Fourth Sunday offering will be received today will be used to support the Pastoral Services (Emergency Fund). This fund is used at the discretion of the pastors to provide one-time emergency support for members of the congregation who are in need and for whom a small grant will make a big difference. There are offering envelopes available and checks can be made payable to First United with "Fourth Sunday Offering" in the memo line.



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 - 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: Marge Lyon, Clara Kearley, Bonnie Mize, and Dale Sorenson; Lead Usher: Susan Buchanan; Sanctuary Guild Workers: Marilyn Heinrichs, Cindy Palombi, Nina Roher and Sandra White; and the 4th 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.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

DINNERS FOR 8 are some of the most popular adult parties for First United folks. We gather around dinner tables in individual homes to enjoy delicious food and great conversation. This year's dinners are on either April 25, 26 or 27. Hosts provide the main dish and guests bring sides, salads and desserts. Contact Marcia Ashton (marciaashton@msn.com or 708-524-5126) to identify all dates that you are available. Our church is full of amazing people, and it is a pleasure to take time to share our stories and perhaps make a new friend.

TEEN VOICE AND BELL CHOIRS VISIT FIRST UNITED - The youth and hand bell choirs from First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake will perform at First United on Friday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m., kicking off their 47th annual spring concert tour. The two choirs are made up of students from high schools in the Barrington and Crystal Lake area. The concert will include both sacred and secular pieces. Admission is free.

HOUSING NEEDED - We are providing overnight housing Friday evening, April 5, for the 22 high school students in the choir described above, 11 boys and 11 girls. If you are willing to host two or more students, please contact Michael Surratt at msurratt@firstunitedoakpark.com or phone/text 630-209-0149.

IT'S CROP WALK SEASON! We are Ending Hunger One Step at A Time! Join the First United Team for the 36th Hunger Walkathon West on Sunday afternoon, May 5, 2019. See a recruiter in the Lounge before or after Worship for information or to sign up.

EAT PIZZA AND HELP CLUSTER TUTORING - Take a break from the kitchen and enjoy pizza from Lou Malnati's in Oak Park on April 3 to raise money for Cluster Tutoring. 20% of sales will go to Cluster. You must mention the fundraiser when you order and show them either a paper flyer (available at both Sanctuary entrances) or an online version from your phone. Buon appetito!

NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY OF CHURCHES - Welcome spring with people of faith committed to building unity in our community. We'll hear compelling stories of neighbors meeting across difference to share the histories that have made us who we are and the hope for creating a new future together. We will gather over a simple, but hearty meal and be invited into conversation with one another. Religious leaders from Oak Park and Chicago's West Side will be the hosts and guides on Thursday, April 4 at Dominican University in the Priory Campus Auditorium. RSVP oprfcoc@gmail.com (\$15 donation)

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, MARCH 24**

9:30 am Church School for All Ages
 9:30 am Technology Help Desk
 11:00 am Worship
 3:00 pm PFLAG
 6:00 pm FUJI and FUSH

MONDAY, MARCH 25

6:00 pm Lenten Book Group
 6:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter
 6:30 pm CMA Justice and Witness Ministry
 7:00 pm Hunger Walkathon meeting
 8:00 pm Personnel Committee meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

11:00 am Lenten Book Group
 3:30 pm Food Pantry distribution
 6:30 pm Lenten Prayer
 7:00 pm Lenten Book Group

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
 6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring
 7:00 pm Lenten Book Group
 7:00 pm Housing Justice meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 29**SATURDAY, MARCH 30**

7:30 am William Ferris Chorale Concert

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

9:30 am Church School for All Ages
 9:30 am Technology Help Desk
 11:00 am Worship
 12:15 pm Committee Chair meeting
 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)

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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FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

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