

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
21 APRIL 2019
EASTER SUNDAY, 8 AM



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Tell all the truth but tell it slant —
Success in Circuit lies
Too bright for our infirm Delight
The Truth's superb surprise
As Lightning to the Children eased
With explanation kind
The Truth must dazzle gradually
Or every man be blind —

- Emily Dickinson

*Please stand if you are able. Please silence cell phones.

GATHERING MUSIC

Down to the River to Pray

Worshippers who would like to process during the opening hymn are welcomed to gather in the narthex, where musicians will lead us in singing. If you prefer to be seated immediately, please also join us in song!

**As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way!**

**O sisters, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down
O sisters, let's go down
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way!**

O brothers, let's go down....

O fathers, let's go down.....

O mothers, let's go down....

O sinners, let's go down.....

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:1-11, NT p. 90

LITANY OF PRAISE

Come, celebrate with thanksgiving, come and worship God almighty,

Who is creator of all things, and the giver of every good gift.

Who came to be one among us, even dying on a cross.

Evil has been overcome, and now death has been destroyed.

Celebrate that Christ is living.

Come, celebrate in your feasting that the God of liberation

Brings us to new life, new wholeness, and forgives in joy and love.

With voices and happy drumming let us sing the triumph song.

God is alive and among us, now our dancing hearts rejoice!

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed!

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed!

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Lord of the Dance

Instrumental music will be played between each stanza

I danced in the morning when the world was begun

and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun

And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth

At Bethlehem I had my birth

Chorus:

Dance then where-ever you may be

I am the lord of the Dance said he

And I'll lead you all where-ever you may be

And I'll lead you all in the Dance said he

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame

The holy people said it was a shame

They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high

And they left me there on a cross to die

Chorus

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned back
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone
But I am the dance and I still go on

Chorus

They cut me down and I leapt up high
I am the life that'll never, never die
I'll live in you if you'll live in me
I am the Lord of the Dance said he

Chorus

***EASTER PRAYER**

Lydia Mulkey

Jesus Christ, we greet you!
Your hands still have holes in them, your feet are wet from the dew;
and with the memory of our names undimmed by three days of death
you meet us, risen from the grave.
We fail to understand how; we puzzle at the reason why.
But you have come:
not to answer our questions, but to show us your face.
You are alive, and the world can rejoice again.
Hallelujah! Amen.

***SONG**

Blessed Assurance

The children are invited to come forward as we sing together.

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood**

**This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long**

TIME FOR SHARING

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

**Christ, the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, glad heavens, and earth, reply: Alleluia!**

**Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

Instrumental music

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia! God has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

SCRIPTURE READING

I Corinthians 15, selected verses, NT p. 176

Deborah Kapp

SERMON

Event Horizons and Empty Tombs

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SONG

If That Don't Make You Wanna Go

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

Working on a Building

*DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

THE JOYFUL FEAST, THE HEAVENLY BANQUET

INVITATION

Lydia Mulkey and Deborah Kapp

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God.
People will come from east and west, from north and south,
to sit at table in the Kingdom of God.
People come with hearts burdened with cares. . .
We also come with glad and joyful hearts. . .
This is the Lord's table,
and our Savior invites all who trust him
to share the feast which he has prepared.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord, you are at the door and you knock.
You could as well enter without knocking
because you are the Lord of the world.
But your presence is not imposed, but proposed.
You are there, behind every door,
but to experience communion with you
we need to know how to heed your voice,
unhitch the door, and host you are our table.
Teach us, Lord, to open our ears
to distinguish your voice within the Babel of noise convulsing our lives;
to open wide the door of our heart, of our home, of our church,
to welcome you and with you, our neighbors,
to have the table ready
without being worried about how little we have to offer you,
because you are coming to feed us with the food of your word
and the bread and wine of your supper.

Silence is kept

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Merciful God, send now, in kindness,
your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine,
and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.
**Let that same Spirit rest on us,
converting us from the patterns of this passing world,
until we conform to the shape of him
whose food we now share.**
Amen.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Today we serve communion by intinction. Beginning from the middle pews, we invite everyone to move to the front or to the back as the ushers direct you. As you reach the servers, take a piece of bread and dip in the cup. Gluten free bread is available with the servers at the baptismal font.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Deep Settled Peace

*PASSING THE PEACE

Having tasted of Christ's goodness, let us now share his peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

In deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you.

Take us out to live as changed people,
because we have shared the living bread,
and cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us,
enable much by us, encourage many through us.

So, Lord, may we live to your glory,

both as inhabitants of the earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven.

We pray in the name of Jesus our brother, who taught us to pray together. . .

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

I'll Fly Away

One bright morning when this life is over

I'll fly away

To a home on God's celestial shore

I'll fly away

CHORUS

I'll fly away, oh glory
I'll fly away
When I die Hallelujah by and by
I'll fly away

When the shadows of this life have gone
I'll fly away
Like a bird from these prison walls I'll fly
I'll fly away

Chorus

Oh how glad and happy when we meet
I'll fly away
No more cold iron shackles on my feet
I'll fly away

Chorus

Just a few more weary days and then
I'll fly away
To a land where joys will never end
I'll fly away
Chorus

*EASTER BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Deborah Kapp

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Will the Circle Be Unbroken*

The congregation is invited to join in the chorus:

**Will the circle be unbroken
By and by, Lord, by and by
There's a better home awaiting
In the sky, Lord, in the sky**

POSTLUDE

EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

We thank the following people for their gifts to help support taking flowers to homebound members as well as providing for our beautiful Easter floral display:

David Hanson, in loving memory of Nancy Hanson.

Harry Saunders, Jr. in memory of his late parents, Harry and Pennie Saunders.

Kelly Pollock, in memory of her aunt, Elaine Alexander.

Bob Downs, in memory of his wife, Barbara Downs.

Priscilla and Don Sibley in memory of Gardner Borden and Christina B. Jennings; and in memory of John R. Sibley.

Anne and Ron Paluck in memory of Gene Lyle Alair.

Reneé Davis and Josephine Porter in memory of Joan Quigg Porter and Margaret Davis; and in honor of Howard Davis Sr.

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

MANY THANKS TO THE MUSICIANS who led us in worship this morning:

Susan Buchanan (Fiddle, Vocals)

Kevin Crowell (Ukulele, Vocals)

Tom Gorman (Mandolin)

Julie O'Shea (Cello, Vocals)

Len Palombi (Guitar, Vocals)

Anne Paluck (Percussion, Vocals)

Ron Paluck (Guitar, Vocals)

Don Sibley (Guitar)

Ed Studzinski (Bass, Vocals)

David Swain (Fiddle)

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, ushers, greeters, communion servers, Sanctuary Guild, and also to the folks who minister in the background in other important ways.



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

EVENTS AND UPDATES

FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERINGS on April 28 will be directed toward the One Great Hour of Sharing, an offering used to help refugees and immigrants, provide start-up funding for economic development, and deliver disaster relief in the world. Please give as generously as you are able.

PRAY IN MAY! Join us for a Deacon-sponsored workshop on prayer, open to all! We will gather on Sunday, May 5, 12:30 - 2 p.m. Lunch will be served, and we will engage in an afternoon of self-care by experiencing new types of prayer together. Please RSVP to Alicia Reese.

PLEASE NOTE that the First United building will be closed tomorrow, April 22.

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.

**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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