

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
7 APRIL 2019
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“Extravagant Love is Never Wasted”
-Bob Goff

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

GATHERING MUSIC

O Guiltless Lamb of God

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

Please sign and pass the black Connections pad.

Lydia Mulkey

*PASSING THE PEACE

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

*OPENING SONG

Seek Ye First, v.1

LAFFERTY

Blue hymnal 333

**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

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness,
journeying with us, encouraging us to walk with intention.
Help us to recognize your hand,
working miracles beyond our imagining.
Open our hearts to be transformed
by the new thing you are doing,
so that our lives may proclaim
the extravagance of your love for all,
and its presence in life and ministry Jesus Christ

*HYMN 206

A Woman Came Who Did Not Count the Cost

WEXFORD CAROL

Black hymnal

CALL TO PRAYER

Alicia Reese

Our God is gracious and merciful, loving and forgiving – this we know as we pray...

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

God of extravagant love, your power goes far beyond our own, and yet still we act as though the pains of this world have final claim upon us. We give in to the despair and hopelessness of this material world, we lack trust in your ability to call forth new life from that which we might leave behind. Forgive us for the doubts that create a wedge between us and you. Open our hearts to experience the new life you create by the power of your love, in the midst of all the despair we experience. You are limitless, always present, moving and acting among us, within us, through us. Open our eyes to the lavish life and love sprouting into being in our very midst.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Dear friends, God's children, that is what we are. God is love and love is from God and we are from God. Those who remain in love remain in God, and God remains in them.

Thanks be to God.

TIME FOR SHARING

Deborah Kapp

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 first line of lyrics: 'Wher- ev- er Love is God is there too, God is in me 'cause'. The second staff contains 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; Dm7, Dm7/G, C, C7, F, C, Dm7, Dm7/G, C on the second staff.

Words and Music by Bryan C. Sirchio

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.

Music copyright. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Day by Day, Dear Lord'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the melody.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:1-8, NT p. 108

Alicia Reese

SERMON

Prodigal Mary

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 340

Black hymnal

We Are a People on a Journey

(sung in English)

SOMOS PUEBLO

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Deborah Kapp

Extravagant God, lavishing your love on our poverty of heart: inspire us to give with generosity, to love life so that we may find it again, and thus the world will be filled with the fragrance of your love; through Jesus Christ, who offers himself for us. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Like As the Hart

Herbert Howells

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God. When shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they daily say unto me: Where is now thy God? (*Psalms 42: 1-3*)

***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.**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

Lydia Mulkey

Dear friends, we are traveling through the Lenten wilderness to Jerusalem.
We travel alongside Jesus, our pardon, our healing, and our peace.
We will suffer the trial with him, witnesses to the injustice.
Because of him, we walk the path to life.
But first, come, to the table where there is food for the journey.
With humbled hearts full of gratitude we come,
giving thanks to God, our maker,
and offering a song of praise!

SANCTUS

from *Deutsche Messe*

Franz Schubert

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, God of pow'r and might, _____
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, God of pow'r and might. _____
heav - en and earth are full, _____ full _____ of _____ your glo - ry. Ho -
Blessed is the one who comes _____ in the name of the Lord.
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

REMEMBERING AND PREPARING

Alicia Reese

O God, we remember how Jesus's journey came to an end.
He fasted and prayed; he was tempted and tried.
He was obedient to you and scorned by the powers of this world.
He was betrayed, deserted, and killed.
You gave him new life. He lives even now, our healer and brother.
He loved us well, loves us still and loves us to the end.
Even on the night of betrayal, he ate supper with his friends.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Deborah Kapp

Today we serve communion by intinction. Beginning from the middle pews, we invite everyone to come to the front or rear of the Sanctuary to share in the joyful feast. As you reach the servers, break off a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. Gluten-free bread is available at the station by the baptismal font. Return to your place by the outside rows.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Lydia Mulkey

Holy Spirit, you have come!

You have blessed this bread, making it the bread of life.

You have blessed this cup, making it the cup of salvation.

Through which we can know the living Christ who is with us now, and to the end of the age.

Nourish us by these gifts to be disciples of your word and servants of your world,

A world in need of love, compassion, justice – we lift to you in prayer the concerns we hold...

With humble gratitude we thank you, gracious God,

for hope in this bread and cup,

for love that cannot die,

for peace the world cannot give,

for joy in the company of friends,

for the splendors of creation,

and for the joys of our lives...

In sharing of this Holy Communion, may we receive these gifts –

oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, and the courage to serve you every day. In Jesus' name, let us pray the prayer he taught us...

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

Deborah Kapp

*HYMN 476

How Can I Keep from Singing?

ENDLESS SONG

Black hymnal

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Alicia Reese

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Threefold Amen

DANISH

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

SENDING MUSIC

Little Fugue in G minor

J. S. Bach

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

OUR FLOWERS TODAY are given by the Smylie Family in loving memory of Rachel Gamble Smylie, January 7, 1993 – April 17, 2014.

FUJI AND FUSH will be meeting this evening, from 6 - 8 p.m., 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.

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: Cynthia Collazo, Marsha Hubbuch, Anne Paluck and Debby Preiser; Lead Usher: Bob Larson; Sanctuary Guild members: Cindy Palombi and Nina Roher; and the Kindergarten Church School Acolytes. We ask forgiveness for any omissions. We need more people for this work! 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

FLOWERS FOR EASTER – You are invited to help provide beautiful flowers to be delivered to the homebound and to help adorn the Sanctuary with flowers for our Easter celebration by making a gift in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Easter Flower envelopes are available at the Sanctuary exits and on the desk in the Lounge. Please follow the instructions on the envelope to make your gift. The gifts will be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletins.

BREAD BAKING AND TABLE SETTING – On Wednesday, April 17 starting at 3:00 p.m., we'll gather to bake bread and set tables in preparation for our Maundy Thursday meal. Join us!

MAUNDY THURSDAY HELP, April 18 - Set up, soup warmers, table hosts, clean up. Go to the Sign Up Genius at bit.ly/HolyWeekHelpers to let us know how you can help and to see start times for the various opportunities.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP – We will gather for a soup dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Centennial Hall and then make our way through the tunnels for an 8 p.m. Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary.

PEACE VIGIL – Good Friday, April 19, join us on the church's front steps at 7 p.m. to lift our prayers for peace for the world.

CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL POETRY - On Palm Sunday, April 14, we are delighted to distribute a "Collection of Centennial Poetry" as the final chapter in our Centennial celebration. This keepsake collection includes original poetry and a hymn interlaced with artwork and photos by church members. Please join us for Second Sunday Sundaes and other goodies (who doesn't like cookies with their ice cream?) in the Lounge following the service.

FLOWER POWER IS BACK! Help us support New Moms, a key mission partner, by sponsoring a flower pot (or two) with a tax-deductible donation of \$10-\$15 in the Lounge today. These pots will be planted by our Church School children and delivered to New Moms clients for Mother's Day. New Moms serves struggling teenage mothers and their children with housing and services that enable them to achieve independence and stability.

DINNER & A MOVIE - Friday, April 12: *Green Book*, When Tony Lip, a bouncer from an Italian-American neighborhood in the Bronx, is hired to drive Dr. Don Shirley, a world-class Black pianist, on a concert tour from Manhattan to the Deep South, they must rely on "The Green Book" to guide them to the few establishments that were then safe for African-Americans. Confronted with racism, danger - as well as unexpected humanity and humor - they are forced to set aside differences to survive and thrive on the journey of a lifetime. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. (\$5 donation); movie at 6:30 p.m. (free). Sign up in the Lounge or call Cynthia Collazo 708-383-9228.

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.

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 (areese@firstunitedoakpark.com) so we can order the right amount of food.

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE: If you are thinking about using your gifts and talents in a more formal way to contribute to our life together, the "Nominations" card in the pew racks lists a variety of ways to get involved. Several opportunities are listed. And, if you would consider serving as an officer of the congregation (elections in May), you can also indicate that on the card. (Self-nomination doesn't mean that you can be certain you will be invited to join the committee of your choice, but your input is a very important first step.)

There's plenty of room on the "Nominations" side of the card to recommend people you know to serve in specific roles. And, if you have even more ideas about who would be great, feel free to turn in two or even three cards! Please think carefully and prayerfully about yourself, and about other members of the congregation. You can put the completed card in the offering plate when it is passed, or in the Nominating Committee mailbox. Blank cards are also available at the Elder's Desk in the Lounge. You can also access and complete the form electronically on the Church web site.

PLAN AHEAD – The First United Church Office will be closed on Monday, 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.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

- 8:30 am Church School Leader breakfast
- 9:00 am Flower Power
- 9:30 am Church School for All Ages
- 9:30 am Technology Help Desk
- 11:00 am Worship with Communion
- 6:00 pm FUJI and FUSH

MONDAY, APRIL 8

- 4:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6:00 pm Monday Bible Study
- 6:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter
- 6:30 pm PNC meeting
- 7:00 pm Worship, Music & Arts meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

- 4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
- 5:30 pm Communications Committee meeting
- 6:30 pm PNC meeting
- 7:00 pm Finance Committee meeting
- 7:00 pm Newcomers Committee meeting
- 7:00 pm Church Council special meeting
- 7:00 pm Youth Committee meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

- 11:00 am Wednesday Small Group
- 3:30 pm Food Pantry distribution
- 6:30 pm Lenten Prayer
- 7:00 pm Housing Justice meeting
- 7:00 pm Lenten Book Group

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

- 6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring
- 7:00 pm Lenten Book Group
- 7:30 pm Faith in Action Committee meeting

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

- 5:30 pm Dinner & A Movie
- 6:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

- 9:00 am Food Pantry distribution
- 1:00 pm Church Council special meeting

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

- 9:00 am Flower Power
- 9:30 am Church School for All Ages
- 9:30 am Technology Help Desk
- 11:00 am Palm Sunday Worship
- 12:00 pm Centennial Poetry Book Reception
- 12:00 pm Second Sunday Sundaes
- 6:00 pm FUJI and FUSH

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

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Barbara Metric, Council Clerk	barbarametric@comcast.net
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Lydia Mulkey, Associate Pastor of Education (ext. 103)	lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com
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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



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

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