

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
21 JULY 2019



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

My heart is aching
The message through prayer heals me
I am God's beloved

- Lois Thiessen Love
July 24, 2018

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Sonata in C Minor: I. Allegro Vigoroso Giovanni Battista Pescetti
Rowan Zdziarski-West, harp

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

Come, All You People

Zimbabwe



Come, all you peo-ple, come and praise your Ma-ker, come, all you peo-ple,



come and praise your Ma - ker, come all you peo - ple,



come and praise your Ma-ker, come now and wor-ship the Lord.

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is in our midst! How will you bid him welcome?

We will throw open the doors to our hearts. We will delight in God's presence.

When God shows up, surprising things can happen.

We will make ourselves ready.

We will lay down our burdens and set aside our distractions.

Here we receive good news: Nothing is too wonderful for God!

So let us laugh and sing, rest and listen, dance and praise —

Let us worship God!

*HYMN

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

1 Morning has broken
Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken
Like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
Fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall
Sunlit from Heaven,
Like the first dewfall
On the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness
Where his feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight,
Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light
Eden saw play.
Praise with elation,
Praise every morning,
God's re-creation
Of the new day!

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Lydia Mulkey

Our lives are cluttered, Lord Jesus, by too many things and too much to do. We are driven by the need to succeed and distracted from our service. We have often lost our way. Forgive us. Let us, like Mary, find the one thing that is needed and sit at your feet.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

The Psalmist declares that those who speak the truth from their heart will abide in God's sanctuary.

God hears the difficult truths we have named aloud and in the silence of our hearts.

Now let the wonderful gift of God's forgiveness flow through you.

May the abundance of God's mercy and grace set you free to serve God with love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

TIME FOR SHARING

Lydia Mulkey

Children are invited to come forward as we sing.

Stayed On Jesus

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

Woke up this morn - in' with my mind stayed on Je - sus.

Woke up this morn - in' with my mind stayed on Je - sus.

Woke up this morn - in' with my mind stayed on Je - sus. Hal - le -

lu, hal - le - lu, hal - le - lu - jah.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Listen to the Word

Iona Community

Lis-ten to the Word that God has spo-ken, Lis-ten to the One who is close at hand;

Lis-ten to the Voice be-hind cre - a-tion, Lis-ten ev-en if you don't un-der-stand.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 10:38-42, NT p. 72

Deborah Kapp

SERMON

Nerds for Jesus

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

Fairest Lord Jesus

CRUSADERS' HYMN

1 Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God to earth come down,
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,
Fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

Première Arabesque
Rowan Zdziarski-West, harp

Claude Debussy

*DOXOLOGY

TALLIS' CANON

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

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;
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

I've Got Peace Like a River

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

1 I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.

2 I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

3 I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

*BENEDICTION *A Blessing for Beauty* by John O'Donohue

May the beauty of your life become more visible to you,
that you may glimpse your wild divinity.

May the wonders of the earth call you forth from all your small, secret prisons
and set your feet free in the pastures of possibilities.

May the liturgy of twilight shelter all your fears and darkness within the circle of ease.

May the angel of memory surprise you in bleak times
with new gifts from the harvest of your vanished days.

May you allow no dark hand to quench the candle of hope in your heart.

May you discover a new generosity towards yourself,
and encourage yourself to engage your life as a great adventure.

May the outside voices of fear and despair find no echo in you.

May you always trust the urgency and wisdom of your own spirit.

May the shelter and nourishment of all the good you have done, the love you have shown, the
suffering you have carried, awaken around you to bless your life a thousand times.

And when love finds the path to your door may you open like the earth to the dawn,
and trust your every hidden color towards its nourishment of light.

May you find enough stillness and silence to savor the kiss of God on your soul and delight in the eternity that shaped you, that holds you and calls you.

And may you know that despite confusion, anxiety and emptiness, your name is written in Heaven.

And may you come to see your life as a quiet sacrament of service, which awakens around you a rhythm where doubt gives way to the grace of wonder, where what is awkward and strained can find elegance, and where crippled hope can find wings, and torment enter at last into the grace of serenity.

May Divine Beauty bless you.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Shalom Chaverim

The musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a Dm chord and contains the lyrics: "Sha - lom, cha - ve - rim, Sha - lom, cha - ve - rot. Sha - lom, sha - lom. L' -". There are two asterisks above the second and third measures of the first staff. The second staff begins with a Dm chord and contains the lyrics: "hit - ra - ot, l' hit - ra - ot, Sha - lom, sha - lom." The second staff includes chords Gm, A7, and Dm above the notes.

**May be sung as a canon.*

(Peace, friends, until we meet again.)

SENDING MUSIC

Impromptu—Caprice
Rowan Zdziarski-West, harp

Gabriel Pierné

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

THANKS TO ROWAN ZDZIARSKI-WEST for contributing richly to today's music for worship. Rowan is a long-time youth member of First United.

COVER ART: Marc Chagall, 1887-1985, Abraham and the Visitors at Mamre, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN:
<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=>



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: Bob & Kate Larson, Emory Mead and Dale Sorenson; Lead Usher: Gene Armstrong; Sanctuary Guild members: Cindy Palombi and Nina Roher; and the Sound Board crew. 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING - The First United Church Nursery School program supports the development of young children through an early educational experience based on play. Our congregation has supported this exemplary program for many years, and all non-pledge donations to the Fourth Sunday offering on July 28 will go toward the First United Nursery School Tuition Assistance Fund to make the school affordable for those families who need financial aid.

WOMEN RELIGIOUS IN CHICAGO started gathering in January of 2019 for monthly homicide vigils to unite together, name those lost to violence, and pray for the end to violence in our city. The purpose of the homicide prayer vigil is to serve as a public witness to the sacredness of life when it has been lost through homicides. This month the vigil will be Saturday, July 27 at 9:30 a.m. at 1700 N. Linder Ave, Chicago. You are invited to join them as they pray for peace this month in the Austin neighborhood.

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, JULY 21

10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Youth Ministry/FUSH Circle

MONDAY, JULY 22

6:30 pm CMA Justice & Witness Ministry
7:00 pm Personnel Committee meeting

TUESDAY, JULY 23

5:30 pm Communications Committee
meeting
5:30 pm Cluster Summer Reading

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

3:30 pm Food Pantry Distribution

THURSDAY, JULY 25

5:30 pm Cluster Summer Reading

FRIDAY, JULY 26

SATURDAY, JULY 27

8:00 am Third Saturday Book Group
9:00 am Food Pantry Distribution

SUNDAY, JULY 28

10:00 am Worship
Fourth Sunday Offering
11:30 am Youth Ministry/FUSH Circle
3:00 pm PFLAG

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

Gene Armstrong, Council Moderator

Carl Nauert, 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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