

# First United Church of Oak Park

September 8, 2019





# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you...

...It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away, than for one stroke of a letter in the law to be dropped.

— Exodus 20 and Luke 16

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

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Dialogue, Cromorne sur la Taille, Tierce en Taille*

François Couperin

## WELCOME

Please sign and pass the black Connections pad.

John Edgerton

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## \*OPENING SONG

*God Welcomes All*

THEMBA AMEN

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The image shows a musical score for the opening song 'God Welcomes All'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;' and 'God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.'

# GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lydia Mulkey

Loving God, we come to you for truth, that we might see clearly and that we might understand.

**We come to you for comfort, that we might be sustained and that we might be understood.**

We come to you for challenge, that we might be reminded that our ways are not your ways and that we can change.

**We come to you, Holy One. We come to you.**

Black hymnal

CALL TO PRAYER

John Edgerton

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

TIME FOR SHARING

Lydia Mulkey

Children please come forward as we sing:

*Alleluia*

Jerry Sinclair

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*Let It Breathe On Me*

Let it breathe on me, — let it breathe on me, — let the breath of the  
 Spi - rit breathe on me. Let it breathe on me, — let it  
 breathe on me, — let the breath of God now breathe on me.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:25-33, NT p. 78

SERMON

*Just the Opposite*

John Edgerton

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

## \*HYMN 607

Black hymnal

*We Would Be Building*

FINLANDIA

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Alicia Reese

## OFFERTORY

*Come and Follow Me*

Tom Franzak

Come, be my light, be my voice to the nations, Be my hands, be my heart for the world.  
Would you go where I go? Where I lead, will you follow?  
Would you leave everything for my sake?  
By the power of the Spirit, everyone with ears to hear it  
will embrace the call to love within their heart.

If anyone would come and follow me, my disciple you would be.  
Leave the past behind, seek and you will find all you're called to be.  
If anyone would come and follow me, know the truth will make you free.  
Give and you receive. Trust me and believe. Come and follow me.

Go, take your gift to the poor and the lonely. As you love, so will I live in you.  
Will you feed my lambs? share your hope with the hopeless?  
Bring new sight to the blind in my name?  
With a towel and a basin, toward the kingdom we will hasten,  
through the narrow gate that leads to Calvary.

If anyone would come and follow me...

## \*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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

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.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AFTER COMMUNION 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

John Edgerton

#### \*HYMN 332

*As We Gather at Your Table*

BEACH SPRING

Black hymnal

#### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

#### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Danish Amen*



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

### SENDING MUSIC

*Psalm XIX: The Heavens Declare the Glory of God*

Benedetto Marcello

# TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

**ACTIVITIES FAIR** – If you didn't have a chance before worship, be sure to stop by the tables in the Lounge and learn about all kinds of things that are going on at First United!

**ROOT BEER FLOATS!** Following worship, join us on the Kenilworth Patio and Lawn and enjoy a time of fellowship and a Root Beer Sunday!

**TODAY'S FLOWERS ARE GIVEN** by Carole Ferguson in memory of Tom and Carole Ferguson's wedding anniversary.



**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: Marilyn Kauffmann, Emory Mead, Anne Paluck and Nancy Pennington; Lead Usher: Ted Despotes and the on-call ushers; Sanctuary Guild members: Cindy Palombi and Nina Roher; and the Sound Board crew including Pete Todd, Mark Breen, Ezra Broughton and Carl Nauert. 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](mailto:jdespotes@gmail.com) or 708-209-1377.

**THANKS TO EMORY MEAD** for his bulletin cover design for this sermon series.

## EVENTS AND UPDATES

**MEET AND GREET PASTOR JOHN!** We are offering a series of "Meet-and-Greet" small group gatherings in individual homes as a way to connect personally with Pastor John. These gatherings are scheduled on various days and times the month of October. Look for your invitation by email in the coming weeks. If you do not have email, sign up at the Elder Desk on September 8 and 15. Be sure to respond quickly to assure your preferred date. If you have questions, contact Marcia Ashton at [marciaashton@msn.com](mailto:marciaashton@msn.com).

**HELP NEEDED FOR PADS.** We need 5 or 6 regular volunteers to help staff our shifts on the 3rd and 5th (if there is one) weeks of the month. Although all are welcome, we are in particular need of additional male volunteers. We need help on the Monday dinner shift (6:30 – 10:30 p.m.) and also on Tuesday mornings (5 – 7:30 am). Questions? contact Matt Kemper, [mattkemper1227@gmail.com](mailto:mattkemper1227@gmail.com), PADS site supervisor.

**PADS LUNCHES** - We need supplies for PADS lunches that our church school classes make and pack. Juice boxes, individually packaged snacks and desserts, paper lunch bags, napkins, and plastic sandwich bags are all acceptable donations. Bring as much as you can! Thank you for your support!

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH YOUTH GROUPS KICK-OFF!** TODAY from 6-8 p.m. with food and fellowship for all youth, grades 7-12! Join us on the Kenilworth Patio. Please contact Alicia Reese with any questions or concerns. [Areese@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:Areese@firstunitedoakpark.com)

**NEWCOMERS CLASS** meets Sundays at 9:30 a.m. from October 6-27. New to First United? Interested in learning more about us? Participants in the class have the option to join the church on October 27th in worship. You are welcome to take the class whether you feel ready to join, or just ready to learn more. RSVP to Lydia at [lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com).

**DO YOU HAVE A NAMETAG?** Please check to see if you have a nametag on the nametag rack in the lounge. If not, please request one on the clipboard on the lounge desk. It would be great if everyone had a nametag and wore it while our new lead pastor is getting to know us!

**BOUNDARY TRAINING AND FRIEND IN FAITH ORIENTATION:** September 8 in Room 13 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. will be a Boundary Training session for anyone who needs this to work with our children or youth. And from 8-8:30 p.m. there will be an orientation for those who have been selected to be a Friend in Faith in the Quest program this year. Please RSVP to Lydia Mulkey, [lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com)



**CLUSTER TUTORING NEEDS YOU!** Cluster provides one-to-one tutoring for students from Chicago's Austin neighborhood. Volunteer tutors work with students for 90 minutes weekly, September through mid-May. Come to an information session for new tutors at 6:30 p.m. at First United on Tuesday, September 10 or Thursday, September 12. Questions? Call 773-378-5530 or email [clustertutoring@clustertutoring.org](mailto:clustertutoring@clustertutoring.org).

**SING WITH PRO MUSICA YOUTH CHORUS!** We're starting a new season! Pro Musica Youth Chorus is an umbrella organization for several children and youth choruses for ages 4 years through High School. Rehearsals are held at First United. For more information, visit the website, [www.promusicayouthchorus.org](http://www.promusicayouthchorus.org), email [pmyouthchorus@gmail.com](mailto:pmyouthchorus@gmail.com), or call 708.405.9597.

**DINNER & A MOVIE!** Friday, September 13: *Spotlight*. Revealing a string of cover-ups stretching back decades, a team of *Boston Globe* reporters exposes the Catholic Archdiocese's history of keeping reports about child molestation and other priest-initiated abuse under wraps. Dinner at 5:55 p.m. (\$5 donation); Movie at 6:25 p.m. (free). Sign up in the Lounge or call Cynthia Colazzo, 708-383-9228.

*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).

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

9:00 am Activities Fair  
9:15 am Quest Confirmation Orientation  
9:30 am Church School  
11:00 am Worship with Communion  
12:00 pm Root Beer Floats!  
12:30 pm Youth Ministry/FUSH Circle  
4:50 pm Future FUSH Focus Group  
6:00 pm Youth Groups Welcome BBQ

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

6:00 pm Monday Bible Study  
7:00 pm Worship, Music & Arts Committee

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus  
6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring New Volunteers  
7:00 pm Newcomers Committee  
7:00 pm Planned Giving Committee  
7:00 pm Youth Committee

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group  
3:00 pm Beyond Hunger  
Food Pantry Distribution  
4:45 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus  
6:30 pm Boundary Training and  
Friend in Faith Orientation  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring New Volunteers

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

5:30 pm Dinner & A Movie

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:00 am Beyond Hunger  
Food Pantry Distribution  
2:00 pm Nursery School Carnival

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

9:00 am House-to-Home Collection  
9:30 am Education for All Ages  
11:00 am Worship  
12:30 pm Youth Ministry/FUSH Circle

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

708.386.5215

Gene Armstrong, Council Moderator

Carl Nauert, Council Clerk

John Edgerton, 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

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708-848-4910, [www.firstunitedschool.com](http://www.firstunitedschool.com)

708-338-1724, [www.housingforward.org](http://www.housingforward.org)

708-386-1324, [www.oprffoodpantry.org](http://www.oprffoodpantry.org)

[susanzaruba@gmail.com](mailto:susanzaruba@gmail.com)

773-378-5530, [www.clustertutoring.org](http://www.clustertutoring.org)

708-406-9597, [www.promusicayouthchorus.org](http://www.promusicayouthchorus.org)



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

*an open community united in love & justice*

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