

# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

## 20 OCTOBER 2019



*An open community united in love and justice*

“Can your story be retold? Can all of the various things that have happened to you and the things you have done you’d prefer to never think about again and the embarrassing parts and the painful parts—can all of it be retold in such a way that the worst parts become the most powerful, poignant parts? And if that is possible for your story, is it possible for the history of the world? Can everything eventually be retold in such a way that the worst parts—wars and disease and oppression and on and on—are included and somehow brought to a unity?”

—Rob Bell, *What Is the Bible?*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

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

GATHERING MUSIC

*Prelude, Fugue and Variation*

César Franck

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**

*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 two systems of musical notation for the song 'God Welcomes All'. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time and G major. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines. The music is simple, using mostly chords and single notes.

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Alicia Reese

We have all come to learn from each other and from the words of scripture.

**You write your sacred texts, O God, in scripture and on our hearts;**

you welcome us into depths of understanding.

**Meet us here and lead us deeper; equip us for every good work.**

Join our desire to learn with your willingness to teach us your ways of justice and joy.

**For this purpose we gather, O Holy One. Amen.**



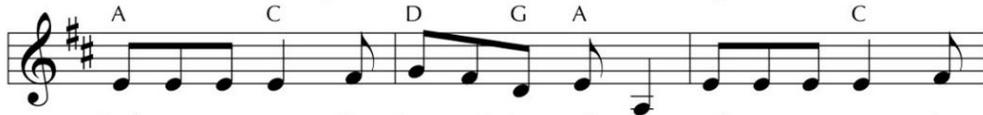
1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ish-ed a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

## CALL TO PRAYER

### PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

*First used at the National Interfaith Breakfast: A Call to End Violence Against Women in Washington DC on October 11, 1996.*

Whenever we gather as people of God, we bring our whole selves to this place—our burdens and joys, our scars and victories, our guilt and shame when we have caused harm to another, our laughter in celebration of life, our tears of grief remembering all that has been lost.

Some of us, if we are able, acknowledge that we carry with us painful memories of harm done to us by another person. We bear the scars or still open wounds of harassment, exploitation, and abuse. We have found some healing in the presence of those who have stood with us and given support.

Some of us, if we are willing to look honestly at ourselves, carry memories of harm that we have done to another when we have exploited the other's weakness, when we have taken what was not ours, when we have pretended to possess another, when we have abused and victimized. We seek ways that we might be genuinely accountable for what we have done.

Most of us carry memories of times we have stood by while another was harmed. We have hesitated when we could have advocated. At other times, we have been able to advocate for another person, to step forward or step aside as needed. We have brought our resources to bear in the service of justice and healing. We seek ways to do what we can when we can.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

### ASSURANCE OF LOVE

We are all here—whenever we gather. We believe that God is also here with us to empower and guide us. Know that those who rely on God's grace cannot be defeated. God loves us more than we can imagine. **For this we give thanks.**

*The Domestic Violence Hotline is 1-800-799-SAFE or [thehotline.org](http://thehotline.org).*

*The Sexual Assault Hotline is 1-800-656-4673.*

*Teen Dating Violence Hotline text LOVEIS TO 22522*

*The Child Abuse Hotline is 1-800-25-ABUSE*

*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.

**TIME FOR SHARING**

Alicia Reese

**THE BAPTISM OF WILLOUGHBY BASS**

**QUESTIONS TO THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY**

*Pastor:* Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

*Parents:* We do.

*Pastor:* Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith, and to teach this faith to your children?

*Parents:* We do.

*Pastor:* Do you promise, with the help of God, to be followers of God, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of the Holy as best you are able?

*Parents and Godparent:* We do, with the help of God.

*Council Member:* Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations, and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ? If so, please join me in the congregational covenant:

**In this act of surpassing grace, we witness the power of God. In baptism, we become newly aware of God's abundant love and mercy. God calls each of us wherever we are, whoever we are, to share in the joy of God's presence in a community of faith. As people who strive to follow Jesus Christ more closely each day, we welcome you, Willoughby, to our common journey. Trusting God, we offer you our support and care.**

**THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE IS LIT**

John Edgerton

God of new life and of old, of our going out and our coming in, we present to you this child and ask that he be always yours. Today is the day he receives his light, his unique flame, his call.

May this light guide his journey his whole life long. Amen.

**BLESSING THE WATERS**

The Children of First United

## BAPTISM

### WELCOME

*Council Member:* Willoughby has been received into the church through baptism. God has made him a member of the household of God. Let us welcome our newest sibling in Christ.

**With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in ministry, for we are all one in Christ.**

### PRESENTATION

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

### SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*Let It Breathe On Me*

Magnolia Lewis-Butts



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

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, NT p. 213

### SERMON

*All Scripture?*

Lydia Mulkey

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### \*HYMN 329

*Break Thou the Bread of Life*

BREAD OF LIFE

Blue hymnal

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

John Edgerton

**OFFERTORY**

*I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes*

Leo Sowerby

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper; thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil, He shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore. Amen.

*(Psalm 121)*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDETH

**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**

**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 341**

*Blessed Assurance*

ASSURANCE

Blue hymnal

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Lydia Mulkey

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

**SENDING MUSIC**

*Toccata in G*

Théodore Dubois

# TODAY 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.

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

**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: Vicky Lekovish, Marge Lyon, Emory Mead and Jim Wisuri; Lead Usher: Bonnie Mize and the on-call ushers; Sanctuary Guild members: Cindy Palombi and Nina Roher; the Sound Board crew including: Pete Todd, Mark Breen, Ezra Broughton and Carl Nauert; and the 7th and 8th 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](mailto:jdespotes@gmail.com) or 708-209-1377.

## EVENTS AND UPDATES

**1619 PROJECT DISCUSSION GROUP** - The 1619 Project, a special issue of The New York Times Magazine, marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans to Jamestown, Virginia with a series of essays, images, stories, and poems that challenge readers to reframe their understanding of U.S. history by considering 1619 as the foundational beginning of our nation's story,

Our 1619 Project Discussion Group will meet Tuesday evenings, October 22 to November 19 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. We will focus on a different article from this momentous publication each week, exploring what we've been taught – and not taught – and what it means to us. While the issue can be accessed online, hard copies of the articles are also available in the Lounge. On October 22, we will be discussing this piece by Nikole Hannah-Jones: [bit.ly/NikoleHannaJones](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-project.html). Please email [Katharine.thurman@comcast.net](mailto:Katharine.thurman@comcast.net) for the full schedule and links to articles.

**ADDED MEET & GREETINGS WITH PASTOR JOHN** – In response to high interest, we are adding two more “Meet & Greets.” These small-group gatherings, hosted in individual homes, will be October 25 and November 4, 7-8:30 p.m. You should have received an invitation email last week. To sign up, go to [bit.ly/MeetPastorJohn](http://bit.ly/MeetPastorJohn), select your preferred date, and fill out the requested information. Questions? Contact Dennis Cobb, [dcobb@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:dcobb@firstunitedoakpark.com); or Marcia Ashton, [marciaashton@msn.com](mailto:marciaashton@msn.com).

**FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING – NEXT WEEK!** Partnering with the homeless so that they can achieve sustainable housing is the great work of Housing Forward. Through programs of Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Employment Readiness and Case-management, households prepare to move into their new home and furnish it with a "House to Home Kit." Please give generously to help the homeless achieve housing stability.

**PRIVATE SHOPPING EVENT** – Save the date: Wednesday, December 4, for the Alternative Christmas Store's private Shopping Event at Ten Thousand Villages. Nibble on wine and cheese while you shop and support FUCOP's Mission Partners. 15% of your purchases will be donated. The event runs from 6-8 p.m. This is a new venture for us and we hope to see a lot of you there.

**FIRST UNITED NURSERY SCHOOL HEALTHY MEAL WORKSHOP** – Thursday, October 24 from 9 – 11 a.m. Learn easy, healthy, family-friendly meals through a food demo, nutritional information, and recipes to take home! Workshops are FREE and open to the public, but registration is required. To register, visit [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) and enter “Oak Park Preschool Parenting Workshops” in the Find an Event search.

*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, OCTOBER 20

9:30 am Education for All Ages  
11:00 am Worship  
Noon Prayer & Anointing  
12:30 pm Committee Chair Meeting  
6:00 pm JR.HI. Youth Group  
6:00 pm SR.HI. Youth Group

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

6:00 pm Monday Bible Study  
6:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter  
7:00 pm Building & Grounds  
7:00 pm Nominating Committee

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

6:30 pm 1619 Project  
7:00 pm Personnel Committee

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group  
3:30 pm Beyond Hunger  
Food Pantry Distribution  
6:00 pm Handbells Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

9:30 am FUNS Parent Workshop  
6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring  
7:00 pm Housing Justice

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

8:00 pm SR.HI. Youth Group Lock-In

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

9:00 am Beyond Hunger  
Food Pantry Distribution  
3:30 pm Nursery School Ice Cream Social

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

9:15 am Quest Connect Session #2  
9:30 am Education for All Ages  
11:00 am Worship  
Fourth Sunday Offering  
Noon Prayer & Anointing  
3:00 pm PFLAG  
4:00 pm Organ Spooktacular  
6:00 pm JR.HI. Youth Group  
6:00 pm SR.HI. Youth Group

## 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

Beyond Hunger Food Pantry

The Kid's Kloset, children's clothing ministry

Cluster Tutoring

Pro Musica Youth Chorus

geneann1113@yahoo.com

chnauert@gmail.com

jedgerton@firstunitedoakpark.com

lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com

areese@firstunitedoakpark.com

bill@firstunitedoakpark.com

msurratt@firstunitedoakpark.com

aswanson@firstunitedoakpark.com

dcobb@firstunitedoakpark.com

mwheeler@firstunitedoakpark.com

sbenes@firstunitedoakpark.com

kliesse@firstunitedoakpark.com

708-848-4910, www.firstunitedschool.com

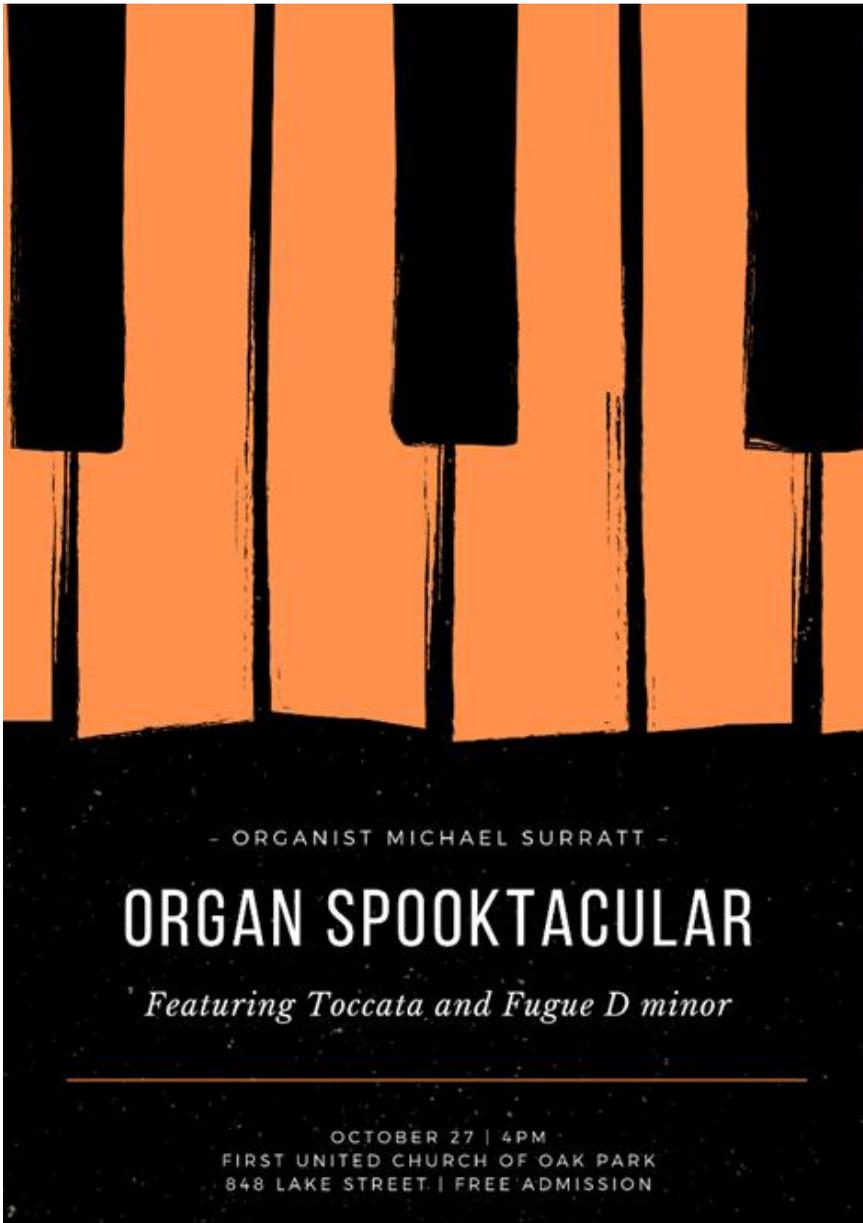
708-338-1724, www.housingforward.org

708-386-1324, www.gobeyondhunger.org

susanzaruba@gmail.com

773-378-5530, www.clustertutoring.org

708-406-9597, www.promusicayouthchorus.org



— ORGANIST MICHAEL SURRETT —

# ORGAN SPOOKTACULAR

*Featuring Toccata and Fugue D minor*

---

OCTOBER 27 | 4PM  
FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
848 LAKE STREET | FREE ADMISSION



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

*an open community united in love & justice*

848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301 | 708.386.5215

[www.firstunitedoakpark.com](http://www.firstunitedoakpark.com) | [facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)