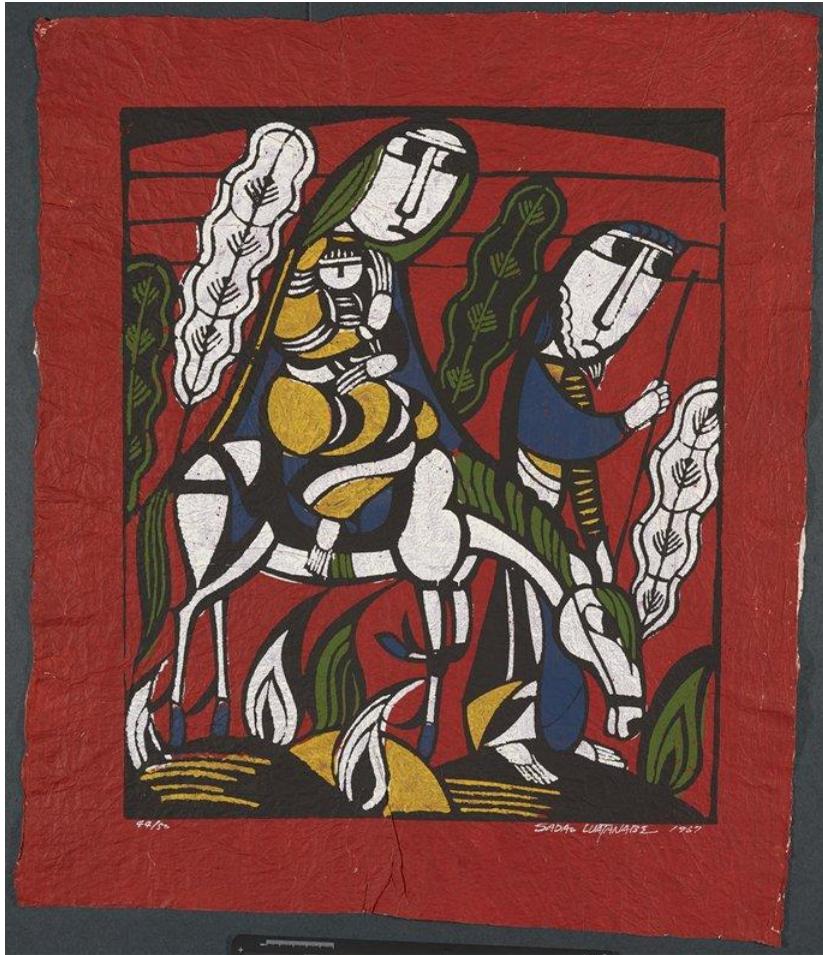


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
1 DECEMBER 2019
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness
and the world's deep hunger meet.
— Frederick Buechner

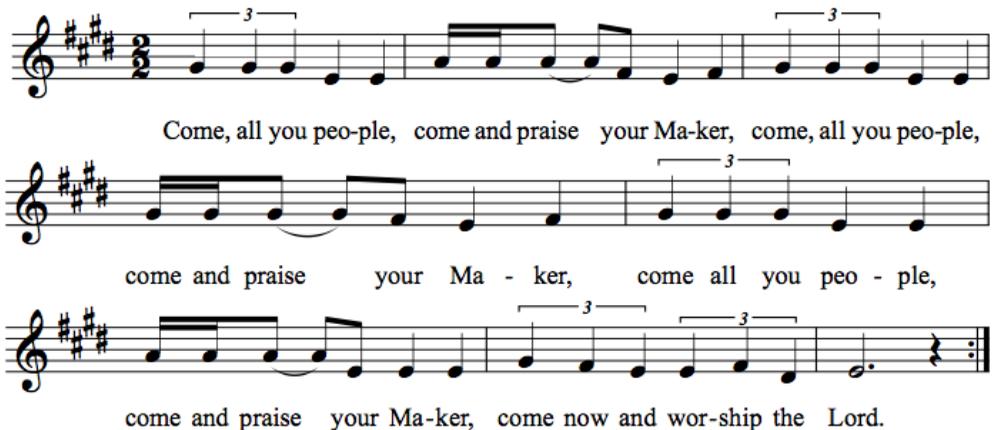
*Please stand in body or spirit. Please silence cell phones.

GATHERING MUSIC *Savior of the Nations, Come* (two settings) J. S. Bach

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** *Come All You People* Alexander Gondo



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

*** THE ADVENT WREATH** The Reading Family

This is the day we begin our journey to the Child, His Mother, and the manger.
May we kindle God's light together as we journey on the road back to Bethlehem.
It is a journey shrouded in a fading sun and a growing uncertainty as the world turns cold.
And we journey anyway.
May we kindle God's light together as we journey on the road back to Bethlehem.
We journey because we are drawn to God's light at the end: it is God's promise,
born into our lives.
May we kindle God's light together as we journey on the road back to Bethlehem.

We light this candle in hope. We bring this light of hope with us, together, on this journey. Hope comes from the Child and our hope is dedicated to the Child lying in a manger. Seeking goodness only, for our neighbors and for ourselves, may we kindle God's light of hope within us.

***HYMN 101**

Black hymnal

Comfort, Comfort O My People

PSALM 42 (FREU DICH SEHR)

CALL TO PRAYER

Alicia Reese

SUNG PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

O holy child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

SILENCE IS KEPT.

SUNG ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Children, please come forward as we sing.
How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven.
No one discerns God's coming, but in this world of sin,
Where yearning souls long to be whole, the dear Christ enters in.

TIME FOR SHARING

Lydia Mulkey

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Be Still and Know

John L. Bell

Be still and know that I am God.

Be ___ still and know ___ that I ___ am God. ___

Words and Music: John Bell, © 1989 GIA/Iona Community/WGRG.
All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714599.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:5-23, NT p. 56

SERMON

More than Dreams

John Edgerton

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN 153**

Black hymnal

Who Would Think That What Was Needed

SCARLET RIBBONS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Alicia Reese

OFFERTORY

Zion Hears Her Watchmen's Voices (from *Cantata 140*)

J. S. Bach

Zion hears her watchmen's voices, Their gladdening cry her soul rejoices.
The shadows of her night depart.
In His might her Lord appeareth, His word of grace and truth she heareth,
The daystar riseth in her heart.
O come in splendour bright, Lord Jesu, Light of Light! Hosanna!
We follow Thee, Thy joy to see, Where everlasting bliss shall be.

Now let all the heavens adore Thee, Let Saints and Angels sing before Thee,
As harps and cymbals swell the sound.
Twelve great pearls, the city's portals: Through them we stream to join the immortals
As we with joy Thy throne surround.
No eye has known the sight, No ear heard such delight: Alleluia!
Therefore we sing to greet the King; Forever let our praises ring.

***DOXOLOGY**

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

**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

John Edgerton

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Today we serve communion by intinction. Please note, all communion stations are at the front of the sanctuary. Beginning from the middle pews, we invite everyone to come to the front of the Sanctuary to share in the joyful feast. The servers will offer you a piece of bread and you are invited to 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

Lydia Mulkey

***HYMN 110**

Now Bless the God of Israel

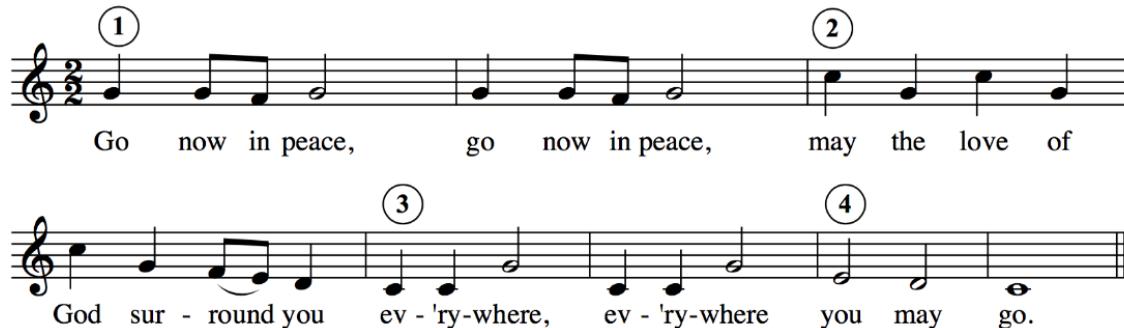
FOREST GREEN

Black hymnal

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

John Edgerton

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**



Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of
God sur - round you ev - 'ry-where, ev - 'ry-where you may go.

Words and music: Natalie Sleeth, Sunday Songbook © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.
All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714599.

SENDING MUSIC

Savior of the Nations, Come

J. S. Bach

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

COVER ART: *The Flight into Egypt*, Watanabe Sadao, 1967; courtesy of Minneapolis Institute of Art.



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 those who provide Hospitality through various ministries.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

SPONSOR-A-FAMILY GIFTS DUE - Thanks for buying gifts for Sponsor-a-Family clients. Don't forget that gifts are due, wrapped and tagged, at church next Sunday, December 8. If you can't bring your gift to church that day, contact Sher Watts Spooner (sandaspooner@comcast.net, 708-383-4408). We also need volunteer drivers at 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 9, to transport gifts to a central location.

DINNER & A MOVIE: Friday, December 13: *Love & Friendship*. In this adaptation of a Jane Austen novella, scheming widow Lady Susan Vernon retreats to her in-laws' rural estate while waiting for scandalous rumors about her to subside. Soon, she's on the hunt for a husband -- and one for her teenage daughter. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. (\$5 donation); movie at 6:30 p.m. (free). Sign up in lounge or call Cynthia Collazo 708-383-9228.

NEW PICTURE DIRECTORY - January 7-18, 2020 – help make our family album complete! Sign up for your photography session today! No purchase is necessary to have your picture taken to be included in the directory. Just for reserving your spot and coming in for your photo session, you will get (1) FREE 8x10 picture AND a FREE copy of the new directory, no purchase necessary! Sign up today on the church website or Facebook page. Throughout Advent, you will find an Elder on duty to help with sign ups before and after church as well.

REGISTER FOR FIRST UNITED NURSERY SCHOOL! Priority registration opens to church families for the 2020-2021 school year at First United Church Nursery School on December 3. Children must be two, three or four prior to September 1 to register. Call Joan White, 708-848-4910 if you would like a tour of the school or more information. Registration forms are on the school bulletin board in the Lounge, can be picked up in the school office, or can be printed from the website www.firstunitedschool.com Priority registration ends January 21, 2020 at the Open House.

MIDPOINT CHRISTMAS PARTY - Celebrate Christmas with the MIDPOINT group at our annual Christmas party and famous white elephant exchange! Saturday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Jane Barker and Melinda Haag, 7426 Iowa in River Forest. Bring a silly gift for the exchange! As usual, please bring your favorite wine/beer to share along with an appetizer or dessert. Bring a new member or friend too! Contact barbarametric@comcast.net with any questions.

DO YOU HAVE A NAMETAG? Please check to see if you have a nametag on the 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!

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, DECEMBER 1

9:00 am Alternative Christmas Store
9:30 am Education for All Ages
11:00 am Worship
Noon Prayer & Anointing
2:00 pm SR.HI. Cookie Bake
5:00 pm SR.HI. Youth Board
6:00 pm JR.HI. Youth Group

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

6:00 pm Monday Bible Study
6:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

5:30 pm Communications
7:00 pm Children's Ministry
7:30 pm Faith in Action

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

9:00 am Beyond Hunger
Food Pantry Distribution
9:00 am Hanging of the Greens Rehearsal

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

9:00 am Alternative Christmas Store
9:00 am Holiday Food & Gift
Basket Collection
9:30 am Education for All Ages
11:00 am Worship
Hanging of the Greens
Noon Prayer & Anointing
6:00 pm SR.HI. Youth Group
6:00 pm JR.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

Oak Park River Forest 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.oprffoodpantry.org

susanzaruba@gmail.com

773-378-5530, www.clustertutoring.org

708-406-9597, www.promusicayouthchorus.org

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS STORE

DECEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22
10-11 A.M, 12-12:30 P.M.
SUNDAYS
FIRST UNITED LOUNGE

Don't miss the Private Shopping Event!
Ten Thousand Villages | 121 N. Marion Street
Wednesday, December 4 from 6 - 8 p.m.

15% of purchases that evening
go to FUCOP Mission Partners



CELEBRATING FOURTEEN YEARS OF CHRISTMAS CHEER

SING WE JOYOUS!

"The Grand Finale was hilarious."

"Loved singing the Christmas carols!"

"So beautiful I cried."



Oriana Singers



City Voices



Pro Musica Youth Chorus

SING WE JOYOUS IS COMING!

Our annual holiday spectacular is on Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, December 15 at 4 p.m. Tickets will be on sale in the Lounge on December 1 and 8, or go online and get your tickets now at <https://singwejoyous2019.brownpapertickets.com/>



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 | facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark