

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
15 DECEMBER 2019
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
Psalm 46:1-3

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Noels I and II

Louis Claude Daquin

WELCOME

Please sign and pass the black Connections pad.

Alicia Reese

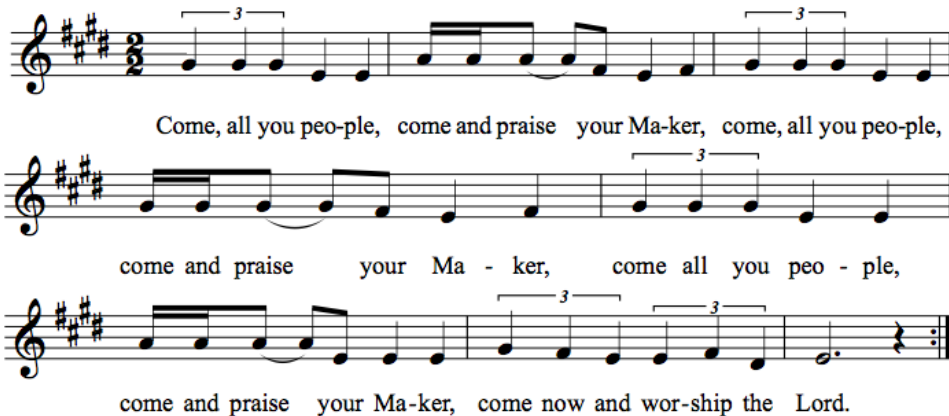
*PASSING THE PEACE

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

*OPENING SONG

Come, All You People

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

Zinsser Family

We light today the candle of joy, because to be joyful is an act of faith.

May we spread God's light to those who have lost their faith.

We light this candle of joy, because to be joyful is to live in hope.

May we spread God's light to those who have lost their hope.

We light this candle of joy, because to be joyful is to live in peace with our neighbors.

May we spread God's light to those who have no peace.

We light this candle of joy, because we need its light.

May we spread God's light to those who need it too.

***HYMN 108**
Black hymnal

Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old

JUDAS AND MARY

SUNG PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

John Edgerton

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 tiding 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

Alicia Reese

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.

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SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 1:8-22, OT p. 49

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Sacred Dance Dancers: Connor Cornelius and Maddy Joss
Music: *Ni Su Nave* by James Iverson

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 531

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

CANONBURY

Black hymnal

SUNG PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lydia Mulkey

Offerings are a sacred act of worship. We invite you to use the green giving cards in the pew rack to celebrate what you've already given or to make an additional donation.

Our offerings will now be received. In gratitude for the gifts of God, please join in singing as we joyfully pray over the offerings you have brought today.

These Gifts We Joyfully Bring to You

GREENSLEEVES

These gifts we joy-ful-ly bring to you, to fill the world with mean-ing; our
 hearts and minds are long-ing for the life of which you are dream-ing.
 These, these are the gifts we bring, our lives we share, your praise we sing;
 show us your vis-ion, Lord, for hope, and peace, and car-ing.

Text by Rev. Scott Cervas, Meadowthorpe Presbyterian Church (Lexington, KY)

OFFERTORY

E'en So, Lord, Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him Who freed us from our sins,
 Who loved us all and shed His blood That we might saved be.
 Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God,

Who was and is and is to come; Sing Holy, Holy Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their All!

***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.

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

John Edgerton

***HYMN 573**

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

LANCASHIRE

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.
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TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

COVER ART: *Baby Moses*, 1930, Clara Gardner Mair. Courtesy 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 to those who provide Hospitality through various ministries. This week, we thank Greeters: Cynthia Collazo, Vicky Lekovish, Emory Mead, and Jim Wisuri; Lead Usher: Ted Despotes 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 1st and 2nd 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 or 708-209-1377.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT VIGIL to End Gun Violence & Celebrate Hope and Light - All are invited to join together at St. Catherine-St. Lucy Parish, 38 N. Austin, Oak Park, THIS AFTERNOON at 4 p.m. We will honor: 700,000 Americans killed/wounded by gun violence since December 2012; Ordinary people/organizations addressing the root causes of gun violence; Mothers on a Mission (you are invited to bring a grocery store gift card or check to support their ministry). We will be joining local Congregations for Peace, of which First United is a part.

SING WE JOYOUS – After a rousing performance of the show last night, “Sing We Joyous” returns with a second performance this afternoon at 4 p.m.! Join us for a fun time of music and celebration! Tickets available at the door.

PADS NEEDS SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERS – Help is needed to serve breakfast to our PADS guests. Three volunteers are needed for December 17, 31 and January 21 from 5 – 7 a.m. each day. Please contact Matt Kemper for info or to volunteer: mattkemper1227@gmail.com.

NEW PICTURE DIRECTORY - January 7-18, 2020 – have you reserved your session yet? Sign up for your photography session today before Christmas is here and you forget! Find the Elder on duty to help you sign up or visit the church website or Facebook page to sign yourself up. 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 one FREE 8x10 picture AND a FREE copy of the new directory!

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!

PLAN AHEAD – the First United Church Office will be closed at noon, December 24 through December 27 and December 31, January 1.

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 15

9:00 am Alternative Christmas Store
9:30 am Education for All Ages
11:00 am Worship
Noon Prayer & Anointing
4:00 pm Sing We Joyous
5:30 pm JR.HI. Youth Group
6:00 pm SR.HI. Youth Group

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:00 pm Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group
3:30 pm Beyond Hunger
Food Pantry Distribution
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Blue Christmas Worship

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring
7:00 pm Personnel Committee

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:30 am Nursery School
Christmas Celebration
12:30 pm Nursery School
Christmas Celebration

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

9:00 am Beyond Hunger
Food Pantry Distribution

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

9:00 am Alternative Christmas Store
9:15 am Quest Connect Session #4
9:30 am Education for All Ages
11:00 am Worship
Fourth Sunday Offering
Noon Prayer & Anointing
3:00 pm PFLAG
5:30 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

Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry

The Kid's Kloset, children's clothing ministry

Cluster Tutoring

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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



First United
Blue Christmas

Wednesday
December 18, 2019
7:00 pm



CHRISTMAS EVE

5PM SERVICE

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT,
TRADITIONAL CAROLS,
AND CANDLELIGHT

8:30PM SERVICE

TRADITIONAL CAROLS,
JAZZ, AND
CANDLELIGHT



First United Church of Oak Park

848 Lake St., Oak Park, IL 60301

www.firstunitedoakpark.com



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