

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
24 NOVEMBER 2019



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

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

GATHERING MUSIC *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* George Elvey, arr. Brant Adams
Joe Guevara, flute

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;

The first line of musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains chords and a single note, while the bass staff contains chords and a single note. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

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

The second line of musical notation continues in the same 4/4 time and key signature. It also consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 100

Alicia Reese

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;

Come into God's presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is God that made us; we belong to God.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,

Enter God's courts with praise.

Give thanks, for our God is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever,

God's faithfulness to all generations.

*HYMN 551

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

Blue hymnal

CALL TO PRAYER

John Edgerton

Today we take stock of God's blessings. First, let us consider how we have failed to respond out of gratitude in the past, so that our gratitude today can be true and full. Let us pray.

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Our Creator, you have made an intricate and diverse world, and set us to cultivate it reverently and responsibly.

Forgive us when we forget our connection with all of creation.

Our Creator, you have made a world of abundance and intend for us to share so that all may have their "daily bread."

Forgive us when we lose the sense of hospitality and community.

Our Creator, you have sent us Jesus, the "Bread of Life" to satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst.

Forgive us when we do not respond to his justice and mercy.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

God has heard your prayers. God's mercies are new every day. We are a forgiven people.

Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE *Children are invited to 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

John Edgerton

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

Philippians 4:4-9, NT p. 198

SERMON

With Thanksgiving

Lydia Mulkey

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN 555**

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

Blue hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Alicia Reese

OFFERTORY

Rejoice in the Lord Always

Anon., 16th Century

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand.
Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,
Let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen. (*Philippians 4:4-7*)

*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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Alicia Reese

A Prayer for Thanksgiving Day

On this day, O God, our desire in this moment is to come before you with our prayers of thanksgiving.

For some of us the words we offer will flow easily from our lips. For others trying to name our blessing may prove difficult. We name them, nonetheless. (*joys are read*)

Thanksgiving this year may be very different from previous years: a new table at which to sit, new persons sitting with us, or a dear one absent, worries crowding out our sense of blessing. These realities may reshape our prayers from years past. To seek joy may lead us through heartbreak. (*concerns are read*)

Whatever our reality, O God, we ask that you help us focus not so much on material things, whether their abundance or scarcity, but rather on how we are living our lives. Help us recognize all the ways you are present in our lives this year. Help us gather the strength we need for today and for all of our tomorrows. Help us to extend our prayers of thanksgiving to you with joyful spirits. We are loved and blessed and thankful, and so we pray together, saying...

**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.**

Commented [A1]: I inserted this word in the hope that it would be right...

Commented [A2]: changed "live" to "lives"; feel free to change it back if I'm wrong

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING – Beyond Hunger (formerly OPRF Food Pantry) has a mission to end in hunger in the communities in the 13 zip codes they serve. The organization has long been a First United mission partner and not only distributes food but also provides educational opportunities for their clients and advocates on their behalf. Please give generously!



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: Joanne Despotes, Marge Lyon, Clara Kearley and Doug Thurman; 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 5th and 6th 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

COOKIE BAKE ORDERS – DUE TODAY!

It's not too late to fill out and turn in an order form! Find one after church on the Elder desk and turn it into Alicia's mailbox. You can pay when you pick up your order on December 8.

COMMUNITY OF CONGREGATIONS MULTI-FAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE - It was recently announced that Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot has agreed to be the preacher at [this evening's](#) Community of Congregations Multi-Faith Thanksgiving Service. The service will be held at 7 p.m. at New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, 4301 W. Washington Blvd, Chicago. Anyone who would like to sing in the Multi-Faith Choir is invited to a rehearsal from 3 – 4:30 p.m. at that church.

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.

1619 PROJECT FIELD TRIP - There are a few spots still available! We'll gather at First United Church Tuesday December 3 at 5:30 p.m. to carpool to the Chicago History Museum; returning to the church around 8:30 p.m. Led by Peter Alter, our group will focus on the Facing Freedom exhibition. It focuses on eight stories from U.S. history that involve conflicts over freedom. Two stories include a particular kind of urban slavery in place in Charleston, South Carolina in 19th century and the U.S. Civil War (1861-65). We will explore those two specific stories and then experience a mini-workshop focusing on them. We'll also have time for discussion around the exhibition, workshop, and our historical understanding of slavery and enslaved people. To learn more about the museum, check it out at www.chicagohistory.org For more details and to sign up, please email Katharine.thurman@comcast.net

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.

NEW PICTURE DIRECTORY - JANUARY 2020. You're invited to be a part of our new photo directory. It has been a while since our last directory was printed and our church family has grown and changed; a new photo directory will help us capture these changes. Our church family album won't be complete without you! Sign up today on the church website or Facebook page. Beginning next week, you will find an Elder on duty to help with sign ups before and after church as well.

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!

PLEASE NOTE: The First United Church office will be closed November 27-29 so that the staff can celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends.

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, NOVEMBER 24

9:15 am Quest Connect Session #3
9:30 am Education for All Ages
11:00 am Worship
Fourth Sunday Offering
Noon Prayer & Anointing
3:00 pm PFLAG
5:30 pm SR.HI. Youth Group
6:00 pm JR.HI. Youth Group

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

6:00 pm Monday Bible Study
6:00 pm PADS Emergency Shelter
6:30 pm CMA Justice & Witness
7:00 pm Nominating Committee

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

7:00 pm Personnel Committee

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Church Office Closed

3:30 pm Beyond Hunger
Food Pantry Distribution

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Happy Thanksgiving!
Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Church Office Closed

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

9:00 am Beyond Hunger
Food Pantry Distribution

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

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

708.386.5215

Gene Armstrong, Council Moderator	geneann1113@yahoo.com
Carl Nauert, Council Clerk	chnauert@gmail.com
John Edgerton, Lead Pastor (ext. 101)	jedgerton@firstunitedoakpark.com
Lydia Mulkey, Associate Pastor of Education (ext. 103)	lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com
Alicia Reese, Pastoral Assoc., Youth & Cong. Care (ext. 104)	areese@firstunitedoakpark.com
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First United Church Nursery School	708-848-4910, www.firstunitedschool.com
Housing Forward	708-338-1724, www.housingforward.org
Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry	708-386-1324, www.oprffoodpantry.org
The Kid's Klost, children's clothing ministry	susanzaruba@gmail.com
Cluster Tutoring	773-378-5530, www.clustertutoring.org
Pro Musica Youth Chorus	708-406-9597, www.promusicayouthchorus.org

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/>

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS STORE

PRE-SALE: NOVEMBER 24

FULL SALE

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



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848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301 | 708.386.5215

www.firstunitedoakpark.com | facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark