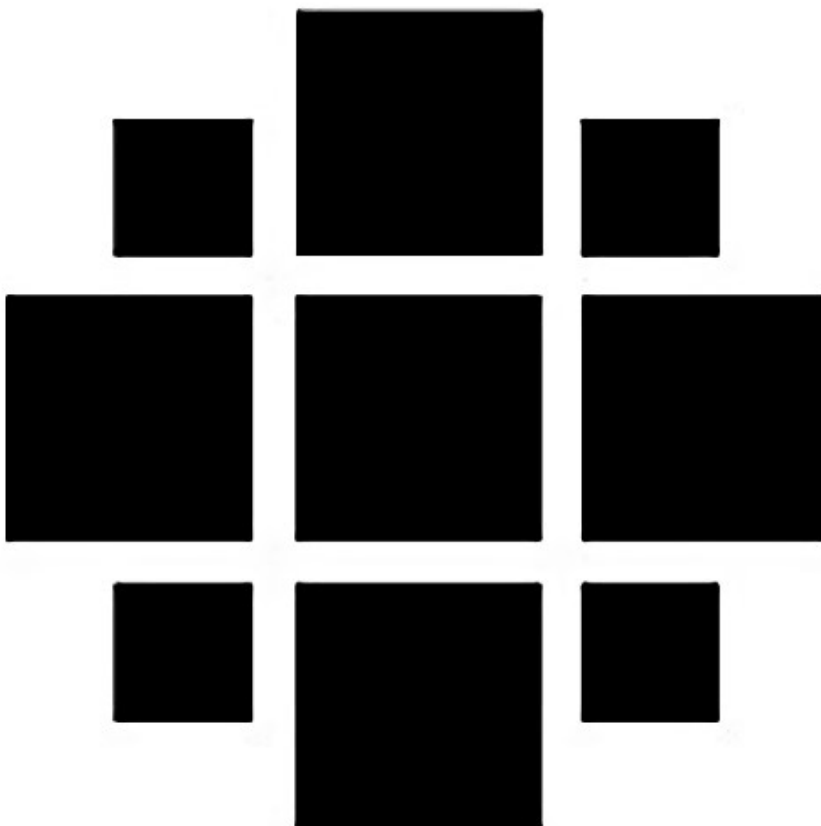


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
June 26, 2022



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Roger Stanley, guest organist

Tierce en taille (L'Élévation) by François Couperin

WELCOME

Lydia Mulkey

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sandy Jefferson

In the image of God, you created everything and called it good!

In abundant diversity, your likeness is found in us.

We reject all messages that belittle or degrade any among us.

And so in faithfulness to God and one another we proclaim:

Sacred are our bodies of every size and ability.

Blessed are our sexualities, drawing us towards love of many kinds.

Beloved is every gender, revealing you in different ways.

To our skin, beautiful in every shade, we say **hallelujah!**

Praise God, our Creator, who blesses us with this world, these bodies, and our fellow creatures, all created good, very good.

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak (Black hymnal no. 531)

God, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of your tone;

as you have sought, so let me seek your erring children lost and alone.

O lead me, God, that I may lead some wanderers along life's way;

O feed me so that I may feed your hungry ones without delay.

O fill me with your fullness, God, your overflowing love to know;

In glowing word and kindling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.

O use me, God, use even me just as you will, and where,

until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Ken

Honderich

Holy One, though we seek to love, still we fail one another. We get stuck in our guilt. We hide in shame. But you, O God, do not send us away. You draw us closer, more deeply into the heart of Love where we are transformed. Whatever burdens of regret we bear, may we hear and receive your eternal invitation to embrace the grace that sets us free. To make amends. To heal. To reconcile.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Our God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's love for us; as far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our transgressions from us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Spirit of the Living God (Black hymnal no. 283)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

Lydia Mulkey

SCRIPTURE READING – JOHN 21:1-15

John Edgerton

SERMON

*SERMON RESPONSE

Creator God, Creating Still (Black hymnal no. 278, vv. 1-3)

Creator God, creating still, by will and word and deed,

Create a new humanity to meet the present need.

**Redeemer God, redeeming still, with overflowing grace,
Pour out your love on us, through us, make this a holy place.**

**Sustainer God, sustaining still, with strength for every day,
Empower us now to do your will. Correct us when we stray.**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

John Edgerton

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Bill Chin

You Are the Seed

You are the seed that will grow a new sprout;
you're a star that will shine through the day;
You are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the night.
You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the wheat that will bear
golden grain;
You are a sting and a soft, gentle touch, my witnesses where'er you go.

Refrain: Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,
Messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.
Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose; "Lo, I'll be with you
forever, till the end of the world."

You are the flame that will brighten the way, sending sparkles of hope, faith,
and love;
You are the shepherds to lead the whole world through valleys and pastures
of peace.
You are the friends that I chose for myself, the word that I want to proclaim.
You are the city that's built on a rock where justice and truth always reign. R/
You are the life that will nurture the plant; you're the waves in a turbulent
sea;

Yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise, a new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a city to hide, nor a mountain can cover its might;
May your good deeds show a world in despair
a path that will lead all to God. R/

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Anne Koerber

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, the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION AND SERVICE

*CLOSING HYMN

Siyahamba (Black hymnal no. 526)

**Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwen-khos', siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwen-khos. 2x
Siyahamba, Oo, siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwen-khos'.**

**We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. 2x
We are marching, Oo, we are marching the light of God.**

*BLESSING

John Edgerton

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Every Time I Feel the Spirit (Black hymnal no. 282)

Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.

POSTLUDE

Roger Stanley, guest organist

Grand choeur by Théodore Salomé

EVENTS AND UPDATES

Below is just a sampling of the news and events at First United. We invite you to subscribe to receive our monthly "Messenger Bell" newsletter and our weekly "News & Events" eblast by visiting firstunitedoakpark.com. Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark) where we share our weekly newsletter and lots more!

NEXT OUTDOOR WORSHIP, JULY 17

We hope you enjoyed last week's outdoor worship service. We will have two more opportunities to worship together outside on July 17 and August 21. See you on the labyrinth!

FUSH CARWASH, JULY 17

Get your car freshened up by our FUSH youth on Sunday, July 17 after worship at the FUSH car wash fundraiser. We'll be washing from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the First United parking lot. Suggested donation of \$15 per car.

SIGN UP IN THE LOUNGE TODAY TO JOIN UNITED POWER FOR ACTION AND JUSTICE ON JULY 17

Sign up in the lounge to act on injustice and fight for systemic change in housing priorities, economic inequality, mental health, criminal justice, and gun violence. Let's do something together on July 17. Grab your face mask, get on the bus, and be part of organized people power to join United Power for Action and Justice on Sunday, July 17 for the 4 p.m. meeting at the House of Hope, 752 E. 114th Street, Chicago. Email Sandy Jefferson (sandeleo135@gmail.com) to sign up or for more information.

MEMORIAL SERVICE INFORMATION FOR REV. KENT ORGAN

There will be a memorial service for former First United Interim Pastor Kent Organ on July 23 at 11 a.m. at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago. Kent passed recently from complications from long-term Covid-19. Please hold Kent's wife Vicky and friends and family in your prayers.

SAVE THE DATE FOR FAMILY CAMP

Join us at Tower Hill for Family Camp August 11 through August 14. We tent camp as a group with nearby flush toilets and warm showers. Bring your own equipment, food, and a dish to share for our potluck dinner on Saturday night. Visit the beach, pick berries, or go antiquing. Contact Cathy Cerniglia at cgcernig@comcast.net or 708-337-1990 with questions or for more information.

NEARING THE GOAL

First United members have made \$599,636 in pledge commitments for 2022-2023. To reach our goal, we need an additional \$29,000 in pledges. If you had not confirmed your pledge, please act today. You may register your pledge directly by logging into your Realm account and making a pledge. Or, perhaps you already made your pledge and now realize that you are able to increase your giving. Either way, registering your pledge is quite easy with the friendly support of Kelly Pollock (pledgeregistrar@firstunitedoakpark.com) or Shirley Kyle (skyle@firstunitedoakpark.com; 708-386-5215). Please act before June 30. Your generosity will assure that Blessings will overflow to our church community and beyond.

WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED!

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 LGBTQ people in membership & ministry.

ADULT EDUCATION

Faith formation doesn't end after Church School. Adult Education takes a variety of forms, from small, group Bible studies to Sunday morning speaker series. We are currently on break for summer, but look forward to starting back up in September.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP & OUR NURSERY

We love to have children in worship! Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the sanctuary. We also offer safe, quality childcare and quiet play for children five and under in our nursery. Ask an usher for directions.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School is for children ages birth through 8th grade. Meeting most Sundays at 9:45 a.m. (September through May), we tell stories of the Bible using a lens of love and justice with singing, praying, and creating. Visit firstunitedoakpark.com/youth-education or speak with Lydia Mulkey (lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com) to learn more.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

We hope you enjoy the music of our Sanctuary Choir and soloists in worship. Choir rehearsals will begin again in September. For more information, visit firstunitedoakpark.com/music-ministries or contact Bill Chin (bill@firstunitedoakpark.com).

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Youth Groups: FUJI (First United Junior High, 7th & 8th grade) and FUSH (First United Senior High, 9th-12th grade). Watch the eblast for special summer activities.

Quest: Confirmation Class (9th grade) will begin again in September 2022.

For more information, please contact Alicia Reese (areese@firstunitedoakpark.com).



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