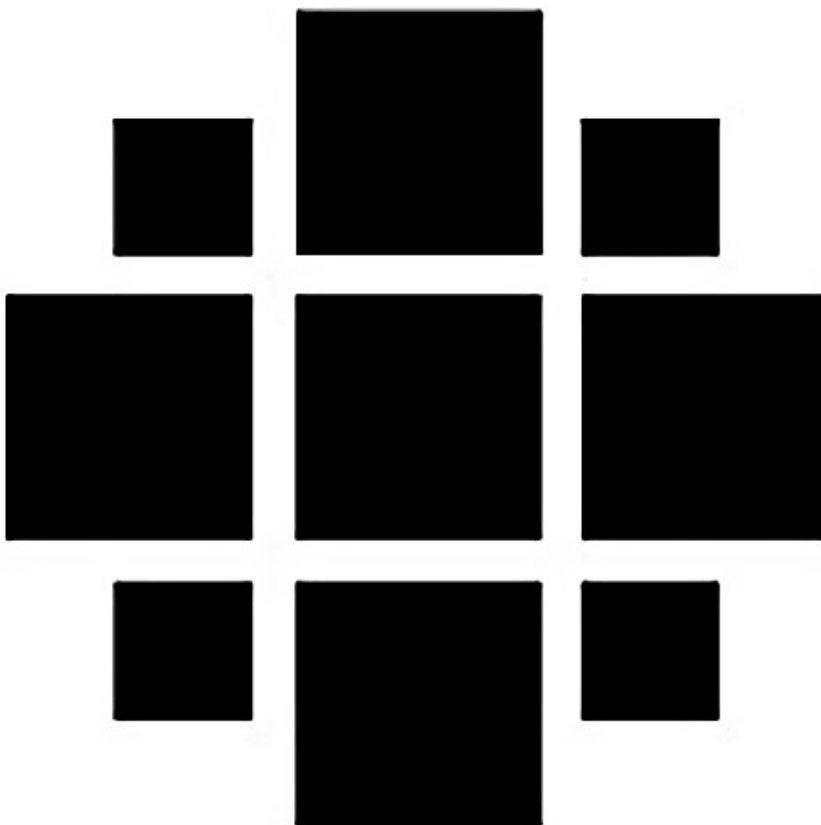


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
July 31, 2022



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

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## PRELUDE

Michael Surratt

*Variations on Now Let Us All Praise God* by Vincent Lübeck

## WELCOME

Lydia Mulkey

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Marilyn Heinrichs

We gather to worship together,

**Different people, different lives, different histories,**

Yet all children of the same Parent,

**Created lovingly by the Source of all life!**

We gather to reconnect with one another,

**Different people, different lives, different histories,**

Yet all disciples of one Teacher,

**Jesus, the Word made flesh, dwelling among us.**

We gather with different joys and sorrows, different hopes and fears...

**Different people, different lives, different histories,**

Yet one people with one God, one faith, one baptism.

**Let us open ourselves to the presence of God at work in us, among us, and through us!**

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

## \*OPENING HYMN

*In All Our Living* (Black hymnal no. 499)

**Pues si vivimos, para Dios vivimos**

**y si morimos, para dios morimos.**

**Sea que vivamos o que muramos,**

**somos del buen Dios, somos del buen Dios.**

**In all our living, we belong to God;**

**and in our dying, we are still with God;**

**So, whether living, or whether dying,**

**we belong to God; we belong to God.**

**God sent Christ Jesus to be our shalom,  
to show us mercy and healing love;  
So in our living, and in our dying,  
Christ is our shalom; Christ is our shalom.**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Alicia Reese

**Merciful God, we confess that we have fallen short, in thought, in words, and in action, in what we have done and what we have left undone. We have struggled to keep your commandments, to love you with all our heart, mind, and soul, and to love our neighbors as you love us. Forgive us. Help us make amends, direct us back to your way, make us your instruments of love, justice, and peace.**

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

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

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TIME FOR SHARING

Lydia Mulkey

SCRIPTURE READING – ECCLESIASTES 1 & 2 (SELECTED VERSES) Marilyn Heinrichs

SERMON – LIFE: TASK OR GIFT?

Alicia Reese

## \*SERMON RESPONSE

*Creator God, Creating Still* (Black hymnal no. 278)

**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

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CALL TO THE OFFERING

Alicia Reese

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Adriana Kopecka

*How Can I Keep From Singing?*

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,  
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;  
It finds an echo in my soul—how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living.  
What though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging;  
Since Love commands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells ringing,  
When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?  
In prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging;  
When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;  
And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.  
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;  
All things are mine since I am Christ's—how can I keep from singing?

**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

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### \*CLOSING HYMN

***Lead Us From Death to Life* (Black hymnal no. 581)**

**Refrain: Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth,  
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.**

**Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;  
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,  
let peace fill our universe.**

**Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,  
still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.  
Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,  
come and teach us your way of compassion. R/**

**So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,  
longing for love to break into their anguish.  
Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,  
come and teach us your way of compassion. R/**

**Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,  
let us begin to grow into your people.  
We can be love, we can bring peace,  
we can still be your way of compassion.**

### \*BLESSING

\*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

*Prelude and Fugue in E minor* by Nicolaus Bruhns

Michael Surratt

# 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](http://firstunitedoakpark.com). Follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)) where we share our weekly newsletter and lots more!*

## FAMILY CAMP IS COMING SOON!

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](mailto:cgcernig@comcast.net) or 708-337-1990 with questions or for more information.

## AUGUST NEWCOMERS CLASS

Thinking about joining First United and want to learn more? Check out the Newcomers Class on Wednesday, August 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. Contact Lydia ([lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com)) for more information or to RSVP.

## NO PARKING ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS AND SATURDAY MORNINGS

In order to help Beyond Hunger best serve our neighbors, there will be no parking in the First United lot on Wednesdays from 2-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the duration of the Kenilworth sewer reconstruction project. We will do our very best to update you with updates about access to our lot whenever we receive them from the village. Please follow the First United Facebook page for the most up-to-date information.

## OPPORTUNITY TO HELP LEAD WORSHIP

Sign up to become a volunteer liturgist! Volunteer liturgists fill a variety of roles in worship including reading Scripture, leading the call to worship, and/or offering one of the many prayers in our Sunday service. Readings and/or any pieces of liturgy will be provided to you a few days before the day that you serve in worship. We do ask that volunteers plan to arrive by 10:30 a.m. Visit [firstunitedoakpark.com/worshipping-at-first-united](http://firstunitedoakpark.com/worshipping-at-first-united) and scroll down to "Volunteer Liturgists" to sign up. You can also find a direct link to the signup genius in the weekly eblast.

# 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. Watch the Thursday Eblast for the latest offerings.

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Meeting most Sundays at 9:45 a.m., we tell stories of the Bible using a lens of love and justice with singing, praying, and creating. Speak with Lydia Mulkey ([lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com)) to learn more.

## MUSIC MINISTRIES

We hope you enjoy the music of our Sanctuary Choir and soloists in worship. COVID-19 has altered the way we do music, but music remains deeply important to our worship experience. For more information contact Bill Chin ([bill@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:bill@firstunitedoakpark.com)).

## YOUTH PROGRAMS – FUJI (JR. HIGH) & FUSH (SR. HIGH)

The youth groups meet on Sunday evenings from 5 – 6:30 pm here at the church. Contact Alicia Reese ([areese@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:areese@firstunitedoakpark.com)) for more information.



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