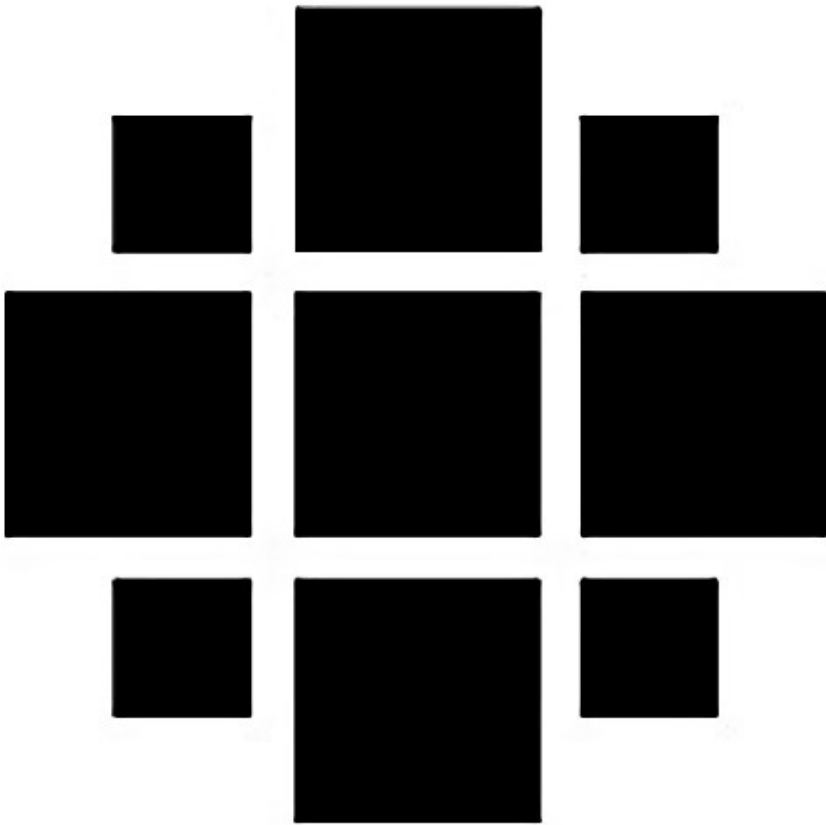


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
August 14, 2022



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

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PRELUDE

Michael Surratt

*Variations on 'Simple Gifts' by Noël Goemanne*

WELCOME

John Edgerton

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Joe Guevara

This place for us is Holy Ground;

**Where we sing songs of praise,**

And tell the stories of our ancestors' faith

**that inspire us to respond to Christ's love.**

God called us here,

**in whispering winds and in burning flames,**

Where the Spirit's presence disarms us

**of the barriers we have placed around us and between us.**

Instead, God meets us in our vulnerability,

**In our shared humanity.**

Let us worship God.

\*PASSING THE PEACE

\*OPENING HYMN

*I Love to Tell the Story* (Black hymnal no. 522)

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above.**

**Of Jesus' radiant glory, of Jesus' endless love.**

**I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;**

**it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.**

**Refrain: I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory**

**I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.**

**I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems  
than all the golden visions of all our golden dreams.  
I love to tell the story, I tell it now to you  
because I want to share it, because I know it's true. R/**

**I love to tell the story; it's pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word. R/**

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.  
And when I sing in glory, I know the new, new song  
will be the old, old story that I have loved so long. R/**

#### PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Alicia Reese

**Redeeming God, out of the flames of your creation, your voice calls,  
marking us as your own.**

**Yet there are times when we choose to ignore your voice, and listen instead  
to our own needs and desires and those that challenge our faith from  
within the world. Forgive us for those times; when we have ignored the  
needs of others; when we have failed to place our feet upon your path;  
when we allow the earthly voices to distract us from your call.**

*Silence*

Loving God, in your mercy, you offer again your invitation to know your love,  
to be loved, and to respond to your call. You know us better than we know  
ourselves. You knit us together in the womb, you call us by our name, you call  
us beloved. **Thanks be to God, AMEN.**

#### 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

John Edgerton

SCRIPTURE READING – EXODUS 3 & 4

Joe Guevara

SERMON –

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

John Edgerton

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Be Now My Vision* (Black hymnal no. 451)

Be now my vision, O God of my heart;  
nothing surpasses the love you impart  
you my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;  
ever within me, my soul is assured;  
Mother and Father, you are both to me,  
now and forever your child I will be.

Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,  
you, my inheritance, now and always;  
you and you only are first in my heart,  
great God, my treasure, may we never part.

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Son!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

John Edgerton

**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

*Blessed Assurance* (Black hymnal no. 473)

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.**

**Refrain: This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight!  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. R/**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. R/**

## \*BLESSING

Alicia Reese

## \*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

Michael Surratt

*Postlude in E-flat* by William Edmonstoune Duncan

# EVENTS AND UPDATES

*Below is just a sampling of the news and events at First United. Follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)) where we share our weekly newsletter and lots more!*

## REMINDER TO STAY AFTER WORSHIP FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please remain in the sanctuary after today's worship for a Special Congregational Meeting. We are voting to approve an updated job description and terms of call for Alicia Reese. This will make Alicia's position at First United an ordainable one, pending her successful examination by the Presbytery of Chicago at their September assembly meeting. We will begin promptly when we have achieved a quorum.

## NEXT WEEK: OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND BLESS ALL THE THINGS!

Sunday, August 21st is our "Bless Everything Sunday!" We will bless new members, backpacks, and pets.

- Students and teachers are invited to bring backpacks to be blessed for the new school year.
- Everyone is invited to bring your pets to be blessed. If your pet does not travel well, you can bring a photo to be blessed.
- You are also invited to bring photos of pets who have died for a small altar of remembrance.

We will also enjoy our last outdoor worship for the summer, so please plan to join us on the labyrinth.

## CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

We are excited to welcome children ages birth to 8<sup>th</sup> grade to Church School this fall. **NEW THIS YEAR:** If your child was enrolled in church school last year, they will automatically be promoted to the next grade and you do not need to do anything other than make sure your Realm profile is up to date. If you are new to Church School, please visit [firstunitedoakpark.com](https://firstunitedoakpark.com) and scroll to the bottom of the home page for registration instructions.

# 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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