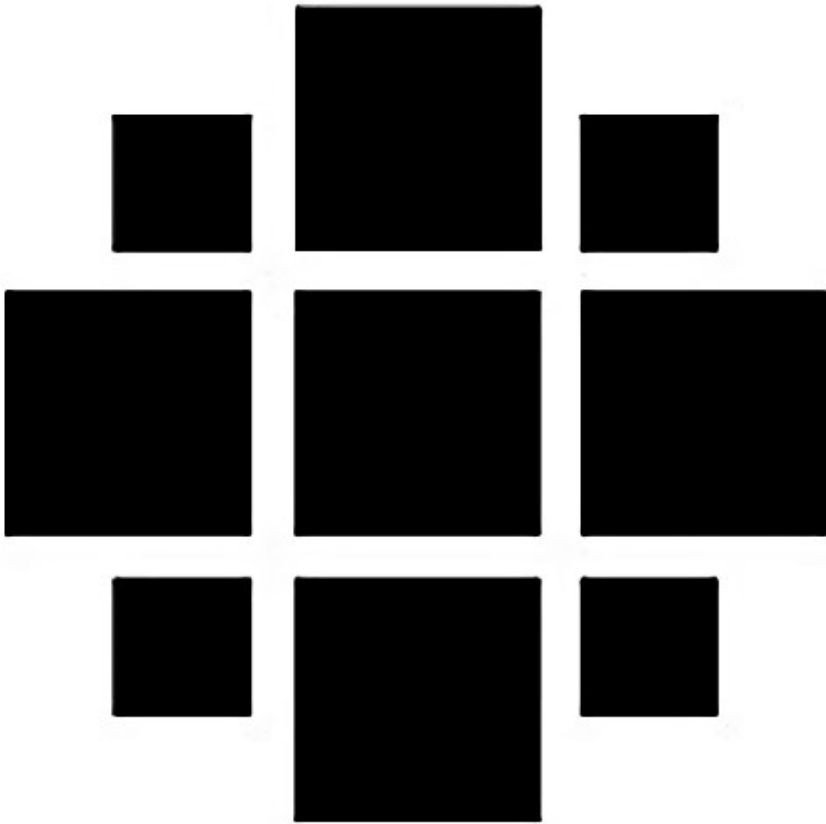


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
August 28, 2022



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Michael Surratt and Marilee Castaneda

Benedictus, Op. 59, No. 9 by Max Reger

Suite Antique, Mvt. 1: Prelude for Flute and Piano by John Rutter

WELCOME

John Edgerton

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Anne Koerber

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

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet (Black hymnal no. 70)

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,

May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts

wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;

Here are table, font, and pulpit, here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,

here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

**Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
Here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.**

**Sovereign God, of earth and heaven, in an age of change and doubt
Keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

John Edgerton

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

TIME FOR SHARING

Lydia Mulkey

SCRIPTURE READING – The Lord's Prayer

Anne Koerber

SERMON – TEACH US HOW TO PRAY

John Edgerton

*SERMON RESPONSE

Sweet Hour of Prayer (Black hymnal no. 505, vv. 1, 3))

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care,

and bids me at my Maker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.

In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,

and oft escaped the tempter's snare by your return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! Whose wings shall my petition bear

to One whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.

And since I'm bid to seek God's face, believe God's word, and trust God's grace,

I'll cast away my every care, and wait for your, sweet hour of prayer!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Ruth McBeth

4th Sunday Offering benefiting the Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America

OFFERTORY SOLO

Adriana Kopecka

Alleluia by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lydia Mulkey

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

When in Our Music God is Glorified (Black hymnal no. 561)

**When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!**

**How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!**

**So has the church, in liturgy and song,
in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
Borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia!**

**Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!**

*BLESSING

John Edgerton

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen, Amen (Black hymnal No. 161)

Amen . . . !

POSTLUDE

Michael Surratt

Tone Piece, Op. 22, No. 1 by Niels W. Gade

WITH GRATITUDE

Today we give thanks to two significant members of the First United Music Staff as they make their final official appearances in worship.

Michael Surratt has been Organist since February 2012; prior to that, he served six months as our interim organist, and this following a brief retirement after serving 32 years as Director of Music and Organist at the Union Church of Hinsdale. Mike has served First United with high musicianship, good humor, and distinction.

Adriana Kopecka has been soprano section leader of the Sanctuary Choir since September 2012. A native of Oak Park, she came to First United with extensive experience as a professional singer, with a resume that includes work with Holy Name Cathedral, The Oriana Singers, GIA Publications, and numerous other choral and solo work. Adriana became an integral part of the Choir and was a valued member before, during, and after the pandemic.

We are grateful to both of you and wish you the best!

EVENTS AND UPDATES

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

TODAY'S FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING, CRLN

The Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America (CRLN) has worked for more than 30 years with congregations to equip them to become effective advocates for human rights. CRLN and First United of Oak Park have a long history of advocating together on many issues. CRLN's Executive Director, Claudia Lucero, will share some of the highlights of our work together and share an update on our work on Colombia, Central America, Cuba, and Immigration. To learn more about CRLN please visit:

www.crln.org

DINNER AND A MOVIE, SEPTEMBER 9

Dinner and a Movie returns on September 9. Enjoy a screening of *Leviathan*. Living with his family in a village on Russia's northern fringe, auto-shop owner Kolya finds himself in a jam when the corrupt mayor insists on acquiring his property. This movie is longer than most that we show, so we will begin dinner at 5:45 and the movie at 6:15. Sign up in the lounge or call Liz Swan (708-567-3490) to RSVP.

SAVE THE DATE: GATHERING DAY

Gathering Day is coming on September 11. We celebrate the return to Church School and the start of the program year. Worship at 11 a.m. and stay for our annual Root Beer Float celebration after worship.

ADULT EDUCATION BEGINS SEPTEMBER 18

Adult Education will begin meeting in Centennial Hall at 9:45 a.m. on September 18. This year's adult ed offerings promise to be compelling and informative. Look for the Adult Ed section in the upcoming Messenger Bell for a preview of our September and October topics.

ONLINE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Have you shared your thoughts about our Lenten experience this past year? For those who would like share, but were unable to participate in our in-person Lenten debrief sessions, the online option is still available. Use the QR code to access the questionnaire.



REGISTER FOR 2022-23 CHURCH SCHOOL

We are excited to welcome children ages birth to 8th 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 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 8th 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) 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).

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) for more information.



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