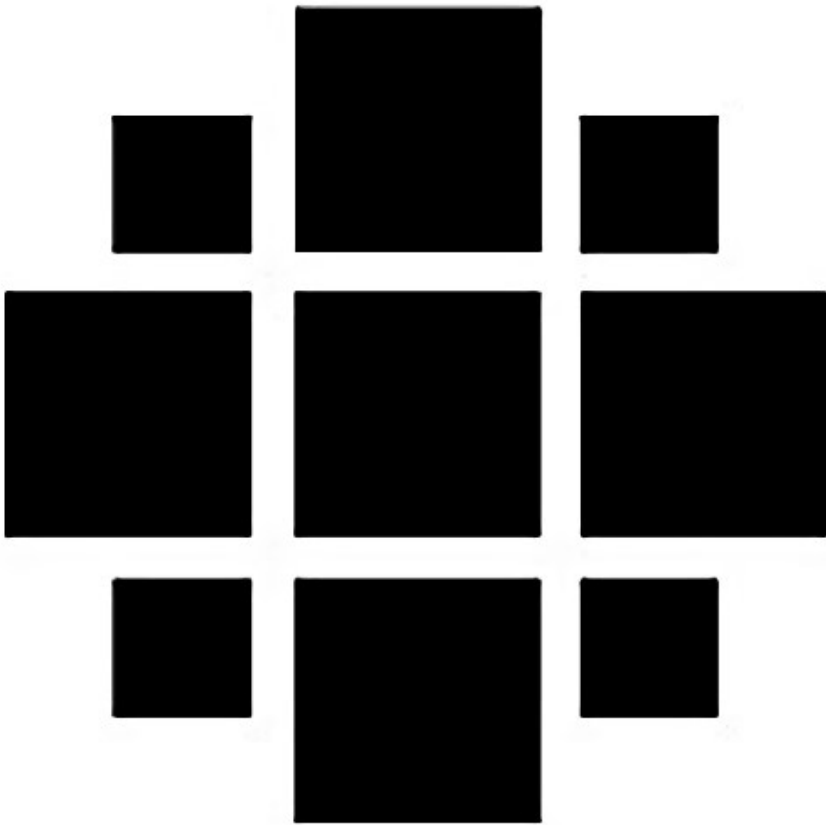


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
September 18, 2022



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Mark Sudeith

Prelude on 'Rhosymedre' by Ralph Vaughan Williams

WELCOME

Lydia Mulkey

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Macaulay

Our world is hurting in every way:

injustice in the shadows, injustice in broad daylight,

worship of wealth, of doctrine, of material things,

freeway underpasses replace homes for shelter,

children in our schools are hungry,

we see neighbors suffering, nations destabilized,

politicians are wined and dined, judges wooed and won,

destruction and violence plague us.

How long, O God? Is there no healing balm?

God of our salvation, help us! Fill us with hope!

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

I Woke Up This Morning (Black hymnal no. 85)

I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Singing and praying with my mind stayed on jesus,

Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Susan Macaulay

Beloved of God, let us examine our lives in the presence of God, humbly confessing our sins and opening our hearts, so that we do not deceive even ourselves, and exclude ourselves from your presence. Let us pray. . .

Gracious God, we confess that we find your medicine hard to swallow. The quick fixes of this world are so much more pleasant, leaving us free to go back to our usual routines. But your medicine is powerful. It has the ability to remake and renew our lives, to reorient us to you and to you alone. Turn us toward your love for justice and true worship. Forgive our sins, for which you weep. Forgive our hesitation. Grant us courage to choose you as our physician, and to serve you and you alone.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Friends, the God who weeps for us and for our world, is the God whose compassion comes speedily to meet us, and forgive us.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Fearfully, Wonderfully Made by Nathan Crabtree & Eric Whitehill



1. You were known, known be - fore birth, wo - ven deep,
2. You be - long, — you are re - deemed. Loved by God,
3. When you walk, — walk through the flame. God is there,



deep in the earth. You were formed from star-dust. Sing praise! You are
God is well pleased. Now em-brace what God has or - dained: You are
cal - ling your name. God has said, "Do not be a - fraid." You are



fear - ful - ly, won - der - f'ly made, — yes you are



fear - ful - ly, won - der - f'ly made. —

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

John Edgerton

SCRIPTURE READING – JEREMIAH 8:18-9:1

Susan Macaulay

SERMON – GRAPPLING WITH GRIEF

Alicia Reese

*SERMON RESPONSE

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing (Black hymnal no. 17, v. 1)

**To you, O God, all creatures sing,
and all creation, everything
sings your praises, alleluia!
Your burning sun with golden beam,
Your silver moon with softer gleam
sing your praises, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

John Edgerton

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

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

*CLOSING HYMN

There Is a Balm in Gilead (Blue hymnal no. 394)

**Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. R/**

**Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
And if you lack for knowledge He'll not refuse to lend. R/**

**If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." R/**

*BLESSING

Lydia Mulkey

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Take My Gifts (Black hymnal no. 562, v. 1)

**Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!**

POSTLUDE

Mark Sudeith

I Woke Up This Morning, African-American Spiritual arr. by David Kidwell

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!

FOSTERING CONNECTION & SUPPORT IS BACK! THURSDAYS AT 10 A.M. ON ZOOM
Looking for a way to get (or stay) connected with First United? FCS is a great, informal way to share what is going on in your life with your church community. Sessions are led by Alicia Reese, Beth Dickerson, and our Deacons. Email Alicia (areese@firstunitedoakpark.com) for access to the Zoom.

FALL FELLOWSHIP FAIR, SEPTEMBER 25

Join us after worship next Sunday from 1-3 p.m. for a festival-style gathering on the lawn. Learn about First United ministry teams, enjoy hot dogs and snacks, do an activity with your kids, listen to music, and enjoy time with friends old and new. Please invite your friends and neighbors and show them what an amazing church community we have at First United!

BIBLE BREAKFAST, SEPTEMBER 25

Each year, our third graders receive Bibles to mark another milestone on their journey of faith as their growing reading skills allow them to explore the stories of the faith more deeply. This year we make up for lost (pandemic) time by gathering our third, fourth, and fifth graders together for this beloved tradition. We can't wait!

HELP BUILD OUR HOUSE TO HOME KITS FOR HOUSING FORWARD

Help us supply basic necessities and comforts of home for four families coming out of transitional housing with Housing Forward. Use the QR code to access the electronic signup or sign up in the lounge. Your donations can be shipped to church or you can drop them off in person on September 25 or October 2.



“IS AMERICA BECOMING DECHRISTIANIZED?” SEPTEMBER 25

For the second session of our 2-part adult education series with UIC Sociology Professor Emeritus Dr. Stephen Warner, we'll consider the “de-westernification” of American religion. Join us in Centennial Hall on September 25 at 9:45 a.m.

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).

COMMUNITY CARE

Opportunities abound for connection and care at First United. We hold a monthly Dinner & a Movie night, weekly small group breakfasts, seasonal social gatherings, Zoom connection opportunities, and more. There is something for everyone. Speak with Alicia Reese (areese@firstunitedoakpark.com) to get connected.

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. 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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