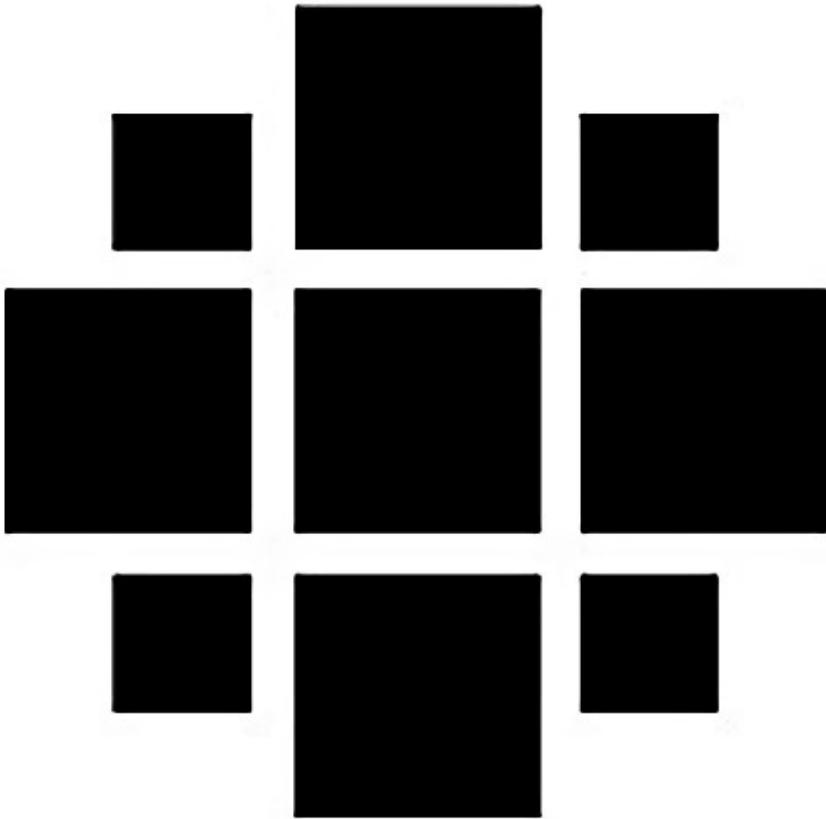


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
September 25, 2022



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Mark Sudeith

Partita on 'Beach Spring' by Michael Bedford

WELCOME

John Edgerton

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mariel Stitziel

People of God, how are you this morning?

It would be easy for us to say, "fine, thank you," but the truth is, we are tired and weary.

You have come to the right place at the right time. This is the sabbath. This is the gentle pause carved out just for you. This is time out of time. Take a deep breath and let it out slowly. There are no to-do lists here. There is no goal to reach. There are no expectations to meet. There is only peace, only love, only rest.

Compassionate God, we rest our minds, hearts, and spirits in your love.

AMEN.

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Come and Find the Quiet Center

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead

Find the room for hope to enter find the frame where we are freed

Clear the chaos and the clutter clear our eyes that we can see

All the things that really matter be at peace and simply be

Silence is a friend who claims us cools the heat and slows the pace

God it is who speaks and names us knows our being touches base

Making space within our thinking lifting shades to show the sun

Raising courage when we're shrinking finding scope for faith begun

**In the Spirit let us travel open to each other's pain
Let our lives and fears unravel celebrate the space we gain
There's a place for deepest dreaming there's a time for heart to care
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Alicia Reese

Soft-Place-to-Land God, we yearn for space, time, and ceremony to tend our weary souls. Our culture insists that we must always be working, that those who slow down are lazy, and that we could never do enough to deserve rest. We have lost the holy rhythm of life you set forth in creation. May we have the patience and fortitude to trust that in our moments of rest, you are at work within us, making us whole again.

Time for Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Beloveds, God is your soft place to land. Barbara Brown Taylor says of the ancient Hebrews' Sabbath day, "Sabbath was the day when Israel celebrated its freedom from compulsion. On that one day every week, the people did not work and still they were fed. On that one day every week, they remembered their worth lay not in their own productivity but in God's primordial love for them. Sabbath offered them a foretaste of heaven, when they would lie back in God's arms and behold the glory of creation for all eternity." Beloveds, in this moment, there is nothing else you must do. There is nowhere else you must be. There is no one else but God defining your worth. Just for today, lie back in God's arms and receive a foretaste of heaven.

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 — 3RD — 5TH GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Don Sibley (4th & 5th Grade Church School Leader): The Bible is a collection of ancient books. In these books, ordinary people like us try to understand who God is, who they are, and what life is all about. Sometimes they catch a glimpse of God's wonder. Sometimes they stumble and fail. On every page, they are teaching us that in the end, God's love always wins.

Lynn Barrier (4th & 5th Grade Church School Leader): We believe the ancient stories of the Bible can help us make meaning of our lives today. Because these stories have shaped our lives and have shaped this community of faith, we want everyone at First United Church of Oak Park to have a Bible, and to read

and study it. Third, Fourth, and Fifth Graders, these Bibles will be yours to open whenever you like.

Michael Readling (4th& 5th Grade Teen Leader): When you are feeling happy, you can dance for joy with Miriam. When you are feeling sad, you can weep with Naomi. When you are mad, you can join Jonah under the tree. When you are scared, you can go with Daniel in that lion's den and know that God is with you. This is your Bible and these are your stories.

Cate Readling (1st-3rd Grade Church School Leader): Third, Fourth, and Fifth Graders, as you accept your Bible, you are accepting a great adventure of faith. Are you willing to read these stories, to learn from God's people who lived long ago, and to live out the way of Jesus found in this book?

Third, Fourth, and Fifth Graders: Yes, we will study and learn from our Bibles.

Carrie Von Hoff (1st-3rd Grade Church School Leader): Parents and guardians, God has given you primary responsibility for the faith formation of your children. Will you read and study the Bible with your children, help them relate these stories to their lives, and share your faith with them?

Parents: Yes, we will read and study the Bible with our children.

Lydia Mulkey: Members of First United, when a child is baptized, we promise to live in a way that enables them to grow among us in the knowledge and love of God. We also promise to support parents and guardians in their efforts to guide their children in the way of Jesus. Are you willing to renew this promise to the children and parents standing before you?

Congregation: Yes, we renew our promise to support these families.

SCRIPTURE READING – GENESIS 2:1-4

Mariel Stitzel

SERMON – THE IMPORTANCE OF RHYTHM

Lydia Mulkey

*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

4th Sunday – Pastoral Emergency Fund

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sanctuary Choir

Be Still and Know That I Am God by John L. Bell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Alicia Reese

**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

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

In Solitude (Black hymnal no. 521)

**In solitude, in solitude, I come to God in prayer,
In silence and simplicity, my spirit blossoms there.**

**Whene'er the world is troubling me, and stress is all around,
I seek the presence of my God, and healing light is found.**

**In seasons of perplexity, in times of deep despair,
I light a candle in the night and turn to God in prayer.**

**And when my heart is burdened down with cares for those I love,
too deep for words, with groans and sighs, descends the holy dove.**

**With psalms and hymns and songs of praise before my God I'll come,
till death itself is past and gone, and I arrive at home.**

*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

Prelude on Hyfrydol by Ralph Vaughan Williams



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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