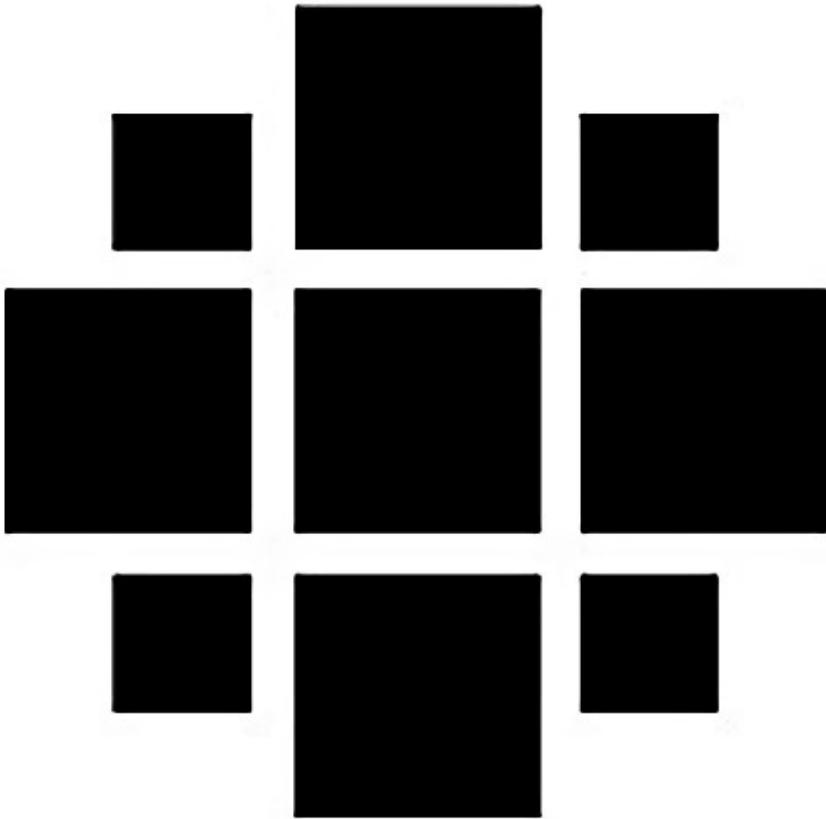


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
October 16, 2022



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

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PRELUDE

Mark Sudeith

*Arioso* by David Hurd

WELCOME

Alicia Reese

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

This is a new day!

**A day full of promise and possibilities.**

Give me grace to treasure every minute,

**To seek you first,**

To reach beyond myself,

**To live with loving kindness,**

To cherish my loved ones and all your children,

**To see this day through the eyes of my Creator,**

Who sees this day and calls it “very good.”

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

\*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir  
& Congregation

*Deep in the Shadows of the Past* (Black hymnal no. 320)

**Deep in the shadows of the past, far out from settled lands,**

**some nomads traveled with their God across the desert sands.**

**The dawning hope of humankind by them was sensed and shown:**

**a promise calling them ahead, a future yet unknown.**

**While others bowed to changeless gods, they met a mystery:**

**a hidden, uncompleted Name—“I AM WHAT I WILL BE”;**

**And by their tents, around their fires, in story, song, and law,**

**they praised, remembered, handed on, a past that promised more.**

**From Abraham to Nazareth the promise changed and grew,**

**while some, remembering the past, recorded what they knew,**

**and some, in letters and laments, in prophecy and praise,**

**recovered, kindled, and expressed new hope for changing days.**

**For all the writings that survived, for leaders, long ago,  
who sifted, copied, and preserved the Bible that we know,  
Give thanks and find its story yet our promise, strength, and call:  
the working model of our faith, alive with hope for all.**

## PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

John Edgerton

## ASSURANCE OF LOVE

## 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

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TIME FOR SHARING

Elaine Pierce

SCRIPTURE READING – JEREMIAH 31:27-34

John Edgerton

SERMON

\*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

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CALL TO THE OFFERING

Alicia Reese

You, O God, are generous, direct, clear with us and for us.

**You have committed yourself to us.**

You have said *yes* to us in creation,

**Yes to us in our birth,**

*Yes* to us in our awakening this day.

May we respond and live *yes* back to you,

**Yes with our time,**

*Yes* with our money,

**Yes with our strength and with our weakness,**

*Yes* to our neighbor.

**In the name of your enfleshed *yes* to us we pray. Amen.**

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Teach Me, O Lord* by David Hurd

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

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\*CLOSING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir  
& Congregation

*We Limit Not the Truth of God* (Black hymnal no. 316)

**We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,**

**to notions of our day and place, crude, partial, and confined;**

**No, let a new and better hope within our hearts be stirred:**

**O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.**

**Who dares to bind to one's own sense the oracles of heaven,**

**for all the nations, tongues, and climes and all the ages given?**

**That universe, how much unknown! that ocean unexplored!**

**O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.**

**Eternal God, Incarnate Word, Spirit of flame and dove:**

**enlarge, expand all living souls to comprehend your love;**

**And help us all to seek your will with wiser powers conferred:**

**O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.**

\*BLESSING

John Edgerton

\*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

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit* arr. by Richard Elliott

# 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!*

## CHAPEL PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Each Sunday, the Deacons welcome you to the Chapel following worship for a time of private prayer and conversation.

## STILL NEED TO DELIVER YOUR HOUSE TO HOME DONATIONS?

Thank you to everyone who donated items this year for our House to Home initiative. Our team is ready to assemble the kits and deliver them to Housing Forward. If you have donations that you still need to get to church, please contact Ann Tanner at (847) 977-5932 as soon as possible.

## COMMUNITY OF CONGREGATIONS PEACE CIRCLE, OCTOBER 27

The Community of Congregations will hold their fall gathering with a neighborhood community peace circle at New Landmark M.B. Church (2700 W. Wilcox St., Chicago) on October 27 at 7 p.m. We will build community, learn about important work, and invite one another into practical action to stem the tide of violence in the Greater West Side. Please contact [oprffcoc@gmail.com](mailto:oprffcoc@gmail.com) to RSVP.

## CHURCH SCHOOL HALLOWEEN, OCTOBER 30

Hey Church School Friends, wear your Halloween costumes to church on October 30 and plan to stay after worship for some fun Halloween treats and tricks.

## SAVE THE DATE: ALICIA'S ORDINATION IS NOVEMBER 19

Although it may feel a long way off, time has a way of flying this time of year. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 19 at 2 p.m. as we celebrate the ordination of Alicia Reese. It is sure to be a blessed and wonderful day.

## NEW YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

First United and Fair Oaks Presbyterian are bringing young adults together this year in a monthly series of friendly competitions, ranging from trivia, to yard games, to pickleball. Watch the eblasts for our monthly schedule. Contact Alicia Reese ([areese@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:areese@firstunitedoakpark.com)) for more information.

# 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. Contact the office ([office@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:office@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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