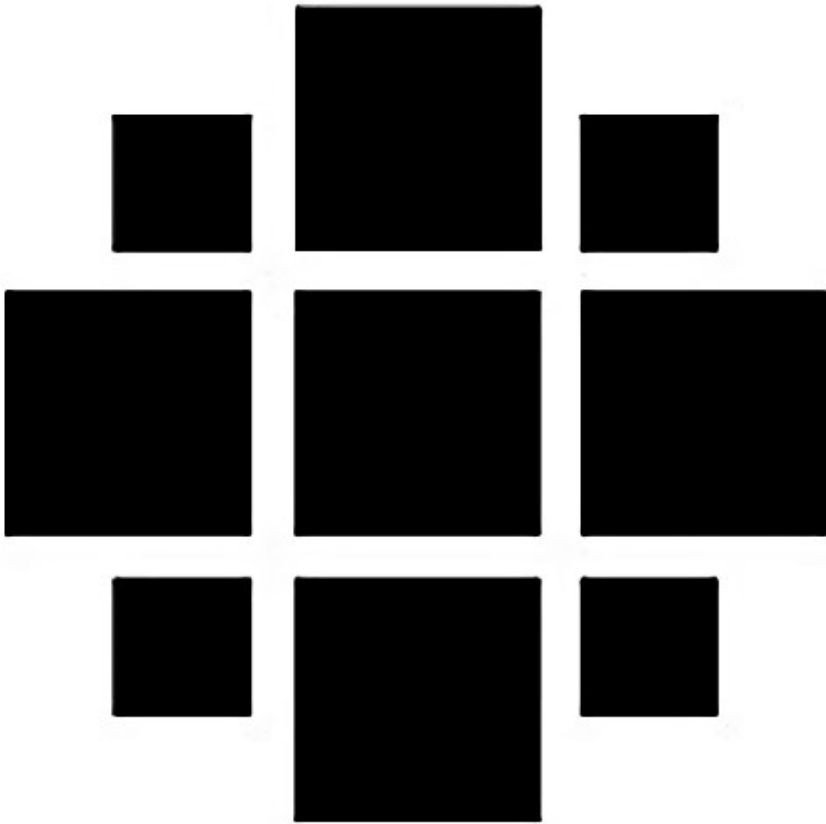


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
October 23, 2022



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Mark Sudeith

Prelude on 'Ebenezer' by Healey Willan

WELCOME

John Edgerton

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lois Thiessen Love

The Lord God said, "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh!"

Send down the fire of your justice!

"Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy."

Send down the rain of your love!

"Your old shall dream dreams, and your young shall see visions."

Send down your Spirit, breathe life in your people!

"In those days, I will pour out my spirit."

And we shall be people of God.

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us (Black hymnal no. 267)

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us, come with Pentecostal power;

give the church a stronger vision, help us face each crucial hour.

Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone,

still the church is called to mission that God's love shall be made known.

We would raise our alleluias for the grace of former years;

for tomorrow's unknown pathway, hear, O God, our humble prayers.

In the church's pilgrim journey you have led us all the way,

still in presence move before us, fire by night and cloud by day.

**Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; give us words of fire and flame.
Help our struggling voices praise you, glorify your holy name.
Good Creator, Savior, Spirit, Three in One: what mystery!
We would sing our loud hosannas now and through eternity.**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Lois Thiessen Love

To our God, all hearts are open, all desires are known, and no secrets are truly hidden. God's love for us is amazing and it is because of this love that we can confidently confess to God our shortcomings, failures, and mistakes, and know we will be met with grace and mercy. Let us do so together now...

Abba, we confess our brokenness and our sins. Those that we have thought, that we have spoken, that we have done, and those we have left undone. We have sought to love you, love ourselves, and love our neighbors as you would love us, but have struggled to do so. We seek forgiveness and redemption for the ways in which we have halted or hindered the realization of your loving kin-dom among us. Help us to look for the divine around, and within, us each day, direct us to walk in your way, and may we delight in the life we have in you and the call you have placed on our lives as your disciples.

Silence is held

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Friends, through Christ, the grace of God overflows for us and nothing can separate you from the love of God.

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

Church School Kids

He's Got the Whole World In His Hands, quoting words from "All Things Bright and Beautiful" by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), traditional Spiritual Arrangement and New Music by Stacey Nordmeyer

SCRIPTURE READING – JOEL 2:23-32

Lois Thiessen Love

SERMON – THIS IS THE GOD WE MEET

John Edgerton

*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

Alicia Reese

4th Sunday Mission Partner is New Moms

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Every Time I Feel the Spirit, arr. William L. Dawson

Sandy Jefferson
& Sanctuary Choir

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

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Sweet, Sweet Spirit (Black hymnal no. 293)

**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.**

**Refrain: Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise.
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.**

**There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know that Spirit's fullness and believe;
you're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to stay with Jesus all the way." R/**

*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

Whole World in His Hands arr. Jim Lansing

*The Deacons are available after worship in the Chapel for a time of private
prayer and conversation.*

EVENTS AND UPDATES

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

UNITED POWER ISSUE BRIEFING, OCTOBER 25

Join United Power on Zoom from 7-8:30 p.m. on October 24 for important updates on reclaiming communities from incarceration, mental illness, and improving options for mental health treatment. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/mhCSU>.

ADULT ED CONTINUES NEXT WEEK

We continue our Adult Ed anti-racism series next week with “Testimony of Systemic Racism IRL.” Join us in Centennial Hall at 9:45 to hear a real-life story of the impact and effects of system racism.

NEWCOMERS CLASSES START NEXT WEEK

Interested in learning more about membership at First United? A 3-session Newcomers series starts next Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in the Conference Room. Contact Teri Omert (tomert@comcast.net) for more information or to RSVP.

CHURCH SCHOOL HALLOWEEN AFTER WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

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

YOUNG ADULT KICKBALL GAME, NOVEMBER 5

Join young adults from First United and Fair Oaks for a friendly game of kickball on November 5 at 10 a.m. Meet us at the diamond at Brooks school. Contact Alicia Reese (areese@firstunitedoakpark.com) for more information.

Parenting Conversation with Kate Ott, November 6

Join author/expert Kate Ott from 4-5:30 p.m. on November 6 for a parenting conversation on sexuality and faith. The conversation is open to parents of kids ages 0-18. Register on Realm.

SAVE THE DATE: ALICIA'S ORDINATION IS NOVEMBER 19

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.

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 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) 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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