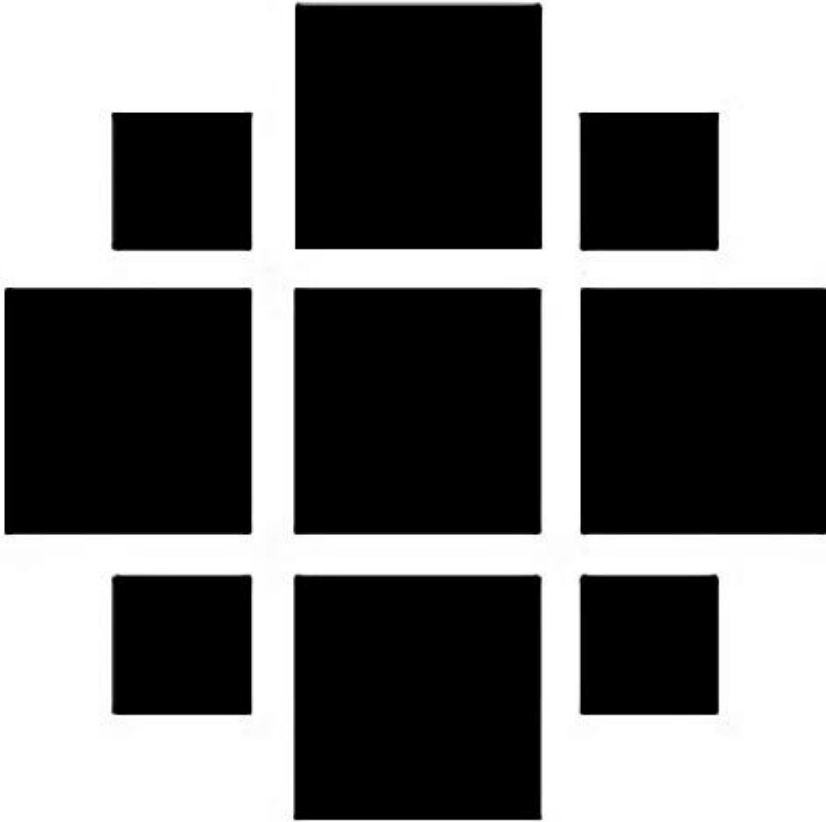


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
November 20, 2022



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Mark Sudeith

How Great Thou Art, arr. by Christina Harmon

WELCOME

Alicia Reese

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Macauley

God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Be still, and know that the Lord is God!

God is with us; God is our refuge.

God is exalted among the nations; exalted in all the earth!

Come, behold the works of the Lord!

*PASSING THE PEACE

May the grace and peace of God be with each of you!

And also with you.

Please take a moment now to greet those around you with the peace of Christ.

*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Now Is the Time Approaching (Black hymnal no. 609)

Now is the time approaching, by prophets long foretold,

when all shall dwell together, secure and manifold.

Let war be learned no longer, let strife and tumult cease,

all earth a blessed garden that God shall tend in peace.

Let all that now divides us remove and pass away,

like mists of early morning before the blaze of day.

Let all that now unites us more sweet and lasting prove,

a closer bond of union, in blessed lands of love.

**O long-expected dawning, come with your cheering ray!
Yet shall the promise beckon and lead us not astray.
O sweet anticipation! It cheers the watchers on
to pray, and hope, and labor till Christ's new realm is come.**

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Mary Ann Zinsser

Caitlin Joycesmith

Jaymi Raad

Elaine Labuz

Congregational Covenant

We welcome you into this community and promise to journey together with you in faith. We offer ourselves as siblings in Christ, committing ourselves to care for one another. We offer ourselves as partners in ministry and mission, working to further God's work everywhere. We offer ourselves as companions, joining each other as the Body of Christ, growing together in Christian faith and practice. By God's grace we share this covenant in the name of Jesus Christ who calls us to gather in God's name.

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Susan Macauley

In our relationship with God, all that God asks is that we bring our full, authentic selves. God knows even better than we do how imperfect we are and yet assures us we will be greeted with grace and love. Let's bring ourselves before God now, together let us pray for wholeness:

Almighty and merciful God, you created and are creating still. In your presence our limits lie stark before us. We confess our unclean lips, our cold hearts, our turning away from neighbors, our broken promises, and our unrepentant hours. Forgive us, O Holy One. We have squandered the gifts you have given. We have neglected our role as stewards of this land. We have greedily grasped for goods. We have used one another. We have loved power and profit more than people. Forgive us. Rid us of the illusion of our innocence. Enter into our hearts, make us whole, bring us closer to you and to one another...

Silence is held.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Friends, God hears and knows the words we have spoken and those that are on our hearts. By God's love, grace, and mercy, we are forgiven. God calls us beloved and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Fearfully, Wonderfully Made by Nathan Crabtree & Erik Whitehall



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

Alicia Reese

SCRIPTURE READING – PSALM 46

Susan Macauley

*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

Audrey Todd

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sanctuary Choir

Be Still and Know

Be still and know that I am God.

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

How Great Thou Art (Blue hymnal no. 467)

**O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,**

**I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;**

**Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!**

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; R/**

**And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin; R/**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! R/**

***BLESSING**

Beth Dickerson

***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

Now Is the Time Approaching, arr. by Gene Roberson

*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) where we share our weekly newsletter and lots more!

CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

Please note that First United will be closed November 23-25 to allow our staff time to celebrate Thanksgiving with their friends and families.

ADULT EDUCATION IN ADVENT – THREE-PART SERIES STARTS NEXT WEEK

Pastor John and Stan Faust will lead a three-Sunday series on Christmas and Culture: Nov. 27, The Gift of the Magi; Dec. 4, Lake Wobegon; and Dec 11, A Charlie Brown Christmas, with time for discussion on how our culture has affected our celebration. We meet from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Centennial Hall. And watch the eblast for information about an upcoming Christmas Hymn Sing.

NO CHURCH SCHOOL NEXT WEEK

Church School will not meet next Sunday, November 27. Looking forward to seeing everyone back in December!

FIRST UNITED COOKIE BAKE ORDERS DUE NEXT WEEK

Support our youth as they raise money for service projects and scholarships with a Christmas cookie order. Orders are \$8 each and contain 8-12 pieces. Choose from Holiday Sugar Cookies, Gingerbread Biscotti, Oatmeal Cinnamon Craisin, or all three! To order, email Alicia Reese (areese@firstunitedoakpark.com) with your name, phone number, number of orders and variety(ies), and how you plan to pay (online, check or cash – in advance or at pick up). Orders due by November 27.

THINKING ABOUT MORTALITY, DECEMBER 3

Join the Deacons on Saturday, December 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Chapel as we explore planning for and taking care of ourselves through the transition from life on this earth to the everlasting. Register using the QR code or by contacting Deacon Chair Anne Koerber (708-280-9914).



MIDPOINT CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 3

MIDPOINT's annual Christmas party and now-famous White Elephant gift exchange is Saturday, December 3 at the home of David & Joy Marshall, 206 S. Grove Ave at 7:30 pm. Bring a sweet or savory treat to share, your favorite beer or wine, and a silly white elephant gift. Questions? Contact BarbaraMetric@comcast.net.

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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