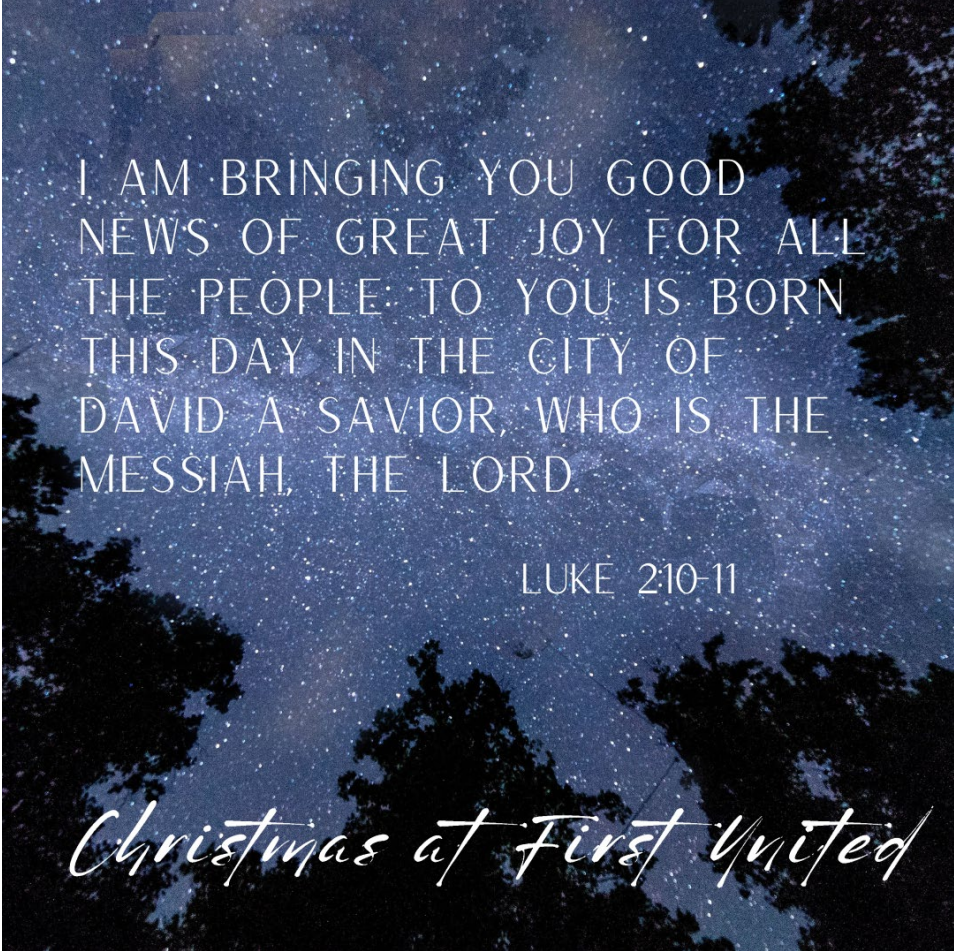


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve, 8 p.m.



I AM BRINGING YOU GOOD
NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL
THE PEOPLE: TO YOU IS BORN
THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF
DAVID A SAVIOR, WHO IS THE
MESSIAH, THE LORD.

LUKE 2:10-11

Christmas at First United

An open community united in love and justice

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Indication to stand in body or spirit*

GATHERING MUSIC

Noëls by Louis-Claude Daquin

Mark Sudeith

WELCOME

Lydia Mulkey

We invite you to please sign the connections pew pad and pass it down the row.

*THE ADVENT WREATH & CHRIST CANDLE

The O'Shea Family

Today we add to the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.

Today we light the Christ candle,

And remember with joy that Christ has come into the world.

Bearing hope for a world in turmoil,

The Prince of Peace who walks amidst strife and violence,

Spreading Joy to those who know too much of weeping,

Born of the love that is at the heart of the mystery of God.

Please join us in reading this prayer by Howard Thurman:

**I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.**

The light has come into the world!

The Christ candle is lit.

*CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Blue hymnal no. 41, vv. 1-3)

O come, all ye faithful, / Joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold Him, / Born the King of angels!

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, / O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, / Born this happy morning,

Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, / Now in flesh appearing! R/

Sing, choirs of angels, / Sing in exultation!

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! R/

A CHRISTMAS EVE READING BY QUINN CALDWELL

Alicia Reese

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Sanctuary Choir

Angels We Have Heard on High arr. by Stanley Thurston

Angels we have heard on high, / Sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply / Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; / gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE GOOD NEWS IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

Our Readers will be members of the O'Shea family: Julie, Sean, Tommy, Katie, & Kelsey

FIRST LESSON – ISAIAH 9:2-7

CAROL

The First Nowell (Blue hymnal no. 56, vv. 1-4)

The First Nowell the angel did say

Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,

On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell

Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
 Shining in the east beyond them far,
 And to the earth it gave great light,
 And so it continued both day and night. R/

And by the light of that same star,
 Three wise men came from country far;
 To seek for a king was their intent,
 And to follow the star wherever it went. R/

SECOND LESSON – LUKE 1:26-38

CAROL

The Canticle of the Turning, Glory to God no. 100

1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

G D

You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

Em C D Em

weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Canticle of the Turning

Text: Rory Cooney, 1990; Music: Irish melody, arr. Rory Cooney 1990

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THIRD LESSON – LUKE 2:1-7

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

John Edgerton

*CAROL

Go, Tell It on the Mountain (Blue hymnal no. 29)

**Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain / Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain / That Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching / O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens / There shone a holy light. R/**

**The shepherds feared and trembled / When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus / That hailed our Savior's birth. R/**

**Down in a lowly manger / The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation / That blessed Christmas morn. R/**

FOURTH LESSON - Luke 2:8-16

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Alicia Reese

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary Choir

What Sweeter Music by John Rutter

What sweeter music can we bring

Than a carol, for to sing

The birth of this our heav'nly King?

Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,

And give the honour to this day

That sees December turn'd to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn

Smile, like a field beset with corn?

Or smell like a meadow newly shorn

Thus on the sudden? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'tis he is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,
To heaven and the under earth.
We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his show'rs
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honour, who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.
What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?

—Robert Herrick (1591–1674)

FIFTH LESSON – MATTHEW 2:1-12

ANTHEM

Sanctuary Choir

The Three Kings by Peter Cornelius
Three kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travelers three,
Where the newborn King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,

And there in worship they bend the knee,
As Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
The kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
Shall lead thy heart to its resting-place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
Offer thy heart to the infant King,
Offer thy heart!

Chorale:

How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.
Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.
Thy word, Jesu, Inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us, Life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION AND SERVICE

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Lydia Mulkey

*CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night (Blue hymnal no. 60, vv. 1-3)

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,

Round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, / Sleep in heavenly peace.

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

John Edgerton

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Joy to the World! (Blue hymnal no. 40, vv. 1 & 2)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing, / And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns!

Let us our songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy, / Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

SENDING MUSIC

Mark Sudeith

Chorale Prelude on 'In Dulci Jubilo' by J. S. Bach

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!

CHRISTMAS DAY CAROL SING, DECEMBER 25 AT 11 A.M.

Christmas Day worship will be a relaxed opportunity to gather and sing the Christmas hymns that we all love. We will meet in the Sanctuary, but will not have a formal service or message.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE DECEMBER 26 THROUGH JANUARY 1

First United will be closed December 26 through January 1 for a winter break. Worship on January 1 will be on YouTube only. The office will reopen on January 2 and we'll worship together in person for Epiphany on January 8.

FOSTERING CONNECTION AND SUPPORT RESUMES JANUARY 5

After a short Christmas break, Fostering Connection and Support, our Thursday virtual drop-in group will resume on January 5. Meeting weekly on Thursdays from 10-11 a.m., this informal fellowship group welcomes anyone and everyone to pop in whenever they are able. Email Alicia Reese (areese@firstunitedoakpark.com) for the Zoom link.

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP: VIRTUAL ONLY

We will not worship in person on January 1. Please join us at 11 a.m. on YouTube for our virtual New Year's Day worship. We look forward to seeing you in person on January 8.

CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS RECESS

Church School will not meet on December 25 and January 1. If your family is traveling during your school breaks, we wish you safe travels. We can't wait to see everyone back on January 8!

NEW BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP FORMING IN JANUARY

A new Bible discussion group will come to life at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, January 8. And it will reconvene weekly in the conference room along the northeast corner of the lounge. Until then, Kathryn Heavey (kathrynop@gmail.com) or Dale Sorenson (mrdsoren@gmail.com) will answer your questions.

FUSH RETREAT REGISTRATION DUE JANUARY 6

Registration is now open for the FUSH (First United Senior High) winter retreat at Pilgrim Park, January 21-23. The cost is \$175 per youth and the registration is due by January 6. Reach out to Alicia Reese (areese@firstunitedoakpark.com) for more information.

TOURNAMENT OF CHURCH CHAMPIONS ROUND 3, JANUARY 11

Are you in your 20s or 30s and looking to connect with others? Join the First United team as we put our trivia skills to the test in Round 3 of the “Fairly United Tournament of Church Champions,” our friendly competition with the young adults at Fair Oaks Presbyterian. Email Alicia Reese (areese@firstunitedoakpark.com) to get on the mailing list for details.

DINNER AND A MOVIE, JANUARY 13

Friday, January 13 we will have a showing of “The Janes” in the lounge. In the spring of 1972, police raided an apartment on the South Side of Chicago. Seven women were arrested and charged. The accused were part of a clandestine network. Using code names, blindfolds, and safe houses to protect their identities and their work, they built an underground service for women seeking safe, affordable, illegal abortions. They called themselves Jane. Facing off against the mafia, the church, and the state, the Janes exhibited unparalleled bravery and compassion for those most in need. Dinner at 6 p.m. (\$5 donation); movie at 6:30 (free). Call Liz Swan (708) 567-3490 to RSVP.

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.



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

an open community united in love & justice

848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301 | 708.386.5215

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