

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
December 4, 2022
Advent II - Peace



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Roger Stanley

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren by Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME

Lydia Mulkey

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Auch Family

& ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Today we add to the candle of hope.

Today we light also the candle of peace,

And remember all the ways we need peace:

Peace on the streets of our city,

Peace between the nations,

Peace that begins in our hearts and ends in justice.

When peace seems like a dream,

We speak that dream as a prayer.

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.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

My Soul Gives Glory to My God (Black hymnal no. 119)

My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.

God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

**My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God's name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.**

**From age to age, to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.**

**Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.**

**Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

The Auch Family

With confidence in the loving, merciful nature of God, let us pray for wholeness together now . . .

Gracious God, you place us in a world of wonder, and far too often we miss it. We see what we expect, what we want to see, what fits in with our plans and visions. We are slow of heart to believe the good news that is entrusted to us. Forgive our shortsightedness and lack of faith. Open our eyes and hearts that we may see your wonders, share your vision, and live in your love.

Silence is held.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Friends, the Good News is this, Christ entered the world,

To free us,

To accept us,

To love us to be the unique individuals we were created to be.

Through the love of God, we are forgiven and welcomed home.

Alleluia! Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

My Lord! What a Morning (Blue hymnal no. 449, refrain)

My Lord! what a morning,

My Lord! what a morning,

Oh, my Lord! what a morning,

**When the stars begin to fall,
When the stars begin to fall.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

Elaine Pierce

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 1:39-56

The Auch Family

SERMON

DO NOT BE DISMAYED

John Edgerton

*SERMON RESPONSE

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning, (Black hymnal no. 369, v. 1, refrain, v. 1)

**Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for this work's almost done.**

**Refrain: Sisters, don't grow weary,
brothers, don't grow weary,
children, don't grow weary,
for this work's almost done.**

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning. . .

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

John Edgerton

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sanctuary Choir

Magnificat by Harold W. Friedell

My soul doth magnify the Lord,

and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the
imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble
and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty
away.
He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel;
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

COMMUNION

Alicia Reese

INVITATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE MEAL TOGETHER

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION & 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

Mary, Woman of the Promise (Black hymnal no. 123)

**Mary, woman of the promise; vessel of your people's dreams:
Through your open, willing spirit waters of God's goodness streamed.**

**Mary, song of holy wisdom sung before the world began:
Faithful to the Word within you, as you bore God's wondrous plan.**

**Mary, morning star of justice; mirror of the Radiant Light:
In the shadows of life's journey, be a beacon for our sight.**

**Mary, model of compassion; wounded by your offspring's pain:
When our hearts are torn by sorrow, teach us how to love again.**

**Mary, woman of the gospel; humble home for treasured seed:
Help us to be true disciples, bearing fruit in word and deed.**

*BLESSING

John Edgerton

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (v. 1)

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who
wait.**

**You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not
spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to
turn?**

POSTLUDE

Roger Stanley

Magnificat VI: Gloria Finale by Marcel Dupré

*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!

ADVENT EVENT, DECEMBER 10

First United Children's Ministry invites you to the Advent Event on December 10 from 9-11 a.m. Journey through craft and activity stations in the Sanctuary. Please enter through the Sanctuary doors to start your Advent journey.

SING WE JOYOUS, DECEMBER 10 & 11

Sing We Joyous is back with the usual mix of beautiful music, outrageous hijinks, and multiple ensembles crowding the First United stage. December 10 at 7:30 p.m. and December 11 at 4 p.m. Admission is \$30. Tickets available at <https://singwejoyous2022.bpt.me/>

CHRISTMAS COOKIES AVAILABLE NEXT WEEK!

Our FUSH teens are working hard to fulfill your Christmas cookie preorders. For those who did not preorder, we will have extra cookies available for purchase next Sunday in the lounge. Save yourself some baking and support our teens at the same time!

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS STORE

Shop fair-trade goods in the lounge before and after service on **December 4, 11, and 18**. And make sure to visit Ten Thousand Villages (121 N. Marion St.) for a **special shopping event on Wednesday, December 7 from 6-8 p.m.** 15% of all sales will be distributed to several of First United's local mission partners.

CHRISTMAS & CULTURE: NEXT WEEK IS CHARLIE BROWN!

The Advent series Christmas & Culture, led by Pastor John and Stan Faust and sponsored by Adult Ed, concludes next Sunday, December 11, with a showing of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" followed by discussion on the serious and not so serious aspects of living our faith in today's culture. Meet at 9:45 a.m. in Centennial Hall.

BLUE CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 15

Blue Christmas honors experiences of sadness, loneliness, and pain that can accompany the holiday season. With poetry, prayer, scripture, silence, song, and reflection, we engage in lighting Advent candles in a new, symbolic way. Join us at 7 p.m. in the Chapel.

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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