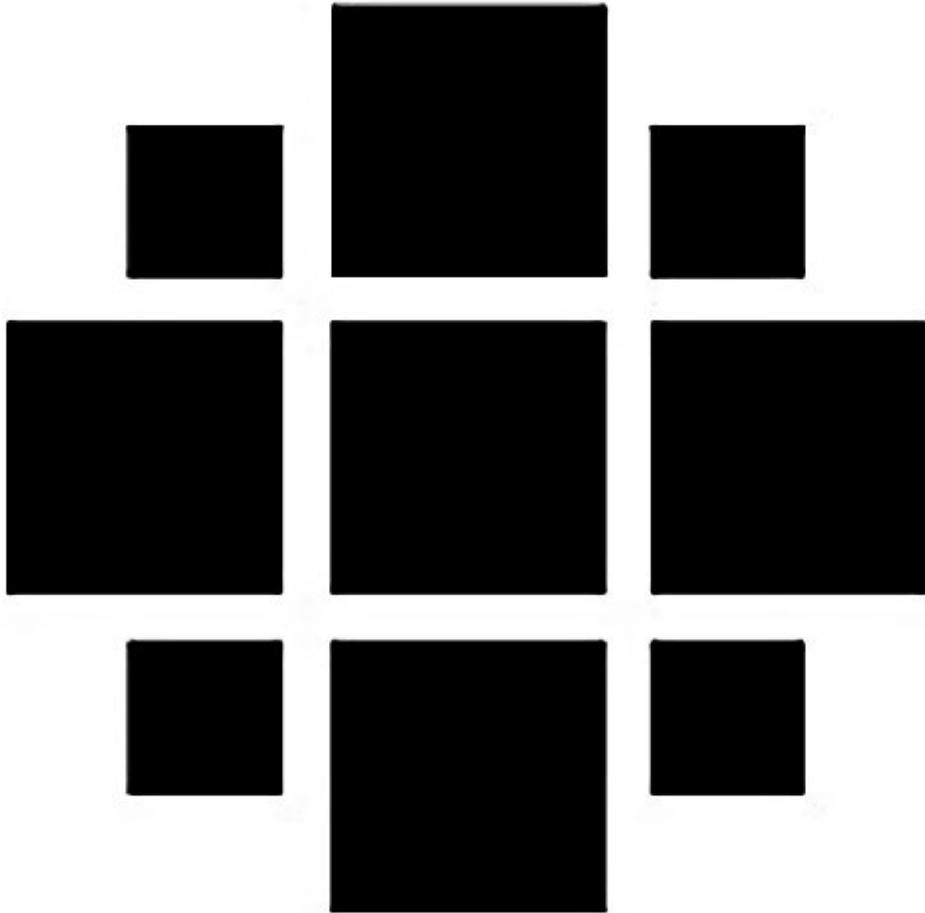


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
January 15, 2023



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

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## PRELUDE

Mark Sudeith

*The Wexford Carol*, arr. by Trent Johnson

*Holy Manna*, arr. by Gary R. Smoke

## WELCOME

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

## \*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir  
& Congregation

*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

(Black hymnal no. 556)

**God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,  
Flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space;  
We, your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you;  
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.**

**We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;  
Known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;  
Probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,  
Facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hours.**

**As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,  
Children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.  
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor, well begun;  
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.**

## PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

## ASSURANCE OF LOVE

## MUSICAL RESPONSE

*Come My Way, My Truth, My Life* (Black hymnal no. 331, v. 1)

**Come my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath;  
Such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as conquers death.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

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TIME FOR SHARING

Elaine Pierce

### \*HYMN/SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*Song of Hope* (Blue hymnal no. 432)

**May the God of hope go with us every day,  
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace,  
Singing, share our joy with all,  
Working for a world that's new,  
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

### SCRIPTURE READING – PSALM 40:1-11

SERMON – THE TESTIMONY OF THE FAITHFUL

John Edgerton

### \*SERMON RESPONSE

*A Woman Came Who Did Not Count the Cost*

(Black hymnal no. 206, vv. 1 & 3)

**A woman came who did not count the cost of doing what she could,  
She broke an alabaster flask, and sweetness spilled on Jesus' head.  
Refrain: O God, you are the Anointing One who does not count your  
passions's cost,  
And when we gather you will spill the sweetness of your grace on us.**

**You give as she, surprisingly, you give with beauty as she gave,  
You give as she, not holding back, you make us Christ-like with your love.  
R/**

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONIAL

Marcia Ashton

CALL TO THE OFFERING

John Edgerton

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sanctuary Choir

*The Gift of Love* by Hal H. Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love; my words are in vain, as sounding brass and hopeless  
gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,  
But not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.  
Come, spirit, come, our hearts control. Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship and are freed.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

*Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining* (Blue hymnal no. 425)

**Lord of light, Your name outshining / All the stars and suns of space,  
Use our talents in Your kingdom / As the servants of Your grace;  
Use us to fulfill Your purpose / In the gift of Christ Your Son:  
Abba, as in highest heaven, / So on earth Your will be done.**

**By the toil of faithful workers / In some far outlying field,  
By the courage where the radiance / Of the cross is still revealed,  
By the victories of meekness, / Through reproach and suffering won:  
Abba, as in highest heaven, / So on earth Your will be done.**

**Grant that knowledge, still increasing, / At Your feet may lowly kneel;  
With Your grace our triumphs hallow, / With Your charity our zeal;  
Lift the nations from the shadows / To the gladness of the sun:  
Abba, as in highest heaven, / So on earth Your will be done.**

**By the prayers of faithful watchers, / Never silent day or night;  
By the cross of Jesus, bringing / Peace to all and healing light;  
By the love that passes knowledge, / Making all Your children one:  
Abba, as in highest heaven, / So on earth Your will be done.**

## \*BLESSING

John Edgerton

## \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Yes, God Is Real* (Black hymnal no. 405, refrain)

**Yes, God is real, real in my soul;  
yes, God is real for God has washed and made me whole;  
God's love for me is like pure gold,  
yes, God is real for I can feel God in my soul.**

POSTLUDE

Mark Sudeith

*Fughetta and Finale on 'Abbot's Leigh' by Austin C. Lovelace*

*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!*

## FIRST UNITED FORMING TEAM TO STAFF EMERGENCY SHELTER

Faith In Action invites you to support Housing Forward by volunteering at the emergency shelter at the St. Catherine - St. Lucy Rectory (38 N. Austin Blvd., Oak Park) on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. Evening Shelter Host volunteers will help set up for the evening, greet the shelter guests as they arrive, help guests set up their sleeping areas, serve dinner, and interact with clients until lights out. Help us support Housing Forward by going to <https://bit.ly/hfemergencysshelter> and signing up for as many dates as you are able! Contact Tara Dull ([tdull@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tdull@sbcglobal.net)) with any questions.

## CHURCH CLOSED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 16

First United will be closed on Monday, January 16 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

## NEXT SUNDAY'S ADULT ED OFFERINGS

The coming Adult Ed speaker series programs will explore the ways in which liberal Christians maneuver in the political world. On January 22, Dr. Rhys Williams of Loyola University will explain what's different about the political efforts of church liberals. The lay-led Bible study also continues as we discuss the weekly lectionary readings! Join us at 9:45 a.m. in the Conference Room (Bible Study) or Centennial Hall (Speaker Series).

## BARBARA BALLINGER MEMORIAL CONCERT

Please join us on Friday, January 27 for a concert honoring the life of Barbara Ballinger. The concert will feature strings and organ performing pieces by Barber and Dvorak as well as spoken word readings chosen by Barbara before her passing. The concert begins at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary and there is no cost.

## YOUTH SKI TRIP

All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to spend the day on the slopes at Alpine Valley Resort in Elkhorn, Wisconsin on February 5. Lift tickets are \$58 and equipment is \$40 (helmets are an additional \$15). Scan the QR code to register and reach out to Katie O'Shea ([kfo0305@gmail.com](mailto:kfo0305@gmail.com)) with any questions.



# 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 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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