

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
January 8, 2023



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Mark Sudeith

Chorale Prelude on 'Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern'

by Johann Ludwig Krebs

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Joanne Despotes

One: Kindred and neighbors, peace be with you.

Many: And on the whole world, peace!

One: God is here:

Many: God's joy delights us!

One: Christ is here:

Many: Christ's love unites us!

One: The Spirit is here:

Many: Her breath revives us!

One: There is no one like God,

Many: Who gathers us for praise!

One: Please turn to your neighbors and offer them a sign of peace.

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word

(Black hymnal no. 168)

O radiant Christ, incarnate Word,

eternal love revealed in time:

Come, make your home within our hearts,

that we may dwell in light sublime.

Our bartered, busy lives burn dim,

too tired to care, too numb to feel.

Come, shine upon our shadowed world:

your radiance bathes with power to heal.

**Your glory shone at Jordan's stream,
the font where we were born anew.
Attune your church to know you near;
illumine all we say and do.**

**O Light of nations, fill the earth;
our faith and hope and love renew.
Come, lead the peoples to your peace,
as stars once led the way to you.**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Joanne Despotes

One: You have heard it was said to those of ancient times: "Thou shalt not kill."

Many: But I say to you that if you mistreat another believer, that will bring judgment too.

One: If you insult another believer, and treat them as if they had no worth,

Many: What's to stop the whole church from turning on you? That's what would happen if grace were gone from our assembly.

One: When you are coming to worship God, think if any of the other believers has something against you.

Many: If they do, first be reconciled with them, then come and worship.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Friends, know that all fall short and all are lifted up. All are in need of love and all are beloved. All are forgiven and all are called upon to forgive others. Thanks be to God.

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

TIME FOR SHARING

Crista Desir

*HYMN/SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Take Me to the Water (NCH#322)

**Take me to the water, take me to the water,
Take me to the water to be baptized.**

**None but the righteous, none but the righteous,
None but the righteous shall see God.**

**I love Jesus, I love Jesus,
I love Jesus, yes, I do.**

**Jesus is my Savior, Jesus is my Savior,
Jesus is my Savior forever more.**

SCRIPTURE READING – MATTHEW 3:13-17

Joanne Despotes

SERMON – ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM

John Edgerton

*SERMON RESPONSE

Born in the Night, Mary's Child (Black hymnal no. 152, vv. 1 & 4)

**Born in the night, Mary's Child, a long way from your home;
Coming in need, Mary's Child, born in a borrowed room.**

**Hope of the world, Mary's Child, you're coming soon to reign;
Sovereign of earth, Mary's child, walk in our streets again.**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

John Edgerton

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sanctuary Choir

O Sacred Feast by Healey Willan

O Sacred Feast, wherein Christ is received,
the memory of His Passion is renewed in us,
our souls are filled with grace,
and the pledge of everlasting glory is given unto us. Alleluya.

COMMUNION

John Edgerton

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE MEAL

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

*CLOSING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Break Now the Bread of Life (Black hymnal no. 321)

**Break now the bread of life, Savior, to me,
as you once broke the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
my spirit yearns for you, O Living Word.**

**Bless now the truth, dear Christ, to me, to me,
as you once blessed the bread by Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, all shackles fall,
and I shall find my peace, my all in all.**

*BLESSING

John Edgerton

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Arise, Your Light is Come (Black hymnal no. 164, vv. 1 & 2)

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!**

**Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

POSTLUDE

Mark Sudeith

Chorale Prelude on 'Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam'
by Johann Sebastian Bach

*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!

VOLUNTEER WITH HOUSING FORWARD

Housing Forward, in partnership with St. Catherine/St. Lucy, will open an emergency shelter for individuals and families the first week of January through April 30, 2023, located on the second floor of the St. Catherine/St. Lucy Rectory and operating Sunday through Saturday from 7 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed to cover evening, overnight, and morning shifts and/or to provide meals for 15 people. For more information, contact Cherrell Jackson, Housing Forward Volunteer & Community Outreach Manager (708-334-1724 x201; cjackson@housingforward.org).

ADULT ED SPEAKER SERIES RESUMES NEXT SUNDAY

Join the Adult Ed Team and Learning Edge (formerly Cluster Tutoring) Executive Director Kara Kalnitz to learn how Learning Edge tutors learn just as much as (maybe more than) the students. We meet at 9:45 in Centennial Hall.

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.



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