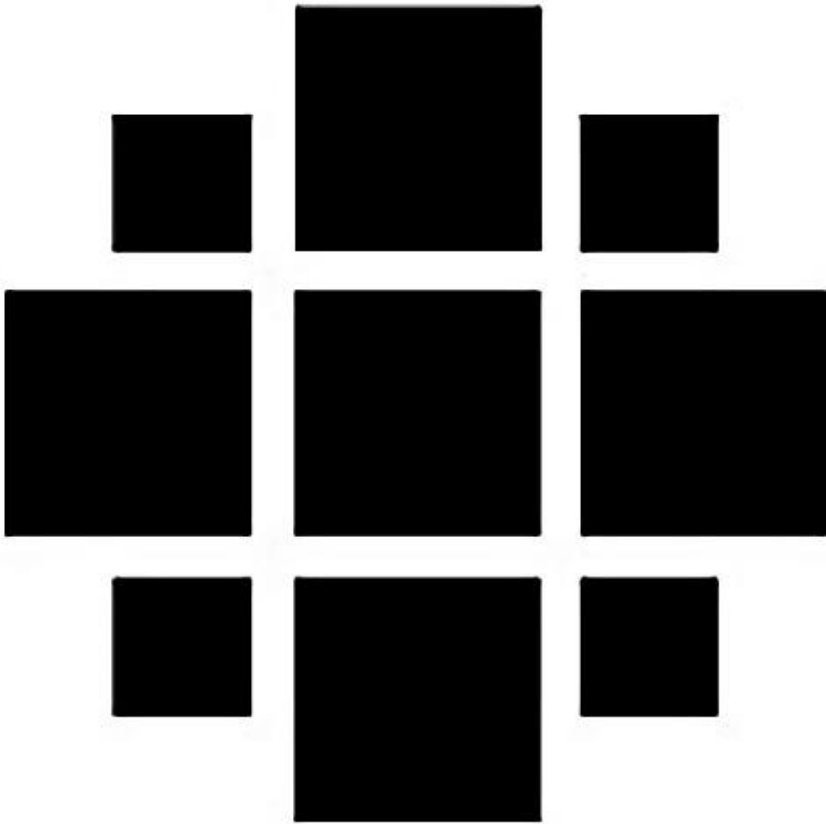


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

February 19, 2023



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Mark Sudeith

Lift Every Voice and Sing, arr. by Roger Lowe

WELCOME

Alicia Reese

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Compassionate God,

who sent Jesus Christ to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,

create in us new hearts and enlarged visions,

to see the image of God in every person

irrespective of background, race and ethnicity.

May we be generous in our love of others

as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism and injustice;

creating communities of human flourishing,

through your son, our brother, Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing (Black hymnal no. 593)

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,

ring with the harmonies of liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,

let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

let us march on till victory is won.

**Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Lydia Mulkey

Wonderful Mystery, ground our bodies in the present moment, that we might experience your Love in ordinary and extraordinary ways. We desire not to be cynics, but to nurture the sense of wonder that was innate to us when we were children. Soothe that within us all that desires numbing-out and awaken our senses to the miracle of being alive.

Time for silent prayer

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Hear the good news! God's love is extravagant, and it is yours. Whatever you have confessed, God's love for you remains as fierce as ever. Live in wonder and awe of that indescribable gift.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Savior God Above (Black hymnal no. 602)

**Savior God above, God almighty, God of love,
please look down and see my people through.**

I believe that God put sun and moon up in the sky.

I don't mind the gray skies, 'cause they're just clouds passing by.

**Savior God above, God almighty, God of love,
please look down and see my people through.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

Alicia Reese

*HYMN/SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Lord the Light of Your Love Is Shining

(See bulletin insert)

SCRIPTURE READING – MATTHEW 17:1-9

Caden Eckert

SERMON

Caden Eckert

*SERMON RESPONSE

I Danced in the Morning

(Blue hymnal no. 302, vv. 1 & 2)

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,

And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun.

And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;

At Bethlehem I had My birth.

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Refrain: Dance, then, wherever you may be;

I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.

And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,

And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

I danced for the scribe and Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they would not follow Me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with Me and the dance went on. R/

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Lydia Mulkey

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sanctuary Choir

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

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

(Black hymnal no. 182)

We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place,

Where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God's grace.

Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain,

Searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.

**Light breaks through our clouds and shadows, splendor bathes the flesh-
joined Word,**

**Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the law and Prophets meet;
Christ with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and
complete.**

**Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline,
We, like Peter, find it tempting to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess,
That our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.**

*BLESSING

Caden Eckert

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Yes, God Is Real (Black hymnal no. 405, refrain, 2x)

**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

Prelude on 'Hyfrydol' by Healey Willan

*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!

MEET OUR GUEST PREACHER

Caden Eckert is a graduate of Fuller Seminary and Lee University where she majored in Intercultural Studies. She and her husband Nick, daughter Olive, and son Adam have been getting involved at First United since moving here for Nick's residency program. Although they recently moved from Southern California, Caden is a native Midwesterner whose favorite thing is to grab a cup of coffee and enjoy a long chat. We are blessed to have her preach for us today!

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP, FEBRUARY 22

We gather on February 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary to mark the beginning of Lent with a family-friendly Ash Wednesday service. Come help children experience the mystery of God creating us from the stardust with story time, glitter ashes, and interactive prayer stations.

LOVE FIRST. UNITED LOVE.

Consecration Sunday was a joyous celebration. It was a blessing to witness the stream of individuals and families gathering at the altar to affirm their love for First United with a pledge of financial support for the year ahead. We are more than half way toward meeting our 2023-2024 pledge goal. If you are still making your pledge decision, [please act today!](#) Every gift counts as we unfold our ministries of love and service in the coming year.

NEXT SUNDAY'S ADULT EDUCATION OFFERINGS

Next Sunday the Bible Group will meet at 9:45 a.m. in the conference room off the lounge, sharing perspectives on Matthew 4:1-11 (Jesus' temptation), the gospel reading of the day. NOTE: The Adult Ed speaker series will be on hiatus during the six Sundays of Lent (2/26-4/2, inclusive).

JOIN BUILD'S HOMECOMING CELEBRATION, FEBRUARY 25

Stop by for guided or self-guided tours of First United Mission Partner BUILD's new campus at 5100 W. Harrison Street in Chicago on Saturday, February 25 from 1-4 p.m. The new campus is a full city block with 51,000 square feet of space surrounded by green playfields and gardens.

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 Lydia Mulkey (lydia@firstunitedoakpark.com) or stop by the Church School check-in tables 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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www.firstunitedoakpark.com | facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark

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Associate Pastor Alicia Reese – areese@firstunitedoakpark.com