

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
March 5, 2023



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

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PRELUDE

Mark Sudeith

*Clarifica me Pater and Ecce tempus idoneum* by Thomas Tallis

WELCOME

Lydia Mulkey

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let the Spirit of the Living God be welcome in this place!

**Come, O God, and be with us!**

The One who raises the sun each morning and lifts high the moon at night,  
ushers us too, through cycles of rising, falling, and rising again.

**Though we stumble, God lifts us. Though we doubt, God remains. Though  
we get weary, God revives.**

Come, O God, and let the new day begin

\*PASSING THE PEACE

\*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir  
& Congregation

*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

(Black hymnal no. 351)

**I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.**

**I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.**

**I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;**

**I'll be there in case you wander off and find where demons dwell.**

**When you found the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;**

**You were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.**

**Should you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,**

**I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.**

**In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,**

**I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.**

**When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,**

**I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.**

**I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.**

**I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.**

## PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Alicia Reese

**Gracious God, you alone are holy. You are the God of the Living Water and the Bread of Life; yet we continue to thirst for that which does not quench, and hunger for that which does not satisfy. You nourish and sustain us day by day; yet we groan in the wilderness, fearful that you are not with us. And yet, you are steadfast and faithful. You know us better than we know ourselves. You know how often we deny our humanity and try to be God instead. Forgive us when we forget who we are and whose we are. Forgive our hardness of heart and restore us. We pray this in the precious name of your son, our brother, Jesus Christ who knows everything we have ever done and loves us anyway...**

## ASSURANCE OF LOVE

### MUSICAL RESPONSE

*Give Me a Clean Heart* (Black hymnal no. 188)

**Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.**

**God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.**

**For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.**

**Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

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TIME FOR SHARING –

John Edgerton & Rev. Dr. Lolly Dominski

## BAPTISM OF BENJAMIN LOUIS JAKUPOVIC

### BAPTISM COVENANT

Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support and care to this child about to be baptized, living and growing in Christ? If so, please join me in this covenant:

**In this act of surpassing grace, we witness the power of God. In baptism, we become newly aware of God's abundant love and mercy. God calls each of us wherever we are, whoever we are, to share in the joy of God's presence in a community of faith. As people who strive to follow Jesus Christ more closely each day, we welcome you, Benjamin Louis, to our common journey. Trusting God, we offer you our support and care.**

# SCRIPTURE READING – LAMENTATIONS 1

## \*HYMN/SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*O God, How We Have Wandered* (Black hymnal no. 202)

**O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face;  
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.  
But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,  
As distant but compelling, you call us each by name.**

**And now at length discerning the evil that we do,  
By faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.  
In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring,  
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.**

**O God of all the living, both banished and restored,  
Compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.  
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.  
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.**

## SERMON – FROM A TO Z

John Edgerton

## \*SERMON RESPONSE

*In the Midst of New Dimensions* (Black hymnal no. 391, v. 1 & refrain)

**In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,  
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?  
Refrain: God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and  
evermore.**

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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### CALL TO THE OFFERING

Lydia Mulkey

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sanctuary Choir

*The Lamentations of Jeremiah* by Thomas Tallis

Incipit lamentatio Jeremiae prophetae:

Aleph. Quomodo sedet sola civitas plena populo: facta est quasi vidua domina gentium, princeps provinciarum facta est sub tributo.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, convertere ad Dominum Deum tuum.

*Here begins the lamentation of Jeremiah the prophet:*

*I How does the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary!*

*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God.*

## SACRAMENT CELEBRATION

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Alicia Reese

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

### 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

*Standing At the Future's Threshold* (Black hymnal no. 538)

& Congregation

**Standing at the future's threshold, grateful for God's guiding hand,**

**Asking no protected stronghold, called to be a pilgrim band.  
Seeking ever for new vision of the gospel for our day,  
We move forward in God's mission with our faith to show the way.**

**Midst the teeming cities' millions, witness to God's boundless love,  
Reaching for each system's lost ones, seeking justice with each move;  
Grant us courage, strength, and patience to contend with vicious power,  
Lead us forward in the faith that gives us hope in testing's hour.**

**Open-hearted in exchanges with the faithful not our own,  
Trusting God's way with these strangers not to leave the truth unknown,  
Joining them in shared endeavor where we have Christ's clear command,  
We have faith that calls us ever toward this good earth's promised land.**

**Building justice as the bulwark of the peace that God would give,  
Making sacrifice the hallmark of the life we're called to live:  
Grant us, God, to bear our witness to this peace in Christ, and move  
Forward with our faith's own access to the life of hope and love.**

**Jesus Christ, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,  
We would ask no special favor, with the lowliest seek our place.  
Know the inasmuch of serving, have your cross as our command:  
Lead us in this faith unswerving forward as your pilgrim band.**

**\*BLESSING**

John Edgerton

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*Now Is the Time Approaching* (Black hymnal no. 609, v. 1)

**Now is the time approaching, by prophets long foretold,  
when all shall dwell together, secure and manifold.  
Let war be learned no longer, let strife and tumult cease,  
all earth a blessed garden that God shall tend in peace.**

**POSTLUDE**

Mark Sudeith

*Prelude on 'Webb'* by Stephen L. Aber

*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://facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)) where we share our weekly newsletter and lots more!*

## LENTEN FELLOWSHIP: SOUP SUPPER WEDNESDAYS (NEW DATES)

Join us in the Chapel on March 8 and March 22 to share a simple Lenten supper of soup and bread (and mac n' cheese). Supper will run from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and carry a suggested donation of \$5 per individual or \$20 per family of 4 or more. Please RSVP to Alicia Reese ([areese@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:areese@firstunitedoakpark.com)) to help us plan!

## ONE EARTH FILM FESTIVAL, MARCH 3-12

One Earth Film Festival, March 3-12, features top-rated films plus expert panel discussions that will equip you with ways to take action on climate change, environmental sustainability, and environmental injustice. All films will be screened virtually and some have in-person options around the greater Chicago area (including some in Oak Park). Unless otherwise specified on the schedule, the showings are free with an \$8 suggested donation. For a full schedule of films and more information, visit [oneearthfilmfest.org](http://oneearthfilmfest.org).

## One Voice for Arts Launch Celebration, March 10

First United will host the launch of an exciting new arts initiative in Oak Park on March 10 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Celebrating a new collaboration between Oak Park Festival Theatre, The Oriana Singers, Pro Musica Youth Chorus, and the Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest, the launch will feature performances in the Sanctuary and a reception in the lounge.

## Dinner and a Movie, March 17

Dinner and a Movie moves back one week this month to March 17. Join us in the lounge for a showing of "Descendant." Documentary filmmaker Margaret Brown follows descendants of the survivors from the Clotilda, the last ship that carried enslaved Africans to the United States, as they reclaim their story. Dinner at 6:00 (\$5 donation); movie at 6:30 (free). Call Liz Swan (708) 567-3490.

## Visiting Choir to Perform at First United, March 17

Enjoy an afternoon of music at First United before heading over to Dinner and a Movie! The Saline High School Chorale from Saline, Michigan will give a concert at 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary on March 17 as part of their spring choir tour. There is no cost for the concert and no need 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 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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[www.firstunitedoakpark.com](http://www.firstunitedoakpark.com) | [facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)

Lead Pastor John Edgerton – [jedgerton@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:jedgerton@firstunitedoakpark.com)

Associate Pastor Lydia Mulkey – [lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com)

Associate Pastor Alicia Reese – [areese@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:areese@firstunitedoakpark.com)