

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
April 2, 2023
Palm Sunday



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Mark Sudeith

Chorale Prelude on *Valet will ich dir geben* by Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME

John Edgerton

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

All Glory, Laud and Honor (Black hymnal no. 216, vv. 1 & 2)

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day.**

**O Promised One of Israel, of David's royal line,
the one called "God's beloved," of flesh and yet divine,
To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.**

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP – MARK 11:1-10

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them,

"Go into the village ahead of you, immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it.

If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this:

'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'

They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them,

"What are you doing, untying the colt?"

They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it.

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!"

All Glory, Laud and Honor (Black hymnal no. 216, v. 3)
**As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,
Whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.
All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!**

*PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Alicia Reese

Gracious God, we confess to you our failure to recognize your coming among us: for the times we have closed our eyes to your presence, for the times we have ignored the small voices that speak your praise; for the times we have turned aside from your call in the pursuit of our daily lives. We are sorry, O God. Renew us and our spirit as your disciples. Open our eyes to see, our ears to hear, our lives to know your unexpected glory.

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Friends, God has come among us, steadfast in love, full of mercy and grace. In Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Sanctuary Choir

Just as I Am (Black hymnal no. 207, v. 3)

& Congregation

**Just as I am, you will receive, will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because your promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Lydia Mulkey

Jim & Leanne Heininger

Carol Gulyas

Caden and Nick Eckert with their children Olive and Adam

Katie Poor and Benjamin Salk with their children Acadia and Margot

Barbara Oppenheim (reactivating membership)

CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT

We welcome you into this community and promise to journey together with you in faith. We offer ourselves as siblings in Christ, committing ourselves to care for one another. We offer ourselves as partners in ministry and mission, working to further God's work everywhere. We offer ourselves as companions, joining each other as the Body of Christ, growing together in Christian faith and practice. By God's grace we share this covenant in the name of Jesus Christ who calls us to gather in God's name.

*SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (Black hymnal no. 213)

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

**"Hosanna, loud hosanna," the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**

**From Olivet they followed amid a cheering crowd,
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.
The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state,
and glad to see the children, slowed down the donkey's gait.**

**"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song is ours.
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers:
"Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.
Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!"**

SCRIPTURE READING – MARK 11:15-17

Alicia Reese

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON – ALWAYS REFORMING

John Edgerton

*SERMON RESPONSE

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free

(Black hymnal no. 209, vv. 1-3)

**O Love, how vast, how flowing free, O Love how filled with ecstasy,
That God a human form should take, and mortal be for mortals' sake.**

**Not as an angel visiting, nor form celestial orbiting,
But born in flesh God chose to be, robed in our own humanity.**

**For us baptized, and fasting long, for us was tempted by the wrong,
For us the pangs of hunger knew; for us the Tempter overthrew.**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Alicia Reese

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sanctuary Choir

Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates by George Frideric Handel

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your Heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts; He is the King of glory. (Psalm 24: 7-10)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lydia Mulkey

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

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty (Black hymnal no. 215)

**Ride on! Ride on in majesty! O Christ, with brave humility,
On lowly colt, your road pursue, as palms and cloaks are spread for you.**

**Ride on! Ride on in majesty! As crowds of people come to see
And shout hosannas, lifting high their praise for one about to die.**

**Ride on! Ride on in majesty! Ride on in humble dignity;
Behold the ones you came to save from senseless life and endless grave.**

**Ride on! Ride on in majesty! For you have set your people free
And we, remembering all your pain, now meet again to hail your reign.**

*BLESSING

John Edgerton

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Mantos y Ramos (Black hymnal no. 214)

Hosanna, Hosanna to Christ!

Hosanna, Hosanna to Christ!

POSTLUDE

Mark Sudeith

March on a Theme by Handel by Alexandre Guilmant

*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!

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP, APRIL 6

Join us on April 6 for Table and Tenebrae services observing Maundy Thursday. The Table service will begin at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with a simple soup supper. Then we move upstairs to the Sanctuary for a traditional Tenebrae service led by our Youth starting at 8 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP, APRIL 9

We celebrate Christ's resurrection on April 9 with story and song at 11 a.m. on April 9. Church School and Adult Ed will not meet on Easter Sunday.

JOIN IN THE WORK OF FIRST UNITED

The Nominating Team is inviting you to think about how you might join in the work, mission, and governance of our church. If you are interested in getting involved, please use the QR code to access and fill out the quick on-line form to register your interest. You can also reach out directly to Barbara Metric (barbarametric@comcast.net).



DINNER AND A MOVIE, APRIL 14

Our next Dinner and a Movie features a showing of "My Life as a Zucchini." When his alcoholic single mom dies in an accident, 9-year-old Courgette is sent to live at a children's home with other youngsters from troubled backgrounds. Though he struggles to fit in at first, Courgette gradually bonds with his new companions. Dinner at 6:00 (\$5 donation); movie at 6:30 (free). Call Liz Swan (708) 567-3490 to RSVP.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT, APRIL 15

Looking for a night out and want to support our FUSH youth as they raise money for their summer service trip? Drop your kiddos at First United on Saturday, April 15 from 5-8 p.m. Our youth and adult volunteers will provide dinner, activities, games, crafts, and a movie for three hours while you enjoy an evening out. Suggested donations range from \$20 for one child to \$50 for 4 or more children. Use the QR code if you are ready to register or reach out to Alicia Reese (areese@firstunitedoakpark.com) for more information.



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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www.firstunitedoakpark.com | facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark

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Associate Pastor Alicia Reese – areese@firstunitedoakpark.com