

# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

March 19, 2023



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

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## PRELUDE -- MOVEMENT 1

Sanctuary Choir

*Aus Der Tiefe rufe Ich, Herr, zu dir* (BWV 131) by J. S. Bach

From the deep, Lord, cried I, Lord, to thee. Lord, O hearken to my calling,  
incline Thine ear unto my voice and hear my supplication!

## WELCOME

Lydia Mulkey

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Joanne Despotes

Out of the depths we cry to the Lord our God,

**Hear our voice and answer our prayers!**

In silence and in wonder, in order and disorder, Christ Jesus enters our world  
to make a home in us.

**And God spoke: I am for you!**

In Christ there is neither Hebrew nor Christian, neither feminine nor  
masculine.

**In Christ there is neither privilege nor poverty, neither slave nor free.**

Christ is unity for the world.

**Christ is hope for the world.**

And what does the Holy One require of us?

**To do justice! To love kindness! And to walk humbly with our God!**

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

## \*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir

*God of Grace and God of Glory* (Black hymnal no. 436)

& Congregation

**God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;**

**crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,**

**for the facing of this hour.**

**From the evils that surround us and assail the Savior's ways,  
from the fears that long have bound us—free our hearts for faith and  
praise.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.**

**Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control.  
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, make our broken spirits whole,  
make our broken spirits whole.**

**Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be  
armored with all Christlike graces, in the fight to set us free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, in the quest for liberty,  
in the quest for liberty.**

**Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for your salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,  
serving you whom we adore.**

#### **PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS**

Joanne Despotis

**Almighty God, there are times when I should be kind, but am not. There are  
times when I need to listen, but I can't or I don't. There are times when I try  
to express my love, but I do so ineffectively. There are times when I need love,  
but I struggle to seek it. Too often I am so wrapped up in myself that I miss  
seeing glimpses of you in those around me. Awaken my soul, my spirit to be  
attuned to your Spirit in the world. Help me to do justice, love kindness, and  
walk humbly with you as your servant, your disciple. I confess, I need you.**

*Silence is kept*

#### **ASSURANCE OF LOVE**

**Friends, hear the Good News: Christ entered the world**

**To free us,**

**To accept us,**

**To love us as the unique individuals we were created to be.**

Through the love of Christ, we are forgiven and made whole.

**Amen.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE – MOVEMENT 2

Sanctuary Choir

Solo: If Thou, Lord, dost mark our iniquities, dost mark all our failings, who then can face Thee? But with Thee there is forgiveness, that we may fear Thee.

Chorale: Have pity on my heart's distress, and take from me this burden; for of Thy Cross and bitterness this is the precious guerdon; that I may not in deep despair, engulfed by sins too base to bear, be evermore confounded.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

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TIME FOR SHARING –

Lydia Mulkey

SONG OF ILLUMINATION -- MOVEMENT 3

Sanctuary Choir

I wait for the Lord, yea, my soul is waiting, I am hoping in His Word.

SCRIPTURE READING – CALLING ON THE PROPHETS

Youth

Habbakuk-Jeremiah-Amos-Micah-Isaiah-Malachi-Zephaniah-Ezekiel-Zechariah

SERMON – BIBLICAL JUSTICE

Alicia Reese

SERMON RESPONSE -- MOVEMENT 4

Sanctuary Choir

Solo: Here my soul is waiting for the Lord, yea more, I say, than watchers that watch for the morning.

Chorale: A miserable sinner I, what grievous sin besets me; My evil deeds I testify, with which my conscience frets me; so by Thy Blood I fervent pray, that all my faults be washed away, as David and Manassah.

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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CALL TO THE OFFERING

Alicia Reese

OFFERTORY ANTHEM – MOVEMENT 5

Sanctuary Choir

Israel, hope ye in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy, and full redemption with him, and unto Israel redemption from all of his transgressions.

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

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\*CLOSING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir

*O For a World* (Black hymnal no. 575)

& Congregation

**O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,  
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,  
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice  
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.**

**The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.**

**O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace.  
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.**

\*BLESSING

Alicia Reese

\*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

*Chorale Prelude on 'Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir' 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](https://facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)) where we share our weekly newsletter and lots more!*

## UNITED POWER RECLAIMING CHICAGO ASSEMBLY THIS AFTERNOON

Join United Power today at 3:30 p.m. at Harmony Community Church (1908 W. Millard, Chicago) to ask the two Chicago mayoral candidates if they will partner with us to reclaim our city. We hope for a strong turnout from our community!

## LENTEN FELLOWSHIP: SOUP SUPPER WEDNESDAY

Join us in the Chapel on 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!

## MESSY CHURCH SCHOOL NEXT SUNDAY

It's the return of a Church School favorite! Next Sunday, check your kids in during the lounge as usual and then head up the gym for some messy fun!

## ADULT ED NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, Mar 26, the Bible Group will meet at 9:45am in the conference room off the lounge, sharing perspectives on John 11:1-45, the death and resurrection of Lazarus, brother of Mary and Martha.

## VOLUNTEER ROLES AVAILABLE FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

We will host our traditional soup supper and Tenebrae service for Maundy Thursday on April 6. Volunteers are needed to bake bread, set up, host tables, and clean up. This is a wonderful tradition supported by our whole Church family. Use the QR Code to access the signup genius or use the button in the weekly eblast.



## CROP HUNGER WALK IN HONOR OF SYLVIA MENNINGA AND DOUG WYMAN

Our local walk, Hunger Walkathon West, will take place on Sunday, May 7 and is honoring two prior members of the planning team who have died within the last month. Visit <https://bit.ly/2023CROPWALK> to join as a fundraiser/walker or to donate to the First United team/team member. Please consider joining us in the important effort to reduce hunger and hopelessness worldwide.

# 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)

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