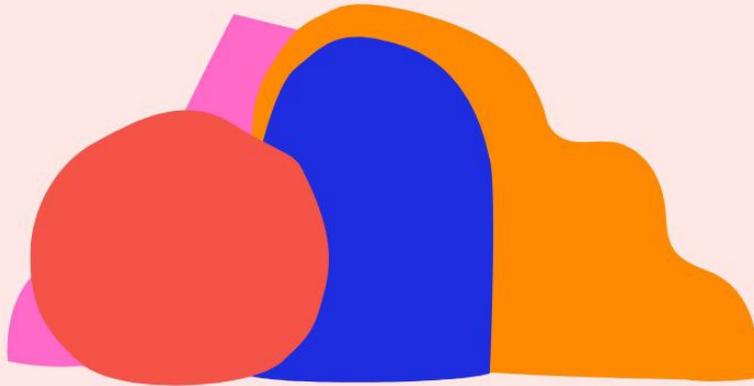


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
April 9, 2023
Easter Sunday



He has risen

An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Brass ensemble

Processional on a Russian Chant by Robert W. Parker

WELCOME

John Edgerton

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (Black hymnal no. 233)

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!

God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted head, Alleluia!

Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

*CALL TO WORSHIP – LUKE 24:1-12

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared.

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them.

The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said,

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again.”

They remembered his words,

and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Now the Green Blade Rises (Black hymnal no. 238, v. 1)

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

**Now the green blade rises from the buried grain;
Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.**

AN EASTER PRAYER

Alicia Reese

God, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Spirit, have mercy.

Oh God, we stretch out our hands to you this Easter morn. We need you to pull us up onto our feet again.

On that first Easter morning, while the dawn had barely broken, one woman went alone to the tomb to do what could be done to honor you, though hope had drained away. Two bright angels met her there, and then, somehow, you were there! Fully alive, beyond belief.

Blessed are we who stretch out our hands to you in doubt and grief, in sickness of body and mind and spirit, our prayers not fully realized, rejoicing...anyway.

For that is what makes us Easter people:

**Carrying forth the realized hope of the Resurrected One,
singing our alleluias great and small, even before the dawn breaks.
Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Alleluia! Amen!

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Now the Green Blade Rises (Black hymnal no. 238, v. 4)

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.**

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

Lydia Mulkey

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

The Strife is O'er (Black hymnal no. 242, vv. 1 & 2)

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**The strife is o'er, the battle done,
the victory of life is won;
The song of triumph has begun, Alleluia! R/**

**The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions has dispersed:
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia! R/**

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

SCRIPTURE READING – LUKE 24:13-31

Lydia Mulkey

SERMON – OH, THE IRONY

John Edgerton

SERMON RESPONSE

The Strife is O'er (Black hymnal no. 242, vv. 3 & 4)

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**The three sad days are quickly sped,
Christ rises glorious from the dead:
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia! R/**

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

**Christ, by your wounds on Calvary
from death's dread sting your servants free,**

That we may live eternally. Alleluia! R/

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Alicia Reese

One Great Hour of Sharing

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sanctuary Choir

Our Risen Lord, Our King of Kings by Sally Ann Morris

Our risen Lord, our King of kings, earth with your Easter triumph rings; hear how the whole creation sings, Alleluia. O holy child, whose saving Name the angels sang when first you came, let ev'ry tongue your love proclaim, Alleluia. O Son of Man, your life you gave, and chose for us the cross and grave; we sing with all you came to save, Alleluia. O Lamb of God, ordained to die, and lifeless in that tomb to lie, immortal praise be yours on high, Alleluia. O Prince of life who lives again, risen indeed from death's domain, come to our hearts, and rule and reign. Alleluia. — *Timothy Dudley-Smith*

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

(Blue hymnal no. 591, *Lasst uns erfreuen*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below.

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Lydia Mulkey

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE MEAL

If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please wave a hand to let the servers know and they will come to you

COMMUNION MUSIC

Brass ensemble

Meditation on Christ Our Passover by Robert W. Parker

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Alicia Reese

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

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! (Blue hymnal no. 104)

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: All creation is amazed.

In the desert all-surrounding, / See, a spreading tree has grown,

Healing leaves of grace abounding / Bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits / From the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection, / Not a servant, but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven / Nevermore shall be the same.

Break the bread of new creation / Where the world is still in pain.

Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"

God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, everyone!

*BLESSING

John Edgerton

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Halleluja (Black hymnal no. 236)

Halleluja!

POSTLUDE

Brass ensemble

Sinfonia Festiva by James Biery

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!

OFFICE CLOSED, APRIL 10

The office will be closed on Easter Monday. Staff will be ready to assist you on Tuesday morning.

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. Dinner at 6:00 (\$5 donation); movie at 6:30 (free). Call Liz Swan (708) 567-3490 to RSVP.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT, APRIL 15

Enjoy an adult night out and support our FUSH youth as they raise money for their summer service trip. 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. Suggested donations range from \$20 for one child to \$50 for 4 or more children. Use the QR code to register.



ADULT ED SPEAKER SERIES RESUMES APRIL 16

Adult Ed will not meet on Easter Sunday, but we are back on April 16 with a new Speaker Series when Dr. Nancy Lee starts a three-part series, "Misconceptions About Women In Biblical Interpretation." Join us in Centennial Hall at 9:45 a.m. The Bible Group will also resume on April 16.

SERAJ LIBRARY TRIP REPORT AND LUNCHEON, APRIL 16

Join First United members after worship on April 16 for an update on their recent trip to Israel/Palestine. A Middle Eastern lunch will be provided during the presentation in Centennial Hall from 12:15 to 1:15. RSVP on the sign-up sheets in the lounge.

ART IN WORSHIP

Are you someone who is moved by art in worship? Are you committed to continuing the use of art in the worship experience? The Worship, Music & Art Team is exploring the role of art in the future of worship and will be considering future installations and expressions based on the feedback and communication that we receive. Let yourself be known by contacting Laurie Jolicoeur (708-822-0265).

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.



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

an open community united in love & justice

www.firstunitedoakpark.com | facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark

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Associate Pastor Alicia Reese – areese@firstunitedoakpark.com