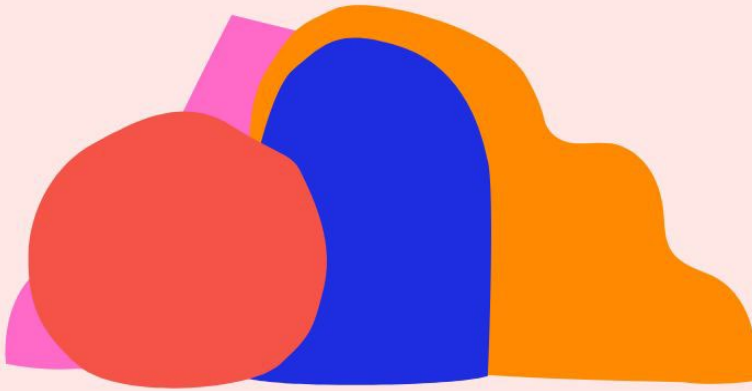


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

May 14, 2023



He has risen

An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Mark Sudeith

Choral Prelude on 'Crimond' by Alec Rowley

Voluntary on 'Crimond' by Everett Titcomb

WELCOME

John Edgerton

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today is Mothers' Day. For some this is a day of joy. For others, it is a challenging day filled with grief and pain. We will ask a blessing for each and every one of us.

For all who longed to hold their newborn in the arms of love and all who faced a pregnancy with fear...

We ask a blessing on this day.

For all who struggle with the pain of their mother's increasing confusion and all who feel the muddle growing in their own heads and seek to keep it from their child...

We ask a blessing on this day.

For all whose mothers never grew up and all whose mothers never learned to play...

We ask a blessing on this day.

For all who carry ancient wounds of infertility, abuse, misunderstanding, or anger...

We ask a blessing on this day.

For all who bravely put in the work to break unhealthy patterns through their own parenting...

We ask a blessing on this day.

For all who grieve the loss of their mother or their child...

We ask a blessing on this day.

For all who celebrate the nurturing love they have received...

We ask a blessing on this day.

For all who have been mothers, have been mothered, or have mothered someone in need of care regardless of relation or gender...

We ask a blessing on this day.

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Come, Share the Spirit (Black hymnal no. 62)

Come, share the Spirit, moving among us, weaving in and through this place;

breaking down the walls that split and divide, bringing wholeness to embrace.

Come, Living Spirit, bloom in our hearts as when the desert bursts with life; take thirsty souls, fill them with your love, and remove all greed and strife.

Come, Rushing Waters, let justice roll like an ever-flowing stream; till the poor find strength as they hear the good news, and the rich adopt new dreams.

Come, Blazing Fire, anoint our tongues with the messages of peace; till, though blind, we see, and deaf, we hear, and imprisoned, find release.

Come, Gentle Breezes, breath of all loving, given to God's chosen band; let us dance and feast with the broken ones, bring compassion to our land. Come! Lift our hands in joyful applause to the Maker of the earth; for our Father who lifts us when we fall, and our Mother who gives us birth!

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Holy God, you dwell in us, and we dwell in you. We share space together in your realm, where all have their needs met and none go unnoticed. We live, too, in this world, aching with hunger, economic injustice, and housing inequity. We confess, we contribute to the aches and pains of our neighbors, forgetting we are yours. Forgive us and call us again to co-create your realm on earth.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

God has chosen to make a home in us and we have a home in God. With God, we are we safe, forgiven, and free. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Nothing Can Trouble

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

**Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

Alicia Reese

*SONG OF ILLUMINATION

The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young (Black hymnal no. 468)

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

**The care the eagle gives her young, safe in her lofty nest,
Is like the tender love of God for us made manifest.**

**As when the time to venture comes, she stirs them out to flight,
So we are pressed to boldly try, to strive for daring height.**

**And if we flutter helplessly, as fledgling eagles fall,
Beneath us lift God's mighty wings to bear us, one and all.**

SCRIPTURE READING – JOHN 14:15-21

SERMON – INSIDE OUT

Lydia Mulkey

SERMON RESPONSE

Fivefold Amen (Black hymnal no. 161)

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

John Edgerton

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sanctuary Choir

Mothering God by Larry J. Long

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.

Creator, source of ev'ry breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,
grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

Mothering Spirit, nurt'ring one, in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow until I flow'r, until I know.

—*Jean Janzen*

*DOXOLOGY

Sanctuary Choir

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

& Congregation

(Lasst uns erfreuen)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Christ all people here below,

Alleluia, Alleluia,

Praise Holy Spirit Evermore,

Praise Triune God whom we adore,

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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

What a Covenant (Black hymnal no. 471)

What a covenant, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;

Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. R/

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?

I have blessed peace with my Savior near, leaning on the everlasting arms. R/

*BLESSING

Lydia Mulkey

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Halleluja (Black hymnal no. 236)

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Halleluja!

POSTLUDE

Mark Sudeith

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms arranged by Marianne Kim

EVENTS AND UPDATES

Below is just a sampling of the news and events at First United. You can find our full calendar at firstunitedoakpark.com/calendar. Follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark) for our weekly newsletter and lots more.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, MAY 21

The First United Church Council has called for the annual elections meeting to be held after worship on Sunday, May 21 for the purpose of electing persons to the Church Council, the Board of Deacons, and the Nominating Committee. The meeting will begin in the Sanctuary approximately five minutes after worship as soon as we have a quorum.

END OF YEAR POTLUCK PICNIC, MAY 21

A First United tradition returns: the end of the year potluck picnic on May 21 after the Congregational Meeting. We will supply the sandwiches and invite you to sign up using the QR code to bring your favorite side or dessert.



Loving with Books – Sundays in May

We are once again partnering with New Moms to supply board and picture books to enrich the lives of new moms and their babies. Browse the example books in the lounge before and after worship each week in May and give generously to our book fund!

CITY VOICES CONCERT, MAY 19 AND 21

You'll see several familiar faces at the City Voices concert in the First United Sanctuary on May 19 at 7:30 p.m. and May 21 at 4 p.m. Hear how poetry inspires song in *Musicians Wrestle Everywhere*, a program of poems set to music for chorus. Tickets are \$25 (18 and under are free) and can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/CityVoicesSprin2023>.

ADULT EDUCATION RESUMES NEXT WEEK

The Speaker Series will finish its 2-part presentation exploring Evanston's program to make reparations to Black homeowners for past discriminatory housing practices. The Bible Group will study John 14:15-21, a continuation of Jesus' farewell discourse to the disciples before his crucifixion on Good Friday. Join us at 9:45 a.m. in the Conference Room (Bible Group) or Centennial Hall (Speaker Series).

SAVE THE DATE: CONFIRMATION IS JUNE 11

Mark your calendars for June 11 when we will celebrate the Quest class of 2023 and welcome them into membership at First United. These kids have worked hard this year and we are thrilled to celebrate their studies and their faith.

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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