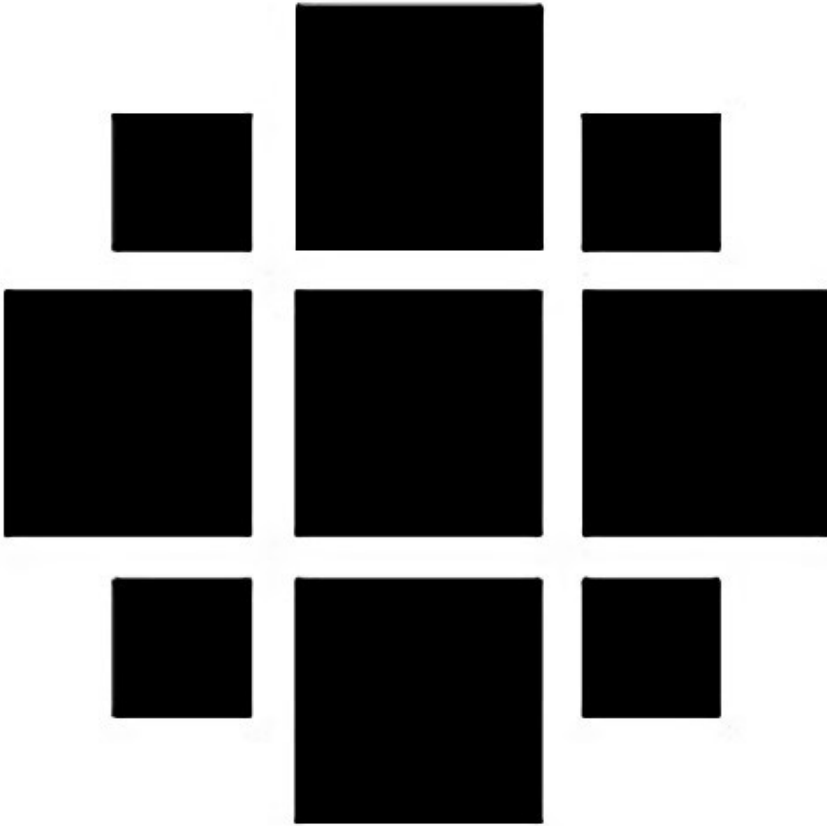


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
June 4, 2023



An open community united in love and justice

Bold text indicates congregation participation

*Indication to stand in body or spirit

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Mark Sudeith

Great Is Thy Faithfulness arr. by Dan Miller

WELCOME

John Edgerton

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark Breen

Power Who Affirms Life—

The ways of cruelty, coercion, and small-mindedness are not yours.

You long for us to live unfurling, ample, spacious lives.

Power Who Affirms Life—

You rage like the sea when people pursue power over others for personal gain.

You dream of collaboration and care. You dream of wide-open fields of consent.

Power Who Affirms Life—

We long to live in your legacy of freedom and joy.

We long for the ways of violence to end.

*PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*OPENING HYMN

Congregation

Fearfully, Wonderfully Made by Nathan Crabtree & Eric Whitehill



1. You were known, known be - fore birth, wo - ven deep,
2. You be - long, — you are re - deemed. Loved by God,
3. When you walk, — walk through the flame. God is there,



deep in the earth. You were formed from star-dust. Sing praise! You are
God is well pleased. Now em-brace what God has or - dained: You are
cal - ling your name. God has said, "Do not be a - fraid." You are



fear - ful - ly, won - der - f'ly made, — yes you are



fear - ful - ly, won - der - f'ly made. —

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Mark Breen

Together, we ask protection for those who are persecuted—trans people, women and gender-diverse people, unhoused people, immigrants, and our animal kin. We toss and turn with fear. We weep and shake our fists. We gather in protest in the halls of power. We grieve because it doesn't have to be like this, and yet, we know that we are not completely innocent. Search our hearts and find within us, and within our church, the attitudes and actions that sustain oppression and evil. Be with us now, O God. Accompany us boldly, Power Who Affirms Life.

Time for silent prayer.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Hear the good news! The Powers of Life are rascally and stubborn. Even amidst destructive systems, there is hope. We are forgiven and free! **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

MUSICAL ASSURANCE

Congregation

Spirit of the Living God (Black hymnal no. 283)

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

BAPTISM OF ADAM ECKERT

John Edgerton

COMMUNITY 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, Adam, to our common journey. Trusting God, we offer you our support and care.

*SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Congregation

Take Me to the Water (Black hymnal no. 322)

**Take me to the water, take me to the water,
take me to the water to be baptized.**

**None but the righteous, none but the righteous,
none but the righteous shall see God.**

**I love Jesus, I love Jesus,
I love Jesus, yes, I do.**

**Jesus is my Savior, Jesus is my Savior,
Jesus is my Savior forever more.**

SCRIPTURE READING – MATTHEW 28:16-20

Mark Breen

SERMON – RECOMMISSIONING

Lydia Mulkey

SERMON RESPONSE

Congregation

Breathe on Me, Breath of God (Black hymnal no. 292, vv. 1&3)

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew

That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire:

That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Lydia Mulkey

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY

Congregation

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
(Old Hundredth)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

John Edgerton

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

Congregation

Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Blue hymnal no. 276)

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,

**There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.
Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. R/**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! R/**

***BLESSING**

Lydia Mulkey

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Congregation

Sweet, Sweet Spirit (Black hymnal no. 293, v. 1 & refrain)

**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.
Refrain: Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise.
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.**

POSTLUDE

Mark Sudeith

Jubilate by Emma Lou Diemer

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.

JUNE IS GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

As people of faith, we at First United recognize June as Gun Violence Awareness month. We hold in prayer all of those who have been impacted by gun violence. Our orange banner invites all to: "Imagine a World without Gun Violence." Thank you to all who wear orange as a visible witness.

DINNER AND A MOVIE, JUNE 9

CODA: As a CODA (Child of Deaf Adults), Ruby is the only hearing person in her deaf family. When the family's fishing business is threatened, Ruby finds herself torn between pursuing her love of music and her fear of abandoning her parents. Dinner at 6:00 (\$5 donation); movie at 6:30 (free). Call Liz Swan (708) 567-3490 or email easwan@gmail.com.

NEXT SUNDAY WE CELEBRATE QUEST CONFIRMATION 2023

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.

STAY AFTER WORSHIP FOR HOT DOGS AND WATER GAMES

Next Sunday, June 11, we invite you to stay after worship for hot dogs and water games on the lawn for our first Stay and Play of the summer! If you would like, eat dessert first by grabbing a piece of cake from the confirmation reception and then meet us on the lawn. BYO bathing suits and towels!

OUTDOOR SUMMER WORSHIP: THIRD SUNDAYS THIS SUMMER

On the third Sunday of each month this summer, we will gather on the labyrinth for outdoor worship at our regular worship time of 11 a.m. In the event of rain, worship will move indoors. We are still investigating how we can have a virtual option for outdoor worship and will communicate that information as soon as possible.

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. Our programs are currently on hiatus for the summer, but we look forward to seeing you again in September!

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., September through mid-May, we tell stories of the Bible using a lens of love and justice with singing, praying, and creating. Contact Lydia Mulkey (lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com) to learn more.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Are you interested in singing in worship with our Sanctuary Choir? Rehearsals will resume in September. 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 – 7 pm here at the church, September through mid-May. Contact Alicia Reese (areese@firstunitedoakpark.com) for more information.



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Associate Pastor Alicia Reese – areese@firstunitedoakpark.com