

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

July 16, 2023



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Mark Sudeith

Hyfrydol arr. by Judith L. Maggs

WELCOME

Lydia Mulkey

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Joanne Despotes

Let us prepare our hearts for God's holy work

Let us ready ourselves for Divine disruption

As the earth longs to flourish and the people dream of rest

God has promised to show us the way

Setting down our egos, taking up our faith

We seek the seeds of transformation

Wisdom is here, alive and among us.

Let us receive her truth.

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

Congregation

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God (Black hymnal no. 295)

**I sing a song of the saints of God, faithful their whole lives through,
who bravely labored, lived and died for the God they loved and knew.**

And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,

and another a shepherd in pastures green:

they were saints of God, if you know what I mean.

God, help me to be one, too.

They loved their God and they lived that love. It was loving that made them strong.

They did what was right, for Jesus' sake, lived justly their whole lives long.

And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,

and another was slain by a fierce wild beast:

there is no earthly reason, none in the least,

why I shouldn't be one, too.

**They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is filled with living saints who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea,
in a church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea:
for the saints are folk like you and like me,
and I mean to be one, too.**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Joanne Despotes

God of rebirth, renewal, and restoration – we acknowledge how easy it is to get stuck in our ways. While we wish for radical change in the world, we still struggle to discern what change is needed from us. We turn to you for guidance. Release us from that which holds us back in mind, body, and spirit, that we might move together in the directions of freedom.

Time for silent prayer

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

God's grace is enough for us. We are forgiven and free. Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

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

TIME FOR SHARING

Lydia Mulkey

*SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Congregation

God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian (Black hymnal no.355)

God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind-spiced flame and hovering dove,

Breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love:

Give to those who lead your people fresh anointing of your grace;

Send them forth as bold apostles to your church in every place.

**Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd, Word made flesh, love crucified,
Teacher, healer, suffering servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride:
In your tending may all pastors learn and live a shepherd's care;
Grant them courage and compassion shown through word and deed and
prayer.**

**Great Creator, life bestower, truth beyond all thought's recall.
Fount of wisdom, womb of mercy, giving and forgiving all:
As you know our strength and weakness, so may those the church exalts
Oversee its life steadfastly yet not overlook its faults.**

**Triune God, mysterious being, undivided and diverse,
Deeper than our minds can fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse:
Help us in our varied callings your full image to proclaim,
That our ministries uniting may give glory to your name.**

SCRIPTURE READING – Exodus 18

Joanne Despotes

SERMON –

John Edgerton

SERMON RESPONSE

Bill Chin

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

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF DEACONS & ELDERS

INTRODUCTIONS

There are a variety of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but the same God is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is a common purpose that is accomplished.

The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

It is still one body.

If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

ORDINATION VOWS

ANOINTING

CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT

We accept these elders and deacons as chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ. We promise to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church.

*LAYING ON OF HANDS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*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

Called as Partners in Christ's Service (Black hymnal no. 495)

**Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.**

**Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.**

**Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.**

**So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.**

*BLESSING

*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

Beecher arr. by Pamela M. Robertson

Mark Sudeith

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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www.firstunitedoakpark.com | facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark

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