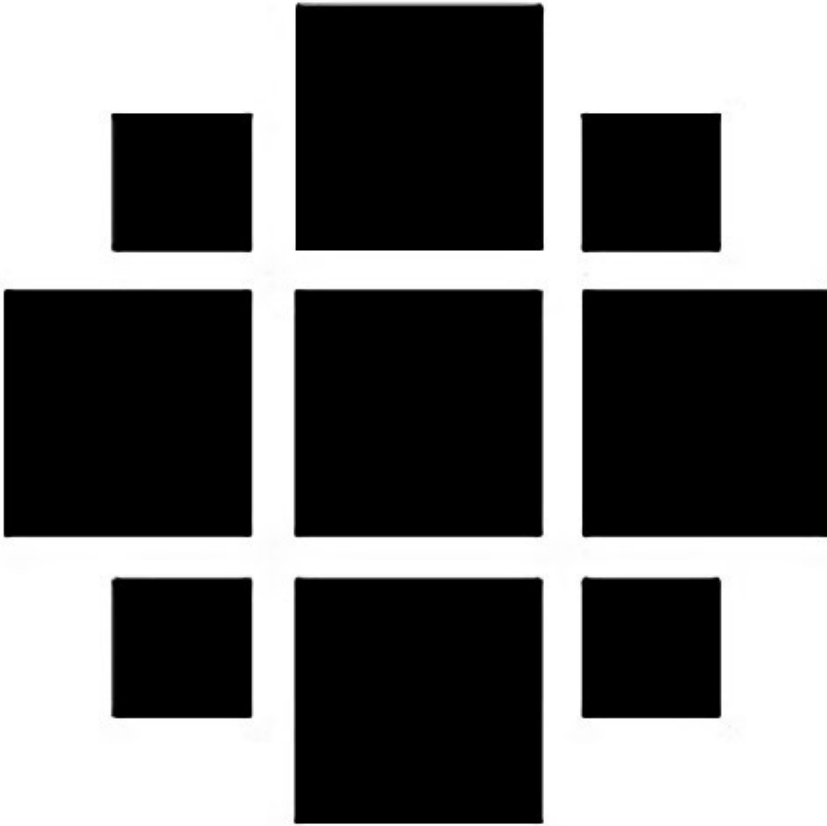


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

July 2, 2023



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Michael Surratt

Adoration by Florence B. Price

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark Breen

Welcome—You truth-tellers, you healers, you dreamers, you way-makers.

God celebrates the courageous and creative! She loves the work of soulful community-making!

Welcome—You brokenhearted, you righteously angry, you wonderful and weary human kin.

God privileges the stories of the vulnerable! She demands accountability from those who cause harm!

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

Congregation

Bring Many Names (Black hymnal no. 11)

**Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!**

**Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!**

**Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled;
Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!**

**Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!**

**Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!**

**Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Mark Breen

Holy Wisdom, we bring into your presence the fullness of who we are. The hurting parts. The regrets. The murky and the messy. We have been wounded and we have wounded others. With courage and humility, we seek your guidance in the mending of the worlds between us and within us.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

God has heard the sound of our pleadings. God is our strength and our shield; in God our hearts trust; so we are helped, and our hearts exult, and with our song, we give thanks to God.

– adapted from Psalm 28:6-7

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

*SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Congregation

All Things Bright and Beautiful (Black hymnal no. 31)

**Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.**

**Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings. R/**

**The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky. R/**

**The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one. R/**

SCRIPTURE READING – GENESIS 50:15:21

Mark Breen

SERMON – INTENTIONS

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

COMMUNION

The Holy One be with you

And also with you

Open your hearts to the One who is Love

We open our hearts to you, O God

Let us give thanks to God, who gathers us together

To the One who welcomes us to the table, we give thanks and praise

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Amazing Grace arr. by Kevin McChesney

Elizabeth Jung, handbells

Michael Surratt, piano

*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

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

This Is My Song (Black hymnal no. 591)

**This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.**

This is my home, the country where my heart is;

here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;

**But other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,

and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;

But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover,

and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.

O hear my song, O God of all the nations,

a song of peace for their land and for mine.

*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

Michael Surratt

Variations on 'America' by Charles Ives

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.

OFFICE HOURS THROUGH JULY 5

We will have limited office hours due to the holiday and staff vacations July 3-5. First United will be closed on July 4. On July 3 and July 5, office hours will be limited to afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m.

RED OAK REMOVAL

As a reminder, the red oak on the church grounds will be removed on Monday, July 3. If you are interested in purchasing some firewood from our red oak to help Scout Troop 16 raise money for an upcoming adventure trip, reach out to John Bell (johnbell42@gmail.com).

PACK THE HOUSE FOR UNITED POWER

First United members and friends, help us pack the house at St. Rita of Cascia Parish (6243 S. Fairfield Ave., Chicago) on Sunday July 9th at 4 p.m. Chicago mayor Brandon Johnson and House speaker Chris Welch have committed to hear the details of the United Power housing initiative planned for North Lawndale and will ask for their commitment to this project! The 40 United Power member organizations (of which First United is one) hope to have 1,000 people in attendance. Carpooling encouraged. Text or call Deb Stracco (708-638-9190) to RSVP and/or get in on a carpool.

PRIME TIME BASTILLE DAY PICNIC, JULY 14

It's a Prime Time picnic! Join us at 11:30 on Friday, July 14, for a picnic on the church lawn. Everyone should bring their own lunches and be prepared to carry away trash afterward. Some chairs will be available, but bring your own portable chair if you're able. It's Bastille Day, but berets are optional.

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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