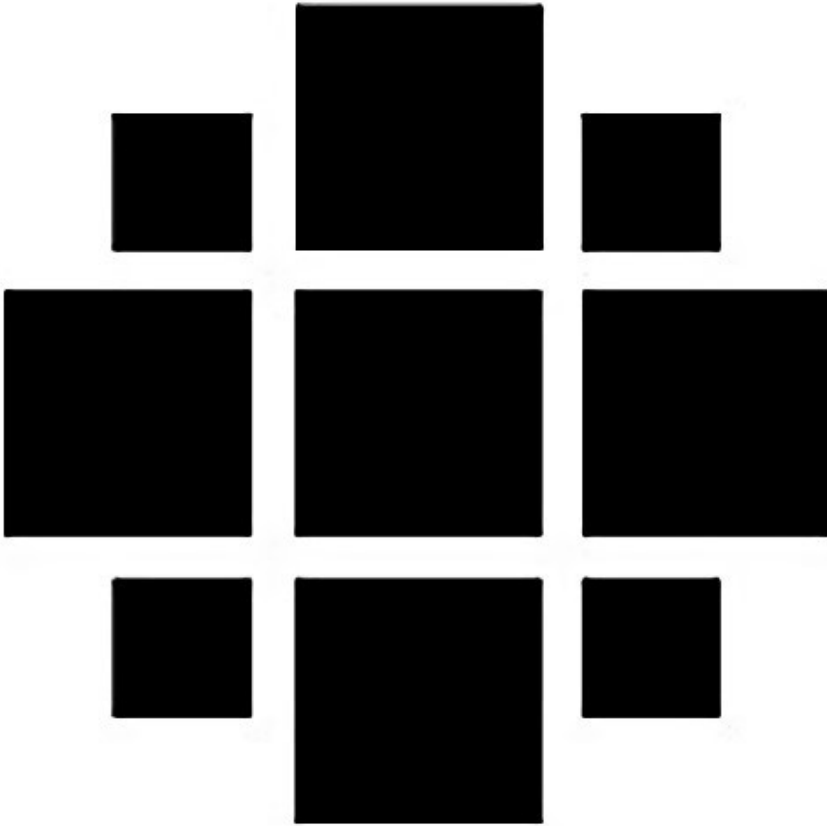


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

July 23, 2023



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Mark Sudeith

Prelude on "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds" by R. Farrell

WELCOME

John Edgerton

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: To look with clear eyes at the world is to know heartbreak.

Many: Yet, we live by faith and not by sight.

One: To understand the size and majesty of the universe is to shrink to nothingness.

Many: Yet, God has made us only a little lower than the angels.

One: To look at humanity is to see every kind of person imaginable, living every kind of life.

Many: Yet, each of us made in the very image and likeness of God.

One: Thanks be to God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

Congregation

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds (Black hymnal no. 393)

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;

The sharing of a common life is like to that above.

Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;

Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,

And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,

But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

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

Nearer, My God, to You (Black hymnal no. 606)

Nearer, my God, to you, nearer to you.

I'll bear the cross as Christ calls me to do and pray each day anew:

Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God, to you, nearer to you.

When I am wandering as Jacob did,

and in the deepest night the path is hid, my dreams will bring me, too,

Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God, to you, nearer to you.

Let Jacob's ladder fill the sky above,

and angels carry down the faith and love to keep this goal in view:

Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God, to you, nearer to you.

Then, waking from the night to morning air by Bethel's stone,

I'll know you heard my prayer, and how my yearning grew:

Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God, to you, nearer to you.

SCRIPTURE READING – ROMANS 8:12-25

SERMON

Ally Vertigan

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

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Christina Ricordati

4th Sunday

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Bill Chin, solo

Zion's Walls by A. Copeland

Come fathers and mothers,

Come sisters and brothers,

Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.

O fathers, don't you feel determined to meet within the walls of Zion,

We'll shout and go 'round the walls of Zion.

*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

Ally Vertigan

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

We Are Often Tossed and Driven (Black hymnal no. 444)

**We are often tossed and driven on the restless sea of time,
Somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine;
In that land of perfect day, when the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by.**

**Refrain: By and by, when the morning, comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
We'll tell the story how we've overcome:
for we'll understand it better by and by.**

**We are often destitute of the things that life demands,
Want of food and want of shelter, thirsty hills and barren lands;
In our God our trust's assured, and according to the Word,
We will understand it better by and by. R/**

**Trials harsh on every hand, and we cannot understand
All the ways that God would lead us to that blessed promised land;
We are guided by God's eye, and we'll follow till we die,
For we'll understand it better by and by. R/**

**Temptations, hidden snares often take us unawares,
And our hearts are made to bleed for many a thoughtless word or deed,
And we wonder, why the test, when we try to do our best,
But we'll understand it better by and by. R/**

*BLESSING

Ally Vertigan

*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

Fuguetta on "Nearer, My God, to You" by V. Pinkevicius

Mark Sudeith

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.

FUSH Service Trip

Youth and adults from First United leave today for Cosby, Tennessee where they will spend a week serving that community. Please hold all our participants in your prayers as we wish them safe travels and a wonderful week of faith and service.

Troop 16 Firewood Fundraiser

The Scouts of Troop 16 have split and bundled wood from the old red oak tree to sell as a fundraiser for an upcoming adventure trip. The bundles and other wood are stacked next to the patio near the labyrinth. The cost is \$7 per bundle or \$20/3 bundles (or equivalent.) You can either Zelle money to JohnTBell42@gmail.com or 773-398-2950 and pick up wood at your convenience or look for a Troop 16 Scout on Sundays.

Recital and Reception Next Sunday

Since last August, Mark Sudeith has graciously, capably, and beautifully served as First United's interim organist while we conducted a search for a permanent organist. July 30 will be Mark's last Sunday in this role. Please stay after the service for an organ recital and a reception in Mark's honor.

Save the Date: Welcome Bobby!

Our new organist, Bobby Nguyen, joins us for his first Sunday on August 6. Please join us as we welcome Bobby in worship and afterwards in the lounge.

FUSH Stockholders' Lunch, August 6

The FUSH Stockholder's Luncheon will take place in Centennial Hall on Sunday, August 6, 2023 following worship. FUSH youth will share stories, videos, and thank-yous for your support while they helped people in Cosby, TN If you are able to bring a dessert to share, please let us know on the RSVP. Please RSVP to Julie Huff (huffjulia@aol.com; text/call 312-806-7750)

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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Associate Pastor Alicia Reese – areese@firstunitedoakpark.com