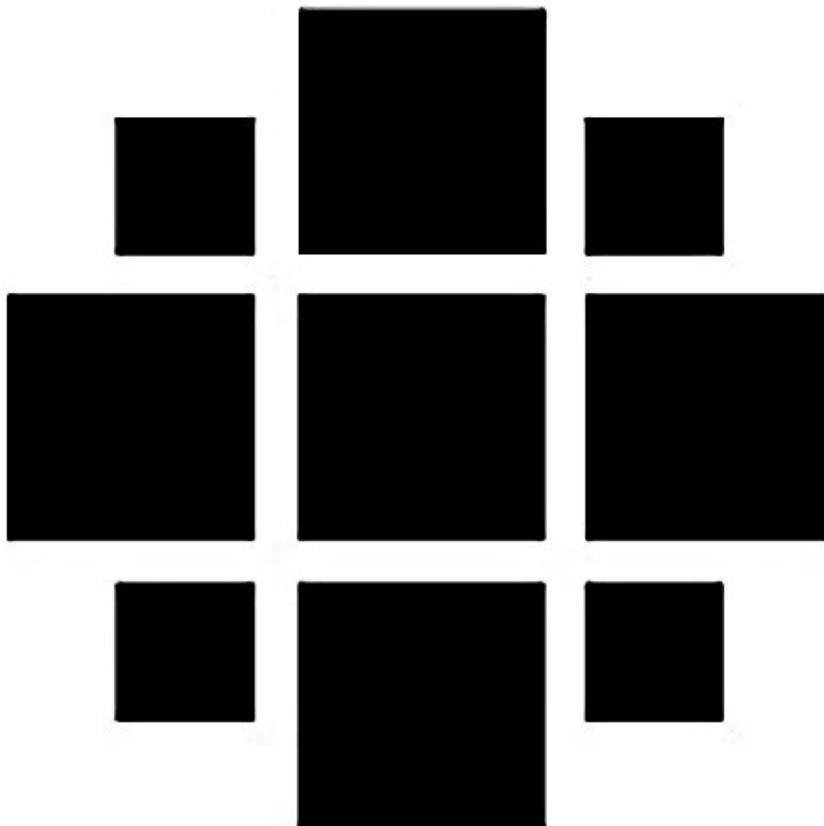


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
August 13, 2023



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Largo from Xerxes by G. F. Handel, arr. by Rollin Smith

WELCOME

Alicia Reese

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Joanne Despotes

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, even though is God, took the form of a slave, assuming human likeness;

He did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,

he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death on a cross.

And God exalted him so that every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Almighty.

– *adapted from Philippians 2*

*PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

*OPENING HYMN

Congregation

In the Midst of New Dimensions (Black hymnal no. 391)

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,

Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

Refrain: God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,

We your people, ours the journey,

now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,

Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care? R/

As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,

Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams. R/

**We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung. R/**

**Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again. R/**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Joanne Despotes

O God, we come to you with confessing hearts. You tell us that if we are in Christ, there is great encouragement, comfort in love, and participation in the Spirit. But we often lack the affection and empathy that should be signs of this.

We are not of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Instead, we are anxious about our own ideas and sometimes we use love to exclude instead of binding together. We operate from a position of selfish ambition and conceit, seeking our own interests and not the interests of others.

O God, grant us humility, give us the mind of Christ, to serve one another without thought of status or position.

May we know what it is to be truly humble and emptied of self and to wholly love.

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Our God is gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in love. In Christ, you are forgiven and made whole.

Thanks be to God!

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

Alicia Reese & Lydia Mulkey

*SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Congregation

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart (Black hymnal no. 55)

Rejoice, you pure in heart; lift praises to the sky;

Your festal banner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!

Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Bright youth and seasoned age, strong souls and spirits meek,

Raise high your free, exulting song, God's wondrous praises speak. R/

With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise,

Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of ancient days. R/

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as you go,

From youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe: R/

Praise God who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore,

Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God for evermore! R/

SCRIPTURE READING – PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

Joanne Despotes

SERMON

John Edgerton

SERMON RESPONSE

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

Cate Reading

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir

I Heard My Mother Say (Black hymnal no. 409)

I heard my mother say, I heard my mother say,

I heard my mother say, "Give me Jesus."

Refrain: Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
you may have all this world, give me Jesus.

At midnight was my cry, . . . R/

Oh, when I come to die, . . . R/

In the morning when I rise, . . . R/

*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

Lydia Mulkey

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

GREETING

Marteki Reed

THANKSGIVING AND VOWS OF RELEASE

Moderator: John, four years ago you arrived at First United and began to minister with and among us. Thank you and bless you for the gift that you have been to this church.

John: I thank First United Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown to me these past years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all I have learned here.

People: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

John: I receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness and trust that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

Moderator: Do you, the members and friends of First United, release John Edgerton from the duties of Lead Pastor?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Moderator: John, do you release this local church from depending on you and turning to you?

John: I do, with the help of God.

Moderator: Do you offer encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve

John: I do, with the help of God.

WITNESS OF THE DENOMINATIONS

At the end of the witness, the Congregation responds, **“Thanks be to God.”**

*CLOSING HYMN

Congregation

Blessed Assurance (Black hymnal no. 473)

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

**Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. R/**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with God's goodness, lost in
Christ's love. R/**

*BLESSING

John Edgerton

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Congregation

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds (Black hymnal no. 393, vv. 1 & 4)

**Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.**

**When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.**

POSTLUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Allegro maestoso e vivace from *Sonata No. 3* by Felix Mendelssohn

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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