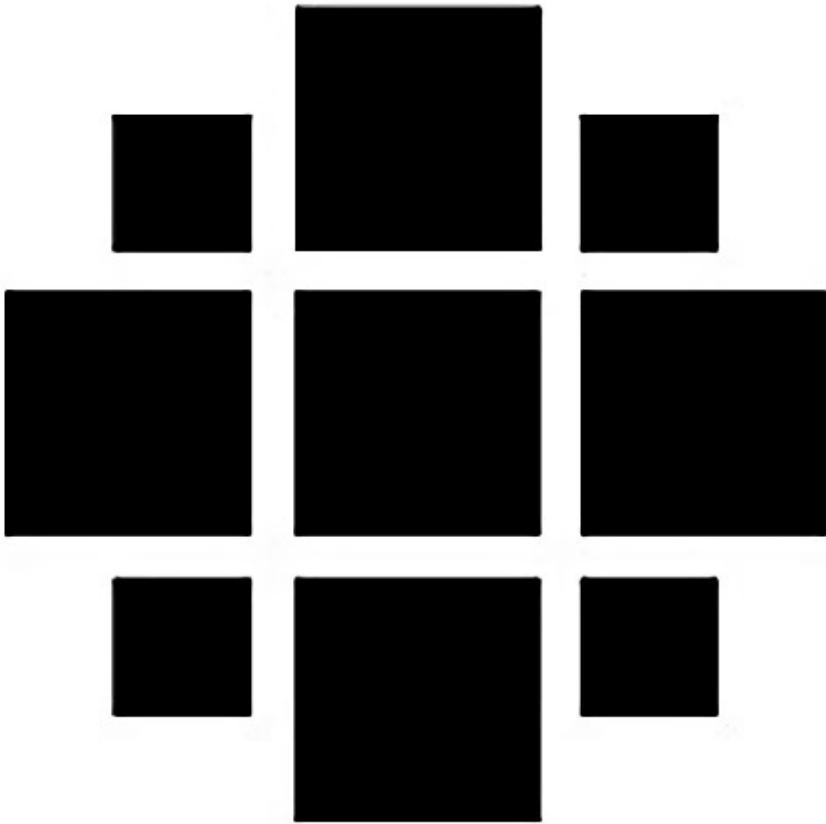


# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

August 27, 2023



*An open community united in love and justice*

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

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### PRELUDE

Bobby Nguyen

*Air* from Suite No. 1 for Organ by Florence Price

### WELCOME

Alicia Reese

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark Breen

God Speaks. With excitement!

**With enthusiasm! With new life!**

God is present!

**God is with us! Nothing can separate us!**

Even when we feel unsure, unclear, confused, even when we feel broken to the core of our being—

**We hold fast to God's love and acceptance.**

We are always welcome in God's household.

We will each, once again, feel like a well-watered garden.

**Full of life! Radiant in the sun!**

It will be good. It is good.

**God is good!**

### PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**

### OPENING HYMN

Congregation

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* (Black hymnal no. 403)

**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' love and righteousness;**

**I dare not trust this earthly frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

**Refrain: On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;**

**all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.**

**When shadows veil my Savior's face, I rest upon unchanging grace;**

**In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. R/**

**Christ's oath and covenant and blood support me in the rising flood;  
When all around my soul gives way, Christ then is all my hope and stay. R/**

**When Christ shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in Love be found,  
Dressed in God's righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. R/**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Mark Breen

**O God, we confess our slowness to see the good in others and to see the  
evil in ourselves.**

**We confess our blindness to the suffering of others and our slowness to be  
taught by our own suffering.**

**We confess our complacency toward wrongs that do not touch us and our  
oversensitivity to those that do.**

**We confess our hardness of heart toward our fellow human beings' faults  
and our readiness to make allowances for our own.**

**We confess our trust in your grace to create new life within us.**

**We confess our faith in your love to bind us together as a family of faith.**

**Let your Spirit be born in us. Again.**

*Time for Silent Prayer*

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Through Christ we 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

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TIME FOR SHARING

Lydia Mulkey

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Congregation

*God Moves in a Mysterious Way* (Black hymnal no. 412)

**God moves in a mysterious way great wonders to perform;  
God plants firm footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm.**

**Deep in unfathomable mines of never-failing skill  
God floods the earth with bright designs, guards with a sovereign will.**

**O fearful saints, fresh courage take, the clouds you so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break in blessings on your head.**

**Judge not God's way through human sense, but trust unfailing grace:  
Behind a frowning providence there shines a smiling face.**

**God's purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour;  
The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flower.**

**Our unbelief is sure to err and scan God's work in vain;  
God is God's own interpreter, whose truth shall be made plain.**

SCRIPTURE READING – MATTHEW 16:13-20

Mark Breen

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Alicia Reese

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

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### ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF DEACONS & ELDERS

INTRODUCTIONS

Lydia Mulkey

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

Alicia Reese

## 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

CALL TO OFFERING

Deb Stracco

Chicago Religious Leadership Network

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Lord of the Dance* arr. Joel Raney

Bobby Nguyen, organ  
& Mark Sudeith, 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

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

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### CLOSING HYMN

Congregation

*The Church of Christ, in Every Age* (Black hymnal no. 306)

**The church of Christ, in every age beset by change, but Spirit led,  
Must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.**

**Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry  
For shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.**

**Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be  
A partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

### BLESSING

Alicia Reese

### BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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

Congregation

**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

Bobby Nguyen

*Toccato* from Suite No.1 for Organ by Florence Price

# 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](http://firstunitedoakpark.com/calendar). Follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)) for our weekly newsletter and lots more.*

## Slow Down with Summer Mindfulness Today

Join the Worship, Music and Arts Team this afternoon from 3:30-5 p.m. as we host a mindfulness exercise to slow down together into silence. To RSVP or ask questions, text or call Meghan Premo-Hopkins (312-320-0609) or Laurie Jolicoeur (708-822-0265).

## Reminder to Complete Child and Youth Registration

Please register your children and youth for Church School, FUJI, and/or FUSH before the programs begin on September 10. Links for registration are available in the eblast.

## Dinner and a Movie Is Back on Friday, September 8

Join us for Carmen Jones, a WWII era reimagining of the classic tale of the cigarette-maker Carmen and the Spanish cavalry soldier Don Jose. Dinner at 6:00 (\$5 donation); movie at 6:30 (free). RSVP to Liz Swan (708- 567-3490; [easwan@gmail.com](mailto: easwan@gmail.com)).

## Gathering Day is September 10

This fall, we'll be exploring different heroes of the faith each week in worship and it all kicks off on September 10. Church School, youth programs, and adult ed programming are all also starting back up! Make sure to stay after worship to celebrate with our traditional root beer floats.

## Retired Pastors Tell All! Adult Ed Resumes on September 10

Join retired pastors Bill Bigelow, Stan Davis, Beth Dickerson, Charlie Morris and Don Register as they share reflections - preparations, trends, joys, challenges, inspiration - on their ministerial careers. Laughter guaranteed. We will meet at 9:45 a.m. in Centennial Hall.

## Support the Venezuelan Asylum Seekers at the 15<sup>th</sup> District

The need is great to help support 40 people temporarily living at the nearby 15th District Police Station. Contact Betty Alzamora ([betty@indivisiblechicago.com](mailto: betty@indivisiblechicago.com)) to assist with providing breakfast or lunches directly to the station. Or visit [gofund.me/95078394](https://gofund.me/95078394) to make a financial contribution to the fund that the District 15 Response Network volunteers are using to provide direct services. Contact Tara Dull ([tdull@sbcglobal.net](mailto: tdull@sbcglobal.net)) with any questions.

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:areese@firstunitedoakpark.com)) for more information.



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[www.firstunitedoakpark.com](http://www.firstunitedoakpark.com) | [facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)

Lead Pastor John Edgerton – [jedgerton@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:jedgerton@firstunitedoakpark.com)

Associate Pastor Lydia Mulkey – [lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com)

Associate Pastor Alicia Reese – [areese@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:areese@firstunitedoakpark.com)