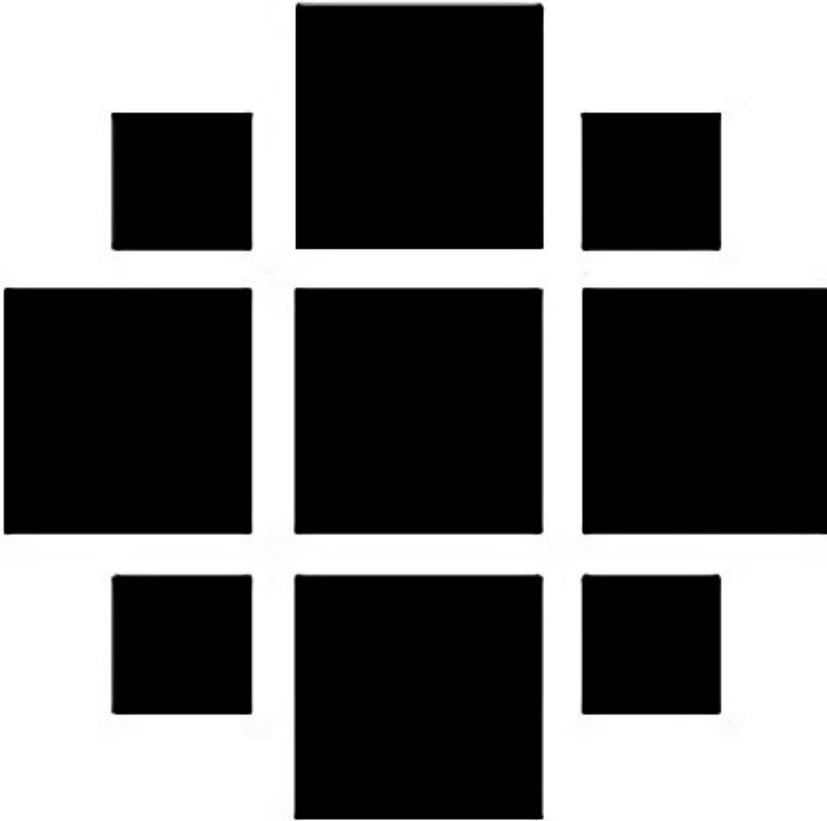


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
August 6, 2023



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Sonata No. 2 in D Minor, II. Adagio e dolce by J.S. Bach

WELCOME

Lydia Mulkey

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark Breen

We gather here in anticipation,

seeking an encounter with our Holy God,

who comes among us when we least expect it,

who invites us to wrestle with our questions and doubts,

who richly blesses us,

and calls us each by name.

Let's worship God together!

*PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*OPENING HYMN

Congregation

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending (Blue hymnal no. 422)

God, whose giving knows no ending, From Your rich and endless store,

Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, Costly cross, grave's shattered door;

Gifted by You, we turn to You, Offering up ourselves in praise;

Thankful song shall rise forever, Gracious donor of our days.

Sills and time are ours for pressing Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son;

All at peace in health and freedom, Races joined, the church made one.

Now direct our daily labor, Lest we strive for self alone;

Born with talents, make us servants Fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure too You have entrusted, Gain through powers Your grace conferred;

Ours to use for home and kindred, And to spread the gospel Word.

**Open wide our hand, in sharing, As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, Serving You by loving all.**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Mark Breen

All loving and caring God, source of life and wholeness, we come to you this day, each of us broken in our own way. You know our struggles and you know our pain. The story of Jacob shows your willingness to enter into the messiness of our human lives and challenge us to wrestle with our inner and outer conflicts.

We confess that too often our fear prevents us from doing this wrestling. Unclench our hands, open us to your loving touch, to the transforming power of your Holy Spirit, that we may be made whole and able to embrace others in their pain—and be embraced in ours...

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

Lydia Mulkey

*SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Congregation

Take My Gifts (Black hymnal no. 562)

**Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!**

**Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,**

**Spiced with humor, laced with laughter – flavor of the Jesus life,
Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.**

**Take whatever I can offer – gifts that I have yet to find,
Skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,
Things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:
Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.**

SCRIPTURE READING – Mark 13, Selected Verses Mark Breen

SERMON – THE REALM OF GOD, TODAY 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

CALL TO THE OFFERING Alicia Reese

COMMUNION John Edgerton

OFFERTORY MUSIC Bobby Nguyen
Amazing Grace by Gerald Near

*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.**

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

My Life Flows On in Endless Song (Black hymnal no. 476).

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,

I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that new song Christ is giving.

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing

It finds an echo in my soul – how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living;

What though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving.

No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging;

Since Love commands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells ringing;

When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?

In prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging;

When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;

And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;

All things are mine since I am Christ's – how can I keep from singing?

*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

Bobby Nguyen

Concerto del Signor Meck, I. Allegro by J.G. Walther

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.

Final Worship and Special Congregational Meeting,

On August 13, we will worship one final time with Lead Pastor John Edgerton. The First United Council has called a Special Congregational Meeting to be held during worship on August 13 for the purpose of formally accepting John's resignation. After the meeting, we will continue to close our worship service by releasing John from his vows to First United. Please join us for one last celebration of John and his ministry after worship in the lounge. Refreshments will be served.

Update from the Interim Pastoral Search Team

Our Interim Pastoral Search Team has been selected and is already hard at work. Team members are: Susan Swords Steffen, Chris Damon, Marsha Hubbuch, Laurie Jolicoeur, Sam Premo-Hopkins, Melinda Robinson, and Sara Stevenson.

So far, the Team has met with our denominational representatives and has begun working to revise the church profiles that we used in 2018 in order to post them to the electronic search systems for each denomination. The team will provide updates as they are able.

Bless All the Things: Outdoor Worship on August 20

On August 20th, we will mark the start of a new year by blessing our teachers and our backpacks. We will also have our annual blessing of the animals. Please bring your backpack and your pets to this outdoor worship service!

Church School Registration Now Open

We are gearing up for Gathering Day and the opening of the 2023-24 Church School year! This year, we are asking our Church School super heroes from birth to 8th grade to assemble on September 10 and prepare for an amazing year. Parents, please use the QR code to register your kids for Church School. Everyone registered by August 20 will receive a special treat after that Sunday's worship.



A Life-Saving Opportunity

Join Harriet Hawkins on Tuesday, August 15 at First United to learn basic life-saving skills including adult, child, and infant CPR as well as AED use and use of intranasal Narcan. The class will be approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes long. Interested individuals should contact Bobbie Kmiec (708-837-8934; robertakmiec@comcast.net) and indicate whether you would prefer a morning or afternoon class. Once we see how many folks are interested, we will update you with more details.

Prime Time Breakfast at Al's Grill

Prime Timers are invited to a group breakfast at Al's Grill, 1100 Madison in Oak Park, at 9 a.m. Thursday, August 17. Cost is \$20 per person, and participants can order off Al's menu. RSVP to Janet Haisman (jhaisman59@gmail.com). We are limited to 40 people, seated outdoors. This was such a popular event last year that we had a waiting list, so RSVP soon!

Slow Down with Summer Mindfulness

We invite you to explore mindfulness experiences with the Worship Music and Arts Team. On Sunday, August 27 from 3:30-5 p.m. WMA will host a mindfulness exercise as we 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).

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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