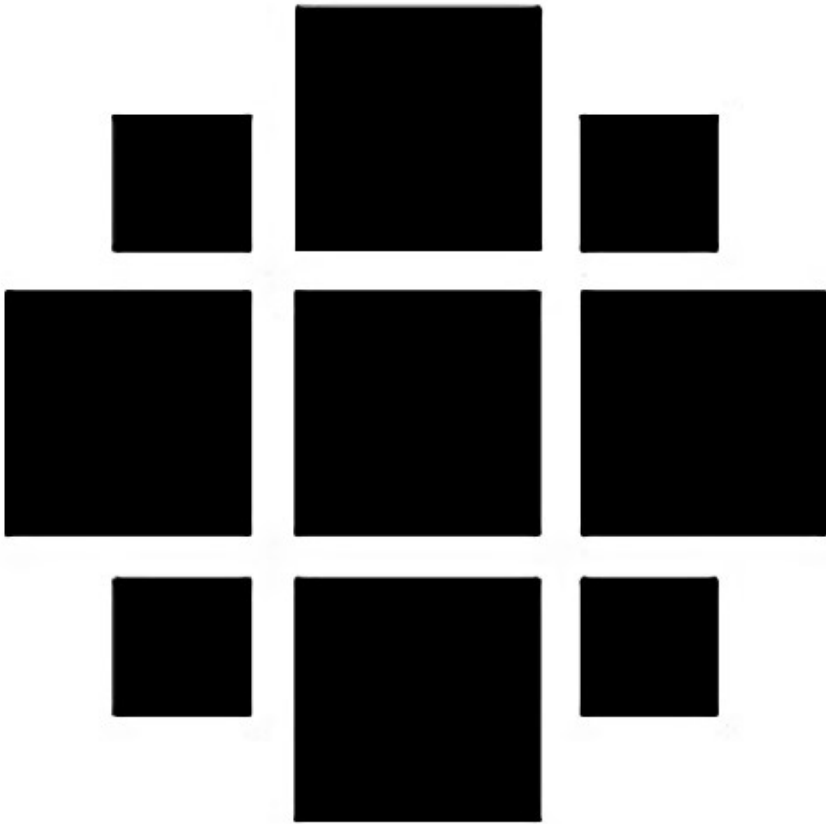


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
September 17, 2023



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Lied by Louis Vierne

WELCOME

Alicia Reese

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Meghan Premo-Hopkins

God shows us the meaning of reconciliation in the life of Jesus, the Christ.

By his touch, through his words and actions, Jesus healed and reconciled people to God and to the community.

We gather to renew ourselves that we too might be healed, and so we can reconcile others with a touch, a word, or an act.

We sing your praise, O God!

We proclaim your power to reconcile and heal.

We pray for your realm to break into our lives!

*PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

I Woke Up This Morning (Black hymnal no. 85)

I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

Singing and praying with my mind stayed on Jesus. . . .

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Meghan Premo-Hopkins

Oh, our Father, the sky,

Hear us and make us strong.

Oh, our Mother, the Earth,

Hear us and give us support.

Oh, Spirit of the East,
Send us your wisdom.

Oh, Spirit of the South,
May we tread your path of life.

Oh, Spirit of the West,
May we always be ready for the long journey.

Oh, Spirit of the North,
Purify us with your cleansing winds.

Time for Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Friends, be comforted, God is all around us. Be assured, God's love is everlasting.

You are God's beloved child, forgiven and made whole.

Thanks be to God, Amen!

MUSICAL RESPONSE

God Calls You Good

God calls me good, beloved child.

I am a treasure deeply prized.

And I can say to ev'ry doubting voice:

"God calls me good, beloved child."

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

Meghan Premo-Hopkins

*SONG OF ILLUMINATION

For All the Faithful Women

**For all the faithful women who served in days of old,
to you shall thanks be given; to all their story told.**

They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.

To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

**We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly
while Pharaoh's vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;**

for Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,
who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death.

We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan
while Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.
We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb
and found her Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.

Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas, who served the sick and poor.
Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door.
O God, for saints and servants, our fervent prayer we raise,
that, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.

SCRIPTURE READING – MARK 5:25-34

Meghan Premo-Hopkins

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON – A RELATABLE HERO

Caden Eckert

SERMON RESPONSE

Jesus Calls Us, Over the Tumult (Black hymnal no. 172, v. 1)

**Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day that voice still calls us, saying, "Christian, follow me."**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

NEXT IS NOW! CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Rick Ashton

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Alicia Reese

OFFERTORY

Woman in the Night by Alfred V. Fedak

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
(*Old Hundredth*)

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

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

Alicia Reese

**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

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Black hymnal no. 212)

**O Jesus Christ, may grateful hymns be rising,
in every city for your love and care;
Inspire our worship, grant the glad surprising
that your blessed Spirit rouses everywhere.**

**Grant us new courage, never proud, but humble,
strong in your strength to venture and to dare;
To lift the fallen, guide the ones who stumble,
seek out the lonely and God's mercy share.**

**Show us your Spirit, brooding o'er each city,
as you once wept above Jerusalem,
Seeking to gather all in love and pity,
and healing those who touch your garment's hem.**

*BLESSING

Caden Eckert

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Fivefold Amen

Amen!

Trumpet Voluntary in D Major by Charles Wesley

Our “guest” preacher, Caden Eckert, is not really a guest, she is an active member of our church family and a seminary graduate discerning a career in ministry. We are thrilled to support her continuing discernment with opportunities to practice ministry among us here at First United. Her husband, Nick, is in the midst of his medical school residency and they are parents to two little ones, Olive and Adam.

Call to Worship adapted from Rosemary C. Mitchell

Prayer for Wholeness adapted from “Six Directions of Aid” by the Lakota people of South Dakota

Prayers of the People adapted from “I Approach the Kami,” a Shinto prayer by Shin Paishi.

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.

Fun On the Lawn Today After Worship

After worship, please join us on the lawn to learn about the work of our ministry teams, play lawn games, pet a therapy dog, listen to music, and enjoy a hotdog lunch and other snacks as we celebrate our second-ever Fall Fellowship Fair. The fun will continue until 2:30 p.m.

Sign Up for House to Home Today

Check out the House to Home sign-up at the Fellowship Fair. First United celebrates ten years providing the items that turn a house into a home. Sign up to contribute to this signature project using the QR code or sign up in person now through October 1!



“Current Mental Health Challenges” Continues Next Week

Next Sunday Adult Ed completes its series led by Dr. Ben Gierl and other health professionals who will address how their faith intersects with their practice as they face the current epidemic of loneliness and anxiety among people of all ages. Join the conversation and discover resources you can put into practice right away to help yourself and others dealing with mental health challenges. 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Centennial Hall.

Quest Confirmation Begins Next Sunday

Orientation to the Quest Confirmation program for high school freshmen and their parents is next Sunday, September 24 at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel.

Communication Survey: Respond by September 30

The Communications Team wants to know how YOU view First United. Read more about the upcoming branding project in the most recent Messenger Bell and submit your survey responses using the QR code now through September 30.



Celebration of Life for Bob Haisman, October 7

First United will hold a celebration of life for Bob Haisman on October 7 at 2 p.m. A reception at the church will follow the service.

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. Weekly Bible study and Speaker Series meet during Sunday education hour at 9:45 a.m.

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 p.m. 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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