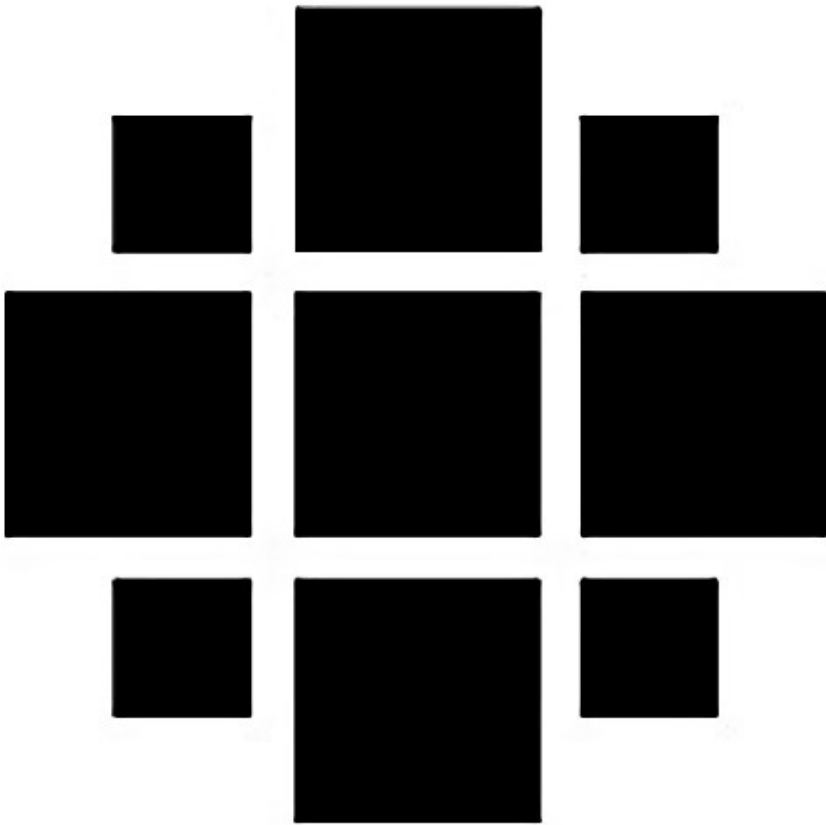


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
October 15, 2023



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Combined Minuets in G Major & G Minor by Christian Petzold (attrib. J. S. Bach)

WELCOME

Lydia Mulkey

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark Breen

Here in this place, there are no foreigners,

for all are welcome in God's house.

Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,

for love is the language of faith.

Here in our lives, there are no divisions,

for God dwells in each of us.

Come, let us worship in unity and love.

*PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir

In Christ There Is No East or West (Black hymnal no. 394)

& Congregation

In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;

But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;

God's service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.

In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free;

For men and women live in God, and all are kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;

One joyous, true community throughout the whole wide.

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Mark Breen

Holy God, we come into this sacred moment aware that your holiness is always around us. We are listening for your divine voice; speak to us in holy mystery. Make us wise enough to understand your call. Make us brave enough to follow your path,

to challenge structures we know oppress, to overturn tables of injustice, to heal the broken community. For the times we have ignored opportunities to build the beloved community, forgive us. For the ways in which we have fallen short to honor the dignity and inherent worth of all people, grant us grace. Restore us, renew us, reconcile us, we pray. . .

Time for Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Friends, in this place we find God's Word, God's way, God's love, and God's mercy. When we humble ourselves to seek forgiveness and reconciliation, we are met with God's grace. Always. The old has passed away, behold, the new has come.

In Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

God Calls You Good

Paul M. Vasile

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 1. God calls you good, be - lov - ed child. 2. God calls me good, be - lov - ed child. You are a treas - ure deep - ly prized. I am a treas - ure deep - ly prized. And you can say to ev - 'ry doubt - ing voice: And I can say to ev - 'ry doubt - ing voice: "God calls you good, be - lov - ed child. "God calls me good, be - lov - ed child. God calls you good, be - lov - ed child." God calls me good, be - lov - ed child."

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

*SONG OF ILLUMINATION

God of Grace and God of Glory

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

**God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.**

**Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.**

SCRIPTURE READING – JOSHUA 2:1-4A, 8-15

Mark Breen

SERMON

Lydia Mulkey

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 BEGINS NOW! CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Lydia Mulkey

OFFERTORY

If You Believe and I Believe, arr. by John L. Bell
If you believe and I believe and we together pray,
the Holy Spirit must come down and set God's people free.

Sanctuary Choir
Sallie Smylie, soloist

*DOXOLOGY

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

Alicia Reese

A Litany for the Restoration of Peace in the Holy Land from American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

God of peace, we pray for the people of Palestine and Israel in these perilous and dangerous times. For all who are fearful for the safety of their loved ones and themselves, we pray that the assurance of unfailing love, even in the midst of danger, settles upon them. Shelter them from despair and protect them from harm.

For all who are wounded,
we pray they find healing.

For all who have died,
we pray they find rest.

For all who grieve,
we pray they find comfort.

For leaders on all sides,
we pray for a renewed will to lay down arms,

for the strength to put grievances and wrongs suffered by their people to rest, and for the conviction to embrace a path of reconciliation and peace that preserves the rights and dignity of all your children.

God of mercy, help us to remember there is no border that can separate us from your great love and protection,

no stone that can sound the well of your deep mercy.

[Prayer Requests Shared]

God of justice, we pray with hopeful hearts that your beloved children of the Holy Land will be spared a future of sustained violence and unrest and that a recognition of the humanity of all people will prevail.

We pray all of this in the name of your son, Jesus who taught us pray to you, our creator, our mother. . .

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

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me (Blue hymnal no. 369)

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me. . . .

I'm gonna pray so God can use me. . . .

I'm gonna sing so God can use me. . . .

***BLESSING**

Lydia Mulkey

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Fivefold Amen

Amen!

POSTLUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Voluntary in G by Henry Heron

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.

First United Annual Meeting on October 22

First United will hold the Annual Meeting on October 22 immediately following worship. Materials for the annual meeting will be available in the next eblast (October 19). Paper copies will also be available.

Interim Search Team Listening Sessions October 15 and 29

The Interim Pastoral Search team wants to know your hopes and priorities for our interim time. Members of the team will be available in Room 13 before and after worship to hear from you.

Adult Ed: New Speaker Series Starts Next Sunday

For the next two Sundays Adult Ed presents "Thinking About Mortality," led by Drs. John Lurain and Jane Llewellyn and Rev. Beth Dickerson. This series explores planning and caring for ourselves (and those who love and care for us) through the transition from life to death. 9:45-10:45 a.m. in Centennial Hall.

Fourth Sunday Offering: New Moms

Having overcome the challenges of a catastrophic systems failure from flooding due to last July's rainstorm, New Moms' facility is reopened, programs are running, and work is underway to hire two clinical therapists for their new mental health program. Please support the vital work of New Moms during next Sunday's offering.

Bright Endeavors Open House on October 20

Bright Endeavors (627 N. Albany, Chicago), New Moms' Social Enterprise, is open for visitors on October 20 from 9-11 a.m. Tour the facility, see a candle-making demonstration, and shop the candle pop-up shop. RSVP at tinyurl.com/CandleDonut

Happy Fall, Y'all: Fun for Children and Youth

- Our FUSH and FUJI youth are apple picking today! Be at church by 1 p.m. to join.
- Wear your costume to church and go trick or treating through the building after worship on October 29. Don't miss the photobooth!

Community Minister Office Hours on Tuesdays

Rev. Beth Dickerson will hold office hours at First United on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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 are Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., September through May. 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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Associate Pastor Alicia Reese – areese@firstunitedoakpark.com