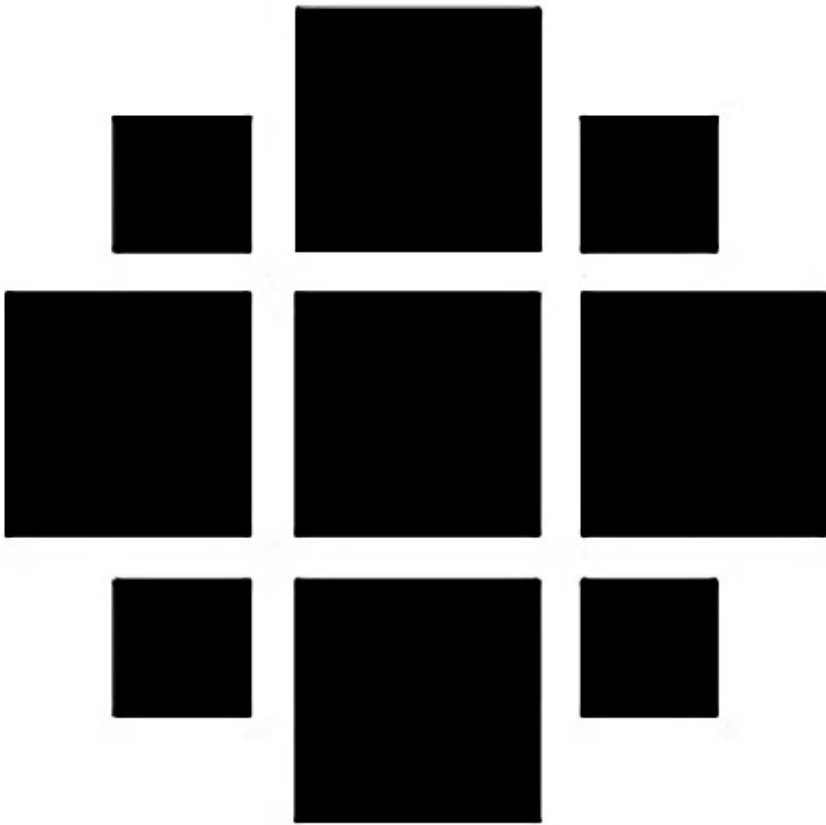


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
October 22, 2023



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Chant de paix by Jean Langlais

WELCOME

Alicia Reese & Bill Chin

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lois Thiessen Love

When the way is difficult and dangerous,

let us still choose what is good and just.

When evil comes to break us down and break us apart,

let us still choose to carry on with each other.

When power from on high strikes fear in our hearts,

let us still choose the courage to persist.

For we know that the love and power of God, which abides in us, will not be overcome.

*PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

O for a World (Black hymnal no. 575)

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,

Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,

Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice

That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.

Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,

Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Lois Thiessen Love

God of Justice, God of Compassion, God of Sacred and Scandalous ways,
We have so much still to learn.

By your grace, we have come to know love more deeply –

its mess, its complexity, its stubborn and tender truths transform us more each day.

Through fires that refine and valleys of death, you have guided us.

You draw us into the heart of Wisdom,

Saving us from the lies of destruction.

Turning us towards hope that liberates.

But still, O God, we struggle to trust in you.

And so, when we are afraid. Or hurt. Or weary...

We betray the very One who brought us thus far.

We confess, we still shame Jesus, when he turns over tables.

We confess, we still condemn Jesus, when he breaks the rules to which we are loyal.

Our priorities are not your own.

Forgive us for the harm we have done as we seek to harm no more.

Time for Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Beloveds, God does not abandon us to the systems that destroy.

God does not bind us to our regrets.

Or forever hold us to what we once believed.

God says, come and follow!

Know forgiveness and sin no more.

Love abounds. And Justice shall be manifest!

Wherever new life is desired,

may the peace of Christ be welcomed among us.

Thanks be to God who leads us on paths of resurrection.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

God Calls You Good

(see next page)

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

God Calls You Good

Paul M. Vasile

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."

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LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

Don Sibley, guitar

Music led by our Church School Students

This Is the Day

Church School Students

This is the day

& Congregation

This is the day

That the Lord has made

That the Lord has made

I will rejoice

I will rejoice

And be glad in it.

And be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made

I will rejoice and be glad in it!

This is the day
This is the day
That the Lord has made.

I've Got Peace Like a River

I've got peace like a river / I've got peace like a river / I've got peace like a river in my soul. 2x

I've got joy like a fountain. . .

I've got love like an ocean. . .

Go Now in Peace

**Go now in peace, go now in peace,
May the love of God surround you,
Everywhere, everywhere, you may go.**

***SONG OF ILLUMINATION**

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

We Shall Overcome (Black hymnal no. 570, vv. 1-4)

**We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome some day.**

**We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we'll go hand in hand some day.**

**We are not afraid, we are not afraid, we are not afraid today;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we are not afraid today.**

**Our God will see us through, our God will see us through, our God will see us through
some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, our God will see us through some day.**

SCRIPTURE READING – EXODUS 1:15-22

Lois Thiessen Love

This is the Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON – DELIVERING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

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

Rich Wheelock
& Linda Sandman

CALL TO THE OFFERING

4th Sunday – New Moms

Deb Stracco

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary Choir

May I Be Filled by Mark A. Miller

May I be filled with joyful lovingkindness, may I be calm and at peace.

May I be safe, may happiness surprise me, may I be awake and free.

May you be filled with joyful lovingkindness, may you be calm and at peace.

May you be safe, may happiness surprise you, may you be awake and free.

May we be filled with joyful lovingkindness, may we be calm and at peace.

May we be safe, may happiness surprise us, may we be awake and free.

*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

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

In Egypt Under Pharaoh (Blue hymnal no. 574)
(tune: Lancashire)

**In Egypt under Pharaoh the Israelites were bound,
from plagues and tribulations no respite could be found.
Praise God who in surprising ways gave passage through the waves.
Our Liberator rescues, our Liberator saves.**

**From Africa to gangplanks, across a friendless sea,
black captives harshly treated all struggled to be free.
Praise God who strengthened advocates with power that does and dares.
Our Liberator rescues, our Liberator cares.**

**Wherever hurting humans unjustly live in pain,
the hungry, homeless, hopeless, cry out for growth and gain.
Praise God whose great redeeming love each servant freely gives.
Our Liberator rescues, our Liberator lives!**

*BLESSING

Lydia Mulkey

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Fivefold Amen

Amen!

POSTLUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Fugue from Organ Sonata No. 2 by Felix Mendelssohn

The Annual Meeting will commence here in the Sanctuary as soon as a quorum is achieved. Supporting documents were emailed in Thursday's eblast and again on Saturday evening. Paper copies are also available.

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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Associate Pastor Alicia Reese – areese@firstunitedoakpark.com