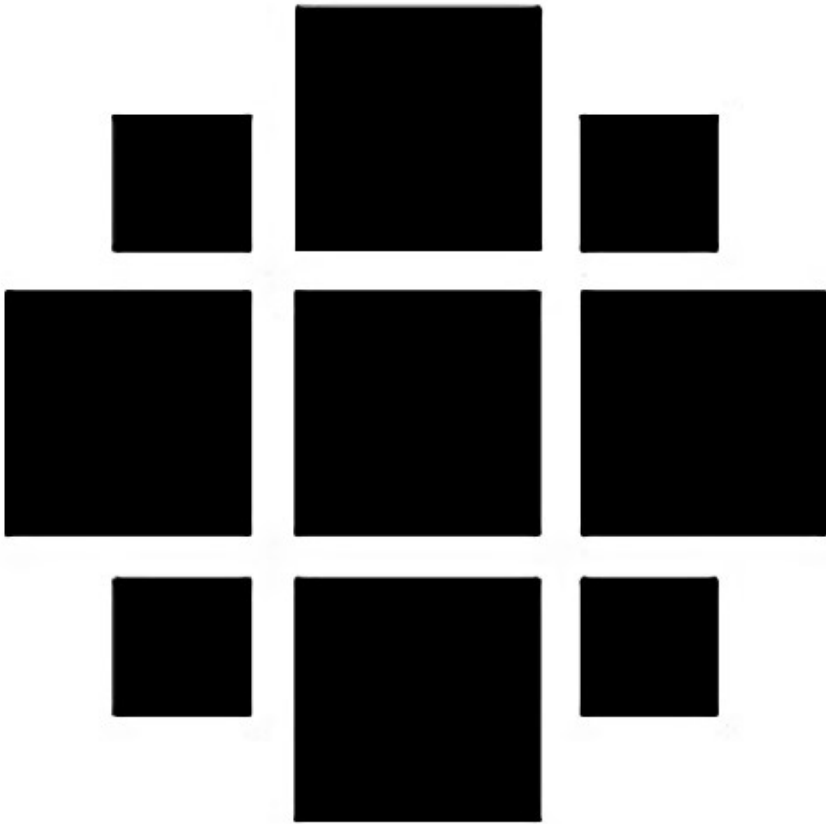


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
October 29, 2023



*An open community united in love and justice*

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

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PRELUDE

Mi Ran Choi, cello

*Prelude from Cello Suite no. 2 in D minor by J. S. Bach*

WELCOME

Alicia Reese

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Macaulay

O God, we ask for your presence this day.

**Brush against us when we least expect it.**

Touch us with your Spirit.

**Jolt our lives to turn and look at You once more.**

Take us by the shoulders and shake us awake to your incredible truth.

**We are Your people, and You are our God.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE – *litany attributed to Mother Teresa*

Lead us from the unreal to the real,

**Lead us from death to life,**

Lead us from ignorance to wisdom,

**From falsehood to truth.**

Lead us from despair to hope,

**From fear to trust.**

Lead us from hate to love,

**From war to peace.**

Let peace fill our hearts,

**Let peace fill our world.**

**Peace, peace, peace.**

May the peace of God be with you.

**And also with you.**

\*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir  
& Congregation

*Praise Ye the Lord* (Blue hymnal no. 482)

**Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, / Now to His temple draw near;  
Join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen / How thy desires e'er have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
Let the amen / Sound from His people again;  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Susan Macaulay

*(Adapted from "Look at Our Brokenness," a prayer from the Ojibwa,  
indigenous peoples of Ontario)*

**Sacred One, look at our brokenness. We know that in all creation only the  
human family has strayed from the Sacred Way.  
We know that we are the ones who are divided and we are the ones who  
must come back together to walk in the Sacred Way.  
Grandfather, Sacred One, teach us love, compassion, and honor, that we  
may heal the earth and heal each other. . .**

*Time for Silent Prayer*

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Our God is always ready to respond to us with love and forgiveness when we are able to set aside our pride or arrogance or fear and lean into humility and vulnerability, to seek forgiveness and reconciliation with our God. *Sola gratia*, by grace alone, we are forgiven and made whole.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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

Alicia Reese

\*SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Sanctuary Choir  
& Congregation

*Jesus, Priceless Treasure* (Blue hymnal no. 365)

**Jesus, priceless treasure, / Source of purest pleasure, / Truest friend to me;  
Long my heart hath panted, / Till it well-nigh fainted, / Thirsting after Thee.  
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb, / I will suffer nought to hide Thee,**

Ask for nought beside Thee.

In Thine arm I rest me; / Foes who would oppress me / Cannot reach me here.  
Though the earth be shaking, / Every heart be quaking, / God dispels our fear;  
Sin and hell in conflict fell / With their heaviest storms assail us:  
Jesus will not fail us.

Hence, all thoughts of sadness! / For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in:  
Those who love the Father, / Though the storms may gather, / Still have peace  
within;  
Yea whate'er we here must bear, / Still in Thee lies purest pleasure,  
Jesus, priceless treasure!

SCRIPTURE READING – GENESIS 6:9-22

Susan Macaulay

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

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON – A SHELTER FROM THE STORM

Dirk Labuschagne

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

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NEXT BEGINS NOW! CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

John Lurain

CALL TO THE OFFERING – *adapted prayer by Ann Weems*

Alicia Reese

OFFERTORY

Austin Hosty, flute

*Petite gavotte* by G. F. Handel

\*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

Dirk Labuschagne

**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**

Sanctuary Choir  
& Congregation

*Take My Life* (Blue hymnal no. 391)

**Take my life, and let it be / Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.**

**Take my moments and my days; / Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move / At the impulse of Thy love.**

**Take my feet, and let them be / Swift and beautiful for Thee,  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing, / Always, only, for my King.**

**Take my lips, and let them be / Filled with messages from Thee,  
Filled with messages from Thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold, / Not a mite would I withhold;**

**Take my intellect, and use / Every power as Thou shalt choose,  
Every power as Thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will, and make it Thine; / It shall be no longer mine.**

**Take my heart, it is Thine own; / It shall be Thy royal throne,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour / At Thy feet its treasure store.**

**Take myself, and I will be / Ever, only, all for Thee,  
Ever, only, all for Thee.**

\*BLESSING

Dirk Labuschagne

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Fivefold Amen*

**Amen!**

Sanctuary Choir  
& Congregation

POSTLUDE

*Toccatina and Fugue in D minor* by J. S. Bach

Bobby Nguyen

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## 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.*

About Dirk Labuschagne, Our Guest Preacher

Dirk is originally from Pretoria, South Africa where he completed a Bachelor's Degree in theology before moving to the U.S. in 2010. He graduated in 2014 from McCormick Theological Seminary with his Master of Divinity and was ordained in the PC(USA) in 2017 here at First United! He is currently serving as a chaplain at RUSH and is a FUSH advisor.

Trick or Treat!

Ready for some fun? Trick or Treating throughout the church today after worship!

All Saints Worship Next Sunday

Next Sunday we observe All Saints, where we honor our loved ones and friends who have passed away. Please note that we will celebrate communion on November 12 this month.

Fall Back on Saturday

We LOVE it when you are early to church, but you don't want to be too early. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before bed on Saturday, November 4.

Serving Breakfast to Nuestros Vecinos

On Friday, November 3, First United will provide breakfast to the Venezuelan asylum-seekers living at the 15<sup>th</sup> District Police Station. Use the QR code to sign up to serve and/or donate food. Questions? Reach out to Tara Dull ([tdull@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tdull@sbcglobal.net)).



New Speaker Series Next Week: Chicago's Migration Crisis and Response

Next Sunday, Adult Ed begins a 2-part series on Chicago's migration crisis and our response. Asylum seekers from Venezuela will tell their migration stories in traveling from Venezuela to Chicago where they were provided temporary housing in Chicago's Austin Police Station.

# 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.

## LEARNING MORE ABOUT FIRST UNITED

Interested in learning more about First United Church? Look for members wearing gold buttons, talk to Pastor Lydia, or join us for a Newcomers class held three times per year. Next class to be held late winter or early spring.

## 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 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 are Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., September through May. 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 p.m. here at the church, September through mid-May. Contact Alicia Reese ([areese@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:areese@firstunitedoakpark.com)) for more information.



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

*an open community united in love & justice*

www.firstunitedoakpark.com | facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark

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

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