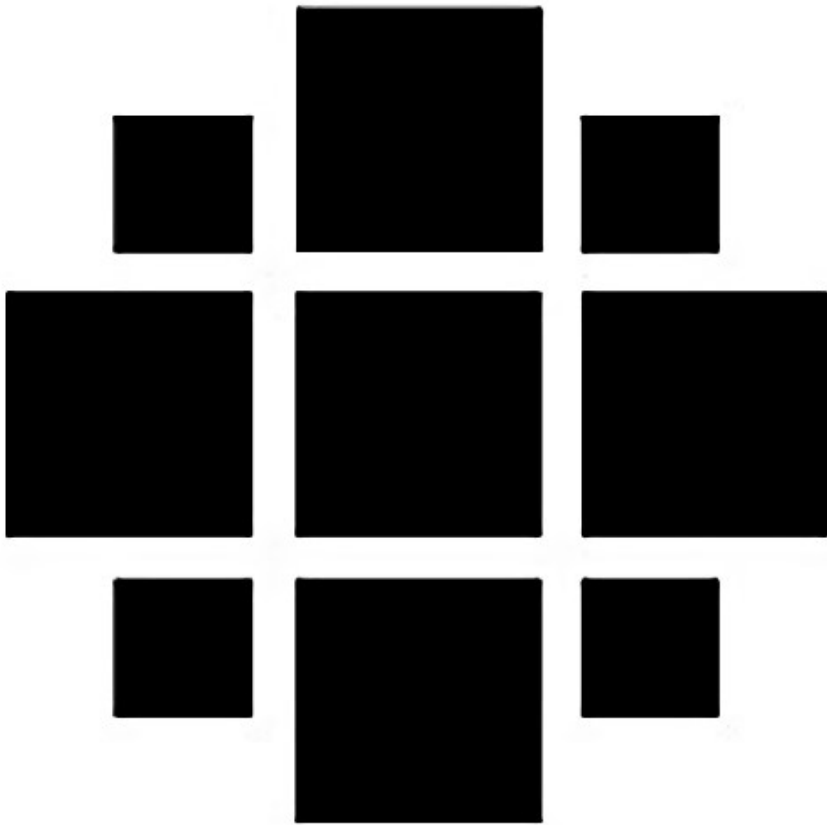


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
November 12, 2023



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Aria from Goldberg Variations by J. S. Bach

WELCOME

Alicia Reese

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leah Pollock

We will not stop loving each other.

We will not become hard-hearted.

We will not stop weeping for each other.

We will not stop lighting candles, telling stories, writing poems, singing songs.

We will not stop marching, disobeying, boycotting, resisting.

We will not stop telling the stories of the dead.

We will not stop fighting for the living.

We will not stop loving each other.

No matter the sinister untruths to sway us otherwise,

we will find our way back to one another.

We will not stop loving each other.

Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us

(tune: Wachet auf)

**"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us;
the shout of rampart guards surrounds us.**

"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"

**Midnight's peace their cry has broken,
their urgent summons clearly spoken:**

"The time has come, O maidens wise!

Rise up, and give us light;

the Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!

Your lamps prepare and hasten there,

that you in the wedding feast may share."

Zion hears the watchmen singing;
her heart with joyful hope is springing;
she wakes and hurries through the night.
Forth he comes, her Bridegroom glorious
in strength of grace, in truth victorious:
her star is risen, her light grows bright.
Now come, most worthy Lord,
God's Son, incarnate Word, Alleluia!
We follow all and heed your call
To come into the banquet hall.

Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;
let saints and angels sing before you,
as harps and cymbals swell the sound.
Twelve great pearls, the city's portals:
through them we stream to join the immortals
as we with joy your throne surround.
No eye has known the sight,
no ear heard such delight: Alleluia!
Therefore we sing to greet our King;
for ever let our praises ring.

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

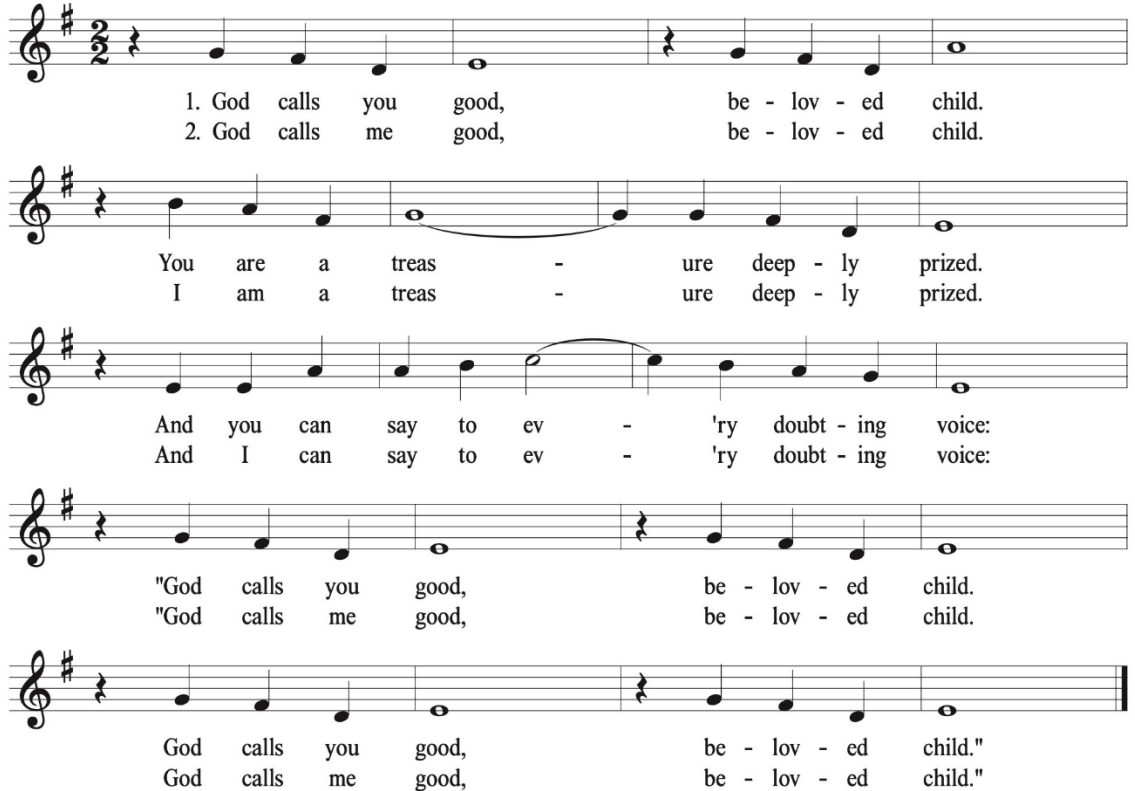
Leah Pollock

We really would prefer it, Jesus, if the big problems of our world could be resolved quickly. We grow weary of working for your realm. We know that in the grand scheme of your eternity, a lifetime is not so long, but we struggle. We pray that you would help us to stay faithful to the people of our neighborhood and city, who need us to be good citizens, and conscientious justice seekers; to the people of our nation, who need our constant prayers, and our commitment to participate in political, economic and social systems; to the people of the world, who need us to embrace them and care for them, even though it may offer us no benefit. Teach us the love that stays faithful for the long haul, Jesus, the persistence that will not give up, and the grace to trust your faithfulness, even when we cannot see results.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

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

BAPTISM OF INGRID MAGNUSON

Lydia Mulkey

CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT

In this act of surpassing grace, we witness the power of God. In baptism, we become newly aware of God's abundant love and mercy. God calls each of us wherever we are, whoever we are, to share in the joy of God's presence in a community of faith. As people who strive to follow Jesus Christ more closely each day, we welcome you, Ingrid, to our common journey. Trusting God, we offer you our support and care.

*SONG OF ILLUMINATION

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and burning (Black hymnal no. 369)

**Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for this work's almost done.**

Refrain:

**Sisters, don't grow weary, brothers, don't grow weary,
children, don't grow weary, for this work's almost done.**

It's our faith makes us happy. . . . R/

We are climbing Jacob's ladder. . . . R/

Every round goes higher, higher. . . . R/

SCRIPTURE READING – MATTHEW 25:1-13

Leah Pollock

SERMON – BURNING LOVE

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

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Alicia Reese

COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

Sanctuary Choir

Midnight Cry

When the midnight cry began, o what lamentation,
Thousands sleeping in their sins neglecting their salvation.
Lo, the bridegroom is at hand, who will kindly treat him?
Surely all the waiting band will go forth to meet him.

Some indeed did wait awhile and shone without a rival,

But they spent their seeming oil long since the last revival.
Many souls who thought they'd light, o when the scene was closed,
Now against the Bridegroom fight, and so they stand opposed.

While the wise are passing by with all their lamps prepared,
Give us of your oil, they cry, if any can be spared.
Others trimmed their former snuff, o is it not amazing!
Those conclude they've light enough and think their lamps are blazing.

Foolish virgins! do you think your bridegroom's a deceiver?
Then may you pass your lives away and think to sleep forever;
But we by faith do see his face, on whom we have believed;
If there's deception in the case, 'tis you who are deceived.

Dying sinners, will you come, the saviour now invites you,
His bleeding wounds proclaim there's room, let nothing then affright you.
Room for you and room for me, and room for coming sinners;
Salvation pours a living stream for you and all believers.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*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

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers (Blue hymnal no. 15)

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, / And let your lights appear;

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

**The evening is advancing / And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising / And soon He will draw nigh;
Up, watch with expectation, / At midnight comes the cry.**

**See that your lamps are burning, / Replenish them with oil;
Look now for your salvation, / The end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting, / The gates wide open stand;
Arise, O heirs of glory, / The Bridegroom is at hand!**

**Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, Thou sun so longed for, / Above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, / We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption, / And ever be with Thee!**

***BLESSING**

Lydia Mulkey

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Fivefold Amen

Amen!

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

POSTLUDE

Sonata in G Major by Domenico Cimarosa

Bobby Nguyen

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 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