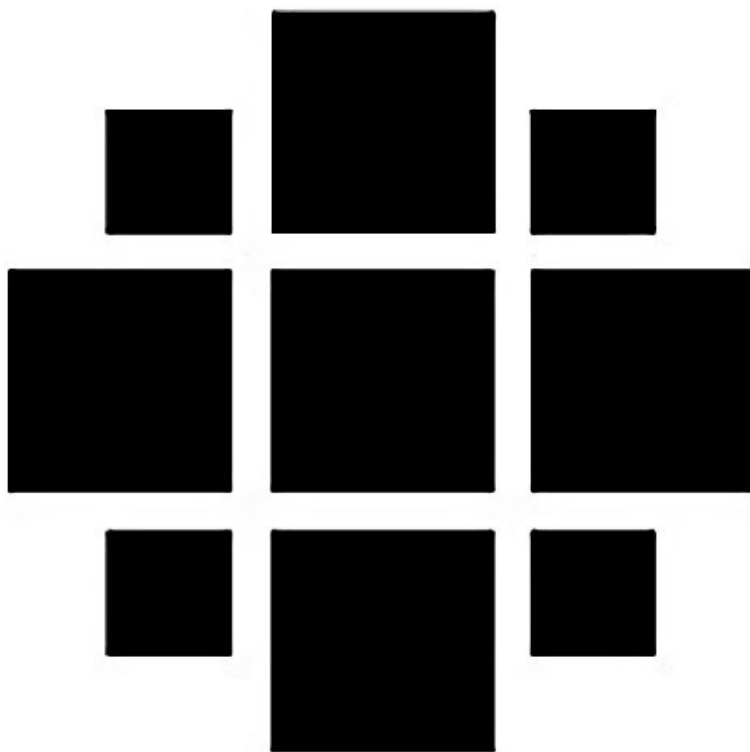


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

February 18, 2024



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Arioso by J. S. Bach, arr. by E. Power Biggs

WELCOME

Pastor Phil Price

MISSION MOMENT

Maya Puentes

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Lydia Mulkey

The journey of faith is a pathway of increasing trust not a highway of increasing certainty.

The journey of faith is a journey where curiosity, awe and humility are our closest companions, and we must leave behind the need to be right and the compulsion to win.

The journey of faith is the movement toward the joy of deep connection with others rather than the momentary high of victory over another.

In worship we hear a call to continue our journey together toward the light.

Let us worship God!

*PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir

We Limit Not the Truth of God

& Congregation

(Black hymnal no. 316; tune: *Forest Green*, Black hymnal no. 110)

**We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,
to notions of our day and place, crude, partial, and confined;
No, let a new and better hope within our hearts be stirred:
O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.**

**Who dares to bind to one's own sense the oracles of heaven,
for all the nations, tongues, and climes and all the ages given?**

**That universe, how much unknown! That ocean unexplored!
O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.**

**Eternal God, Incarnate Word, Spirit of flame and dove:
enlarge, expand all living souls to comprehend your love;
And help us all to seek your will with wiser powers conferred:
O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Pastor Phil Price

As we go into desert places of temptation, be with us O God. May the times of challenge and questioning be the times we become stronger and more resilient. May the times we feel alone be those times we discover that you are with us. May the times we feel lost be the times we discover how we are found. Amen.

Time for Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

The journey toward the light often leads through wildernesses. Even in the wilderness, times of testing, times when we must do the work of figuring it out, we are not alone. We have each other, and together we find the way toward the light that guides us and inspires us.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Give Me a Clean Heart (Black hymnal no. 188)

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.

God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.

For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.

Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

Pastor Phil Price

*HYMN OF ILLUMINATION

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Adoro te devote (Black hymnal no. 339, vv. 1 & 3)

Truth whom we adore though hidden you may be,

Underneath these forms lies your reality;

**To know you completely my heart seeks in vain;
Thus, my Sovereign, I give all unto your reign.**

**Jesus, now but dimly we behold your grace;
We await the day when you reveal your face;
Then unveiled to us your splendor we may see—
Blessed, to view your glory in humility.**

SCRIPTURE READING – MARK 1:9-15; JOB 32:3, 11-12

SERMON – THINK. . .

Pastor Phil Price

MEDITATION ON THE PRACTICE

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Pastor Phil Price

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sanctuary Choir

Call to Remembrance by Richard Farrant

Call to remembrance, O Lord,

Thy tender mercy and Thy loving kindness,

Which hath been ever of old.

O remember not the sins and offenses of my youth,

But according to Thy mercy,

Think Thou on me, O Lord, for Thy goodness.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Lydia Mulkey

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

INVITATION TO JOIN THE CIRCLE

Pastor Lydia Mulkey

*CLOSING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

O Grant Us Light (Black hymnal no. 469;
tune: *Duke Street*, Black hymnal no. 300)

**O grant us light, that we may know wisdom that you alone can give,
That truth may guide us as we go, and virtue bless the lives we live.**

**O grant us light that we may find where error lurks in human lore,
And turn to you our seeking minds, and love your holy Word the more.**

**O grant us light, that we may learn how dead is life from you apart,
How sure is joy for all who turn to you an undivided heart.**

**O grant us light, when soon or late, all earthly scenes shall pass away,
In you to find the open gate, to deathless home and endless day.**

*BLESSING

Pastor Phil Price

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos' (Black hymnal no. 526)

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, Oo, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, Oo, we are marching in the light of God.

POSTLUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Fantasy from Suite No. 1 for Organ by Florence Price

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.

Share How You Are Embracing Spiritual Practices This Lent

Watch the First United Facebook page for questions and prompts about how you might embrace different spiritual practices this Lenten season. We invite you to share your experiences in the comments. If you haven't already, please visit facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark and follow us! Next week, Pastor Lydia will preach on how doing justice is a spiritual practice.

"The Great Migration and the Transformation of the Urban Experience" with Stan Faust Next Sunday

Adult Ed presents "The Great Migration and the Transformation of the Urban Experience" with Stan Faust. One of the largest movements of people in US history, the Great Migration (1910s-1970s) brought around six million Black people from the rural South to the urban North. Hear about the migration especially as it applies to Chicago. Faust teaches history at OPRF High School and is a member of First United.

Newcomer's Continues Next Week

Meet in the Chapel at 9:45 for the second of three sessions. Learn about the spiritual roots of First United. Missed the first session? It's not too late to join. RSVP to Pastor Lydia (lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com)

Prime Time Potluck, February 22

Beat the February blahs with a Prime Time potluck in Centennial Hall at 1 p.m. Thursday, February 22. Bring a dish to share: a main dish, a side dish or salad, or a dessert. RSVP to Janet Haisman (jhaisman59@gmail.com) by Monday, Feb. 19.

Dinner & a Movie, March 1

Mark your calendars because Dinner & a Movie is moving up a week in March. Join us on March 1 for a showing of "Past Lives." More movie information and complete sign-up details coming in this week's eblast!

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. **The next classes will be held February 25 and March 3 at 9:45 a.m. in the Chapel.**

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 Lydia Mulkey (lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com) for more information.



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www.firstunitedoakpark.com | facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark

Interim Lead Pastor: Phil Price – pprice@firstunitedoakpark.com

Associate Pastor for Education: Lydia Mulkey – lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com