

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

February 25, 2024



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Blessed are you as you learn to trust, trust a God who hears, who listens, who hasn't left your side, who prays on your behalf, interpreting those deep groans you can't quite put into syllables or sounds. – Kate Bowler

PRELUDE

Michael Surratt

Benedictus, Opus 59 no.9 by Max Reger

WELCOME

Pastor Lydia Mulkey

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Macaulay

Through prayer and practice, we pursue what is just, what is true, what is kind.

With each new day, we hope for Love to lead us.

With discernment, we wade bravely into the struggles of life together.

We yearn for wisdom that satisfies.

Persistently, faithfully, relentlessly, we keep our gaze set upon righteousness.

Determined in hope, may the Holy be our firm foundation.

*PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir

Not My Brother nor My Sister (Black hymnal no. 519)

& Congregation

Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer;

Not my brother, nor my sister, but it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.

Refrain: It's me, it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.

Not the preacher, nor the deacon, but it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer;. . .

Not my father, nor my mother, but it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer; . . .

Not the stranger, nor my neighbor, but it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer; . . .

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Pastor Phil Price

God of Redemption, by your grace we learn to perceive differently. Where we once justified our complicity with evil, you set us on a new path. With humility, we come to you in prayer. We keep seeking to understand your truths more deeply; to refine our love; to release all that keeps us from the great re-ordering of things, and the Kin-dom come on earth.

Time for Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

God has heard your prayer and knows your heart. God loves you now. God has always loved you. God will always love you. God's forgiveness is yours.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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 Lydia Mulkey

*HYMN OF ILLUMINATION

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Over My Head (Black hymnal no. 514)

Over my head I hear music in the air.

Over my head I hear music in the air.

**Over my head I hear music in the air,
there must be a God somewhere.**

Over my head I hear singing in the air. . . .

Over my head I see trouble in the air. . . .

Over my head I see Jesus in the air. . . .

SCRIPTURE READING – MATTHEW 6:5-13

Susan Macaulay

SERMON – PRAYER

Pastor Hailey Braden-Lynch

MEDITATION

The Worship Music & Arts Team

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING INVITATION

Pauline Coffman

Seraj Library

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Pastor Phil Price

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sanctuary Choir

A Lenten Prayer by Antonio Salieri

O only Hope of all below, You did the full reward to bestow.

If you will not, who shall condone? You can cleanse us, You alone.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Grant that we may pray aright. Purify us in your sight.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Phil Price

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Black hymnal no. 506)

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged; take it to our God in prayer!

Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to our God in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, burdened with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to our God in prayer!

Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to our God in prayer!

Jesus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

*BLESSING

Pastor Hailey Braden-Lynch

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

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

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

Michael Surratt

Toccata in d minor, Op. 59 no. 5 by Max Reger

OUR GUEST PREACHER

Hailey Braden-Lynch has been an ordained minister in the PC(USA) since 2011. She first served as the Associate Pastor for Children at First Presbyterian Church in Pensacola, Florida before she and her husband, Ben, accepted a call to co-pastor Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church here in Oak Park. She was a member of the Community of Congregations' board from 2019-2024 and loves living in this village with Ben and their two children, Asher and Junia.

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!

Environmental Stewardship; Environmental Justice Next Week

Next week marks the beginning of a five-week series featuring leaders in Chicago-area environmental stewardship and justice work. We begin with an exploration of the equity challenges and needs in stewardship of the greater Chicago tree canopy, and ongoing work to create a more diverse urban forest with Trinity Pierce and a crash course on the study of Chicago's ecology, including the ways ecosystems and humans can ultimately be good for each other with Wyatt Widmer.

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." Dinner at 6 p.m. (\$5 donation); movie to follow. RSVP using the link in the eblast or by emailing Ron Haas (haas.inchicago@gmail.com)

Resettlement Task Force Homegoods Donation Drop Off , March 4

As the Oak Park Resettlement Task Force works toward stabilizing migrant families into apartments, household goods are needed. Drop off home goods on Monday, March 4 from 6-8 p.m. at Boulevard Presbyterian Church (607 Harvard Ave, Oak Park). Parking is available on Harvard in front of the church. Accepting kitchen items, small furniture, bedding, cleaning supplies. No clothing please. For more information, contact Tara Dull at tdull@sbcbglobal.net.

Maundy Thursday Planning Is Underway!

Maundy Thursday is March 28 and planning is underway. As is our tradition, we will start our worship with a simple meal gathered around tables in Centennial Hall before processing through the tunnels to the sanctuary for a Tenebrae service. We invite you to help make this service a wonderful experience for all. Please use the QR code to sign up for bread-baking, set up or clean up shifts, or to host a table.



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



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

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