

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

March 17, 2024



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.

– Maya Angelou

PRELUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Prière à Notre Dame by Léon Böellmann

WELCOME

Pastor Phil Price

In-person worshippers, please sign and pass the black Connections pad. Online worshippers, please sign the virtual pew pad found in the video description.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE LEGACY GIFT

Nick Gilha

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Joanne Despotes

Liberating God, we assemble ourselves for worship in the witness and the work of the midwives Shiphrah and Puah. You call us to act together through faithful stewardship of our gifts. We offer everything we have and everything we are.

We accept the call to be stewards of liberation!

Liberating God, we commit to the inaugural acts of liberation in our time and place. We will risk being wrong. We will risk being misunderstood. We will risk new acts of resistance and rebellion.

We accept the call to be stewards of liberation!

*PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*OPENING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Take My Gifts (Black hymnal no. 562)

**Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!**

**Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,**

**spiced with humor, laced with laughter—flavor of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.**

**Take whatever I can offer—gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.**

MUSICAL PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Prayer Litany by Helen Kemp

text by St. Francis of Assisi, 1181-1226
& St. Richard of Chichester, 1197-1253

Church School,
Marilee Castañeda, Director
& Ricardo Castañeda, oboe

Lord, make me an instrument,
Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,
of thy peace day by day.

Lord, make me an instrument,
Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,
of thy peace day by day.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
and where there is despair, may I sow hope, hope, hope, hope.

Lord, make me an instrument,
Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,
of thy peace day by day.

Where there is darkness, let me sow light,
and where there is sadness, may I sow joy, joy, joy, joy!

Lord, make me an instrument,
Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,
of thy peace day by day.

Let me sow love, hope, light, joy!

INVITATION TO CHILDREN & NEW MEMBERS TO COME FORWARD

MUSICAL RESPONSE

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

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

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

NEW MEMBERS

Jaymi Raad, Keely & Paul Tyson, Devin & Laney McDougal with their son, Dylan, & Debbie & Steve Nickles

COMMUNITY COVENANT

We welcome you into this community and promise to journey together with you in faith. We offer ourselves as siblings in Christ, committing ourselves to care for one another. We offer ourselves as partners in ministry and mission, working to further God's work everywhere. We offer ourselves as companions, joining each other as the Body of Christ, growing together in Christian faith and practice. By God's grace we share this covenant in the name of Jesus Christ who calls us to gather in God's name.

*HYMN OF ILLUMINATION

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land (Black hymnal no. 572)

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

When Israel was in Egypt's land, / Let my people go,

Oppressed so hard they could not stand, / Let my people go.

***Refrain:* Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land**

Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.

No more in bondage shall they toil, / Let my people go,

Nor spill their blood on Egypt's soil, / Let my people go. R/

Oh, let us all from bondage flee, / Let my people go,

And let us all in Christ be free, / Let my people go. R/

SCRIPTURE READING – EXODUS 1:15-22

Joanne Despotes

MEDITATION

Worship, Music & Arts Team

How is my stewardship helping me resist despair? How is my stewardship helping me to experience greater freedom?

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONIAL

Caden Eckert

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Pastor Phil Price

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sanctuary Choir

Kwake Yesu Nasimama, arr. by Greg Scheer

Here on Jesus Christ I will stand. He's the solid rock of my life.

He's the solid rock of my life. He's the solid rock of my life.

There's no other place I can hide till the storm that rages subsides.

My voice cries to God from the flood, and I'm saved because of his blood.

It is not the work of my hands that has washed away all my sins.

I'm redeemed, and all of my days,

Jesus Christ will be my heart's praise.

When my days on this earth are done, and I stand at God's holy throne,

My heart will not have any fear; in Christ's righteousness I am here.

DOXOLOGY

Sanctuary Choir

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

& Congregation

(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

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

*CLOSING HYMN

Sanctuary Choir
& Congregation

Lead Us from Death to Life (Black hymnal no. 581)

***Refrain:* Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
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, let peace fill our universe.

**Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,
still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.**

**Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,
come and teach us your way of compassion. R/**

**So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives, /
longing for love to break into their anguish.
Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,
come and teach us your way of compassion. R/**

**Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,
let us begin to grow into your people.
We can be love, we can bring peace,
we can still be your way of compassion. R/**

*BLESSING

Pastor Colin Knapp

*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

Bobby Nguyen

Toccata by Léon Böellmann

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.

Our Guest Preacher, Colin Knapp

Colin is the Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church and is ordained in the United Church of Christ. He also serves as the current President of the Community of Congregations. He grew up in a bed and breakfast that his family owned in central Illinois. A graduate of Duke Divinity School, Colin previously served in churches in Illinois and North Carolina. Colin longs for all people to know God's love and wants to help people put their faith into action.

Adult Ed: Environmental Justice Takes Center Stage Next Sunday

Join Adult Ed in Centennial Hall next week as Pulitzer-finalist investigative reporter Michael Hawthorne presents "Environmental Quality in Chicago: Challenges and Opportunities. We get started at 9:30 a.m.

Messy Church Next Week

Church School kids should report to the gym for Church School on March 24 for messy projects and fun! After we're finished, we'll come down to the sanctuary together in time for the palm processional.

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper and Tenebrae Service, March 28

Gather in Centennial Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 28 for Maundy Thursday worship. We begin with a soup supper and then process to the Sanctuary for a Tenebrae service that begins at 8 p.m. If you can help with prep for our Soup Supper, host a table, or join the clean-up crew, please see the link in the eblast to sign up.

Easter Weekend Updates

- Please note that Adult Ed and Church School programs will not meet on Easter Sunday, March 31.
- The Church will be closed on Easter Monday, April 1 for a staff holiday

Save the Date: Consecration Sunday is April 14

On April 14, we gather to present our annual pledge cards for this year's Stewardship Campaign. Immediately following worship, we'll head to Centennial Hall for an old-fashioned potluck to celebrate our gifts to First United.

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 closer to summer.

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