

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

July 20, 2025



Living God's All-Inclusive Love

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Aria from Goldberg Variations by J. S. Bach

WELCOME

Pastor Phil Price

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Keely Tyson

The journey of faith is not toward increasing certainty. It is toward increasing trust.

The journey of faith is not solid and safe and rational. It requires the courage to leap off cliffs and to trust our wings.

The journey of faith is not toward acquiring ever more power and prestige. It is a journey into generosity and service.

The journey of faith does not require us to conquer the world, but rather to die to its values and priorities.

We are on the journey of increasing faith. Let us worship God!

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

O For a World (Black hymnal no. 575)

**O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.**

**The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.**

**O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Pastor Phil

O God who ever calls us to live in your Realm, be with us in this time of reflection and awareness. Fill us with your Spirit so that we can empty ourselves of unhealthy attachments to things of little value. May we be so captured with your message of good news that we turn from practices that result in disparity and hardship. As we hold on to stories that reveal your love for all people, may we find the courage to participate in your loving of this world. Amen.

Time for silent prayer.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Beloved of God, hear the Good News. God has always loved you. God loves you still. God will love you forever more. **Thanks be to God!**

INVITATION TO THE CHILDREN

Pastor Lydia Mulkey

MUSICAL RESPONSE

This Little Light of Mine (Black hymnal no. 524 v.1) (x2)

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (x3)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

Pastor Lydia

*HYMN OF ILLUMINATION

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 here 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.

SCRIPTURE READING – AMOS 8:1-12

Keely Tyson

SERMON – WHAT DO YOU SEE . . .

Pastor Phil

*SERMON RESPONSE

Teach Us Your Ways

Teach us Your ways, teach us Your ways/As we learn from one another

Learn to love each other/Teach us Your ways.

Hallelujah, hallelujah/Let us learn from one another

Learn to love each other/Teach us Your ways.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Pastor Phil

OFFERTORY

Bobby Nguyen & Sally Sloane

En bateau from Petite Suite by Claude Debussy

*DOXOLOGY

**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 Lydia

**Our Creator, our Mother, and 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 & SERVICE

*CLOSING HYMN

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/

INVITATION TO JOIN THE CIRCLE

Pastor Lydia

*BLESSING

Pastor Phil

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace, go now in peace

May the love of God surround you

Everywhere, everywhere you may go.

POSTLUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Jazz Fantasy on Mozart by Fazil Say

EVENTS AND UPDATES

Below is a sampling of the news and events at First United. We invite you to subscribe to receive our monthly “Messenger Bell” newsletter and our weekly “News & Events” eblast by visiting firstunitedoakpark.com.

Annual Congregational Meeting, August 3

Please stay after worship on Sunday, August 3, for the Annual Congregational Meeting when we will receive reports on the past year from our various teams. The written annual report will be available in the eblast before the meeting and printed copies will be available on the day of. We will meet in the Sanctuary after worship and will begin as soon as we have a quorum.

Did You Miss It? Chicago Sky Game on August 3

We had a great time at the Chicago Sky game! But don't worry if you missed it, there's still one more game available. A crew from First United will attend the August 3 Chicago Sky game against the Phoenix Mercury. We'll meet at First United at 3:30 p.m. and then carpool together to Wintrust Arena for the 5 p.m. game. Use the QR code to get more information and reserve your tickets.



Assistive Listening Survey

The Tech Task Force is evaluating the assistive listening technology at First United and investigating potential improvements. If you are a hearing aid user, please take a moment to stop by the Welcome Desk and fill out a brief survey. Completed surveys can be left at the desk or placed in Heather's mailbox (lower left-hand mailbox in the staff office area).

WELCOME TO FIRST UNITED!

We are a union church of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ, dedicated to sharing Christ's radically inclusive love. We welcome all, regardless of who you love, where you've come from, what religious background you have, or where you are on your faith journey. As a More Light/Open and Affirming congregation, we are committed to the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in membership and 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. Contact Lydia Mulkey (lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com).

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 at 9:45 a.m. September through May.

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).

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Our Sanctuary Choir leads worship September through May. Rehearsals on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the season. Contact Sally Sloane (ssloane@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).



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www.firstunitedoakpark.com | facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark | 708-386-5215

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

Associate Pastor: Lydia Mulkey – lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com