

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

November 9, 2025



Living God's All-Inclusive Love

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Cortège from Petite Suite by Claude Debussy

Sally Sloane &
Bobby Nguyen

WELCOME

Pastor Phil Price

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Alec Parker

We gather to worship;

To allow ourselves to be baptized in awe, to be filled with wonder and to drink of the still waters of truth.

We gather to worship;

To hear good news, to see new possibilities, to reach for justice, and to courageously stand for mercy. Let us worship God!

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

This Is a Day of New Beginnings (Black hymnal no. 417, vv. 1-3 & * alt.)

**This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.**

**For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
Can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.**

**Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind
Our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.**

**In faith we'll gather 'round the table to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings our God is making all things new.**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Pastor Phil

Oh God of all time and space, be with us in this time and space. When we are tempted to hide and live small, fill us with boldness and courage. When our minds are clouded with mistruths and outright lies, give us wisdom and discernment. When we are

Discouraged and complacent, fill us with the fire of passion and urgency. Fill us to overflowing with compassion, so that kindness spills from us like a mountain stream. Amen.

Time for silent prayer

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

We are loved. We are forgiven. We are healed. We are fed. As loved, forgiven, healed, and fed people, we are sent into the world to do the work of love. May God be with us.

INVITATION TO THE CHILDREN

Pastor Lydia Mulkey

MUSICAL RESPONSE

This Little Light of Mine

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 - BIBLE PRESENTATION

Pastor Lydia

Members of First United, when a child is baptized, we promise to live in a way that enables them to grow among us in the knowledge and love of God. We also promise to support parents and guardians in their efforts to guide their children in the way of Jesus. Are you willing to renew this promise to the children and parents standing before you?

Yes, we renew our promise to support these families

*HYMN OF ILLUMINATION

Great Spirit God (Black Hymnal no. 341 vv. 1, 2, 4 & 5)

Great Spirit God, the things which are yours are numerous and great.

The heavens above you set in their place, and the earth received its form by your hands.

The ocean depths respond to your will, for you can do all things.

Your will, mysterious and so strong, brings growth to all the earth.

Food for our souls and clothing to wear, are like your cup that blesses and fills.

Provide for us each day of our lives sufficient for our needs.

That day you came to dwell on the earth, bringing us all great joy!

The nations scattered over the world, to them you gave the light of all life.

O Jesus, O Compassionate One, we offer praise to you.

Your sacrament entrusted to us, Jesus, now share with me.

Your bread of life and drink for our souls, which you have offered, purify now.

Sanctify minds and bodies to you; restore us by your love.

SCRIPTURE READING – 2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17

SERMON – WORK AND WORD . . .

Pastor Phil

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Pastor Lydia

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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING AND COMMUNION

Pastor Lydia

Members of the Personnel Team and Men’s Breakfast serve communion this month.

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary Choir

Jesu, Joy of Heart's Desiring by J.S. Bach

Jesu, joy of heart's desiring, Holy wisdom, Love most bright.

Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring, Soar to uncreated light.

Word of God our flesh that fashion'd with the fire of life impassion'd

Striving still to Truth unknown, Soaring dying, round Thy throne.

Through the way where Hope is guiding, Hark what peaceful music rings,

Where the flock in Thee confiding, Drink the joy from deathless springs.

Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure, Theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.

Thou dost ever lead Thine own, In the love of joys unknown.

*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 Phil

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

Lord, Make Me More Holy (Black hymnal no. 75)

Lord, make me more holy,

Lord, make me more holy,

Lord, make me more holy, until we meet again.

Holy, holy, holy until we meet again.

Lord, make me more faithful,

Lord, make me more faithful,

Lord, make me more faithful, until we meet again.

Faithful, faithful, faithful until we meet again.

Lord, make me more humble

Lord, make me more humble,

**Lord, make me more humble, until we meet again.
Humble, humble, humble until we meet again.**

**Lord, make me more righteous,
Lord, make me more righteous,
Lord, make me more righteous, until we meet again.
Righteous, righteous, righteous until we meet again.**

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

Grand Jeu avec le Tonnerre by Michel Corrette

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.

Welcome New Members

Today in worship, we welcome the following individuals into full membership in First United: Paula Baker, Patrick Bracco, Bennie Cade, Daniel Colley, Mary Colley, Eric Samore. Please take a moment to introduce yourself if you have not already done so!

Holiday Food & Gift Basket Starts Today

First United is once again participating in the Community of Congregations' Holiday Food and Gift Basket program. Look for Sue or Shannon Saliny in the lounge before and after worship starting this Sunday to pick up your names and shopping instructions. Gifts will be due back to the church by December 7.

Call to Special Congregational Meeting, November 16

Next Sunday is an exciting day in the life of First United! Join us at from 8:45-10 a.m. in Centennial Hall to meet Rev. Michael Jones, our candidate to be the next Settled Lead Pastor/Head of Staff at First United. Pastor Michael will preach in worship after which we will conduct a Special Congregational Meeting to vote on Pastor Michael's candidacy. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary after worship and will begin as soon as we have a quorum. After the meeting, we will have a celebratory lunch in Centennial Hall!

Adult Ed Next Week

The Adult Ed Speaker series on November 16 and 23 will focus on Native Americans and what we can learn from them about the natural world. Ruth McBeth will lead the discussion based on "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Kimmerer. Copies are available at local libraries. It is recommended but not necessary to read the book ahead of the sessions.

First United Supper Club, November 22

Enjoy cooking and eating with friends while being of service to our community at the next installment of First United Supper Club. After enjoying supper together, we deliver a meal to the Housing Forward Emergency Shelter. Your fee (\$30 per person) will cover your meal and a meal for five shelter guests. Use the QR code to register.



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 most Sundays and rehearses on Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the season and is welcoming new members! You don't have to commit to sing every week. Our Handbell Choir rings a few times per year and rehearses on Wednesday from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. 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).



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

Living God's All-Inclusive Love

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

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

Associate Pastor: Lydia Mulkey – lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com