



# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

Living God's All-Inclusive Love



## Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost

11:00 A.M., Sunday, September 20, 2026

# Service for the Worship of God

Prelude

Bobby Nguyen

*Improvisation by Nadia Boulanger*

Welcome

Rev. Michael Jones

\*Call To Worship

Patrick Bracco

Praise the God of all Creation.

**Worship the One who calls us—  
speaking with a different voice,  
offering an unexpected invitation.**

Celebrate the presence of our loving God.

**Rejoice, the realm of God is near.**

\*Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

\*Opening Hymn #70 (Black hymnal)

*God Is Here! As We Your People Meet*

Prayer for Wholeness

Michael Jones

**Sovereign and Loving God, we come to worship you, to know you and to be known by you. Expand our hearts to love fully. Build our courage to receive the truth. Like you showed the Prophet Jonah, reveal to us those people who are hardest for us to accept and love. Nurture our spirits to be gracious, merciful, and kind. Transform us in your image and for your glory as we dwell in your presence. In the name of Jesus, the Christ: Amen.**

Assurance of Love

Rev. Lydia Mulkey

The Holy One is faithful to forgive and extends grace and mercy lavishly. At the same time, God wants us all to be well and whole. The Holy One will strengthen us to be accountable to both God and one another as well as to do the work of restoration and repair. We are invited to consider who God is and all that God's love offers. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*\*Those who choose to do so may rise in body or spirit and sing.*

## Invitation to the Children & Time for Sharing Lydia Mulkey

*Siyahm' ekukhanyen' kwenkos'* (Black Hymnal #526)

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

## \*Hymn of Illumination #30 (Black hymnal)

*Colorful Creator*

## Scripture Reading

Patrick Bracco

Jonah 3:10-4:11, Red Pew Bible, p. 861

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Michael Jones

## Song of Response *God Calls You Good* by Paul M. Vasile

**God calls you good, beloved child. You are a treasure deeply prized.**

**And you can say to every doubting voice: "God calls you good, beloved child.**

**God calls you good, beloved child."**

**God calls me good, beloved child. I am a treasure deeply prized.**

**And I can say to every doubting voice: "God calls me good, beloved child.**

**God calls me good, beloved child."**

## Invitation to the Offering

Lydia Mulkey

*During the offering all are welcome to use the two center aisles to bring offerings to the offering plates and/or pink prayer cards to the basket at the front of the sanctuary on the communion table or at the back of the sanctuary on the table behind the center pew. Prayer requests will be read during the Prayers of the People. If you are unable to move to an offering plate, please ask a neighbor in the pew to take it or lift a hand, and we will make sure there is someone to bring it forward for you.*

## Offertory

Sanctuary Choir

*A Gaelic Blessing* by John Rutter

## \*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore:  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

## Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Lydia Mulkey

**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.**

## \*Closing Hymn #277 (Black hymnal)

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

## \*Blessing

Michael Jones

## \*Blessing Response

*Go Now in Peace (Sleeth)*

**Go now in peace, go now in peace. May the love of God surround you.  
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

## Postlude

Bobby Nguyen

*Toccata by Léon Boëllmann*



**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK**  
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848 Lake St. | Oak Park, IL 60305  
708-386-5215 | [firstunitedoakpark.com](http://firstunitedoakpark.com)

# Hymn Supplement: September 20, 2026

## Opening Hymn – God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;  
Here are table, font, and pulpit, here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,  
Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
Here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore  
What it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Sovereign God, of earth and heaven, in an age of change and doubt  
Keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out,  
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;  
We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

## Hymn of Illumination – *Colorful Creator*

Colorful Creator, God of mystery,  
Thank you for the artist teaching us to see glimpses of the meaning of the common place,  
Visions of the holy in each human face.

Harmony of ages, God of listening ear,  
Thank you for composers tuning us to hear echoes of the Gospel in the songs we sing,  
Sounds of love and longing from the deepest spring.

Author of our journey, God of near and far,  
Praise for tale and drama telling who we are, stripping to the essence struggles of our day,  
Times of change and conflict when we choose our way.

God of truth and beauty, Poet of the Word,  
May we be creators by the Spirit stirred, open to your presence in our joy and strife,  
Vessels of the holy coursing through our life.

[over for closing hymn]

## Closing Hymn – Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!

Early in the morning we praise your majesty.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! Saints adore you truly,

Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

Cherubim and seraphim bow before you only,

From the beginning, God eternally.

Holy, holy, holy, though we know but dimly,

Through the eyes of humankind your glory may not see,

You alone are holy, you alone are worthy,

Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty!

All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!



## 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. Visit our website to read our **land acknowledgment** and **open and affirming statement**.

### Learn more about First United Church

Look for members wearing gold buttons, talk to one of the pastors, and watch for the next Newcomers class.

### Worship Assistance

**Assistive Listening** - speak with a greeter to access to the assistive listening system.

**Large Print Bulletins** - available from our ushers.

**Transportation to Worship** - Call or email: 708-334-2512; ([FUCOP848@gmail.com](mailto:FUCOP848@gmail.com)).

**Adult Education** Bible Group and Speaker Series meet at 9:45 a.m. September through May. Watch the e-blast for other opportunities.

**Children In Worship & Our Nursery** We love to have children in worship! Enjoy the **Pray-Ground** throughout worship or take an activity bag to the pews. **Childcare** is available for children five and under in our nursery. Ask a greeter for directions.

**Church School** Church School is for children ages birth through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We tell stories of the Bible using a lens of love and justice with singing, praying, and creating. Church School meets Sundays at 9:45 a.m., September through May.

**Music Ministries** Interested in singing or ringing with our choirs? We rehearse on Wednesdays September through May. Contact Music Director Sally Sloane for more information.

**Youth Programs** The junior and senior high youth groups meet on Sunday evenings from 5 – 7 p.m. here at the church, September through mid-May.

## Today in Worship

**Today's Liturgist** Today's Liturgist Patrick Bracco grew up in Oak Park, met his wife Shannon Saliny and loves raising Will and Bennett. An avid golfer, Patrick is a sales leader for a golf-related technology company.

### Ways to Give

Your offering helps support the mission and ministry of First United Church. There are many ways to make your contribution:

- **In-Person** Place offerings in the offering plates, before or after worship, or during the Offertory.

- **Online** [www.firstunitedoakpark.com/give](http://www.firstunitedoakpark.com/give) or scan the QR Code

- **By Mail:** Mail checks to the church 848 Lake Street Oak Park, IL 60301.



Thank you for your generosity!

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**Call to Worship** adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu.

**Prayer for Wholeness and Assurance of Love** adapted from the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

**Song of Response** "God Calls You Good" ©2017 Paul Vasile [www.paulvasile.com](http://www.paulvasile.com).

## 'Sign Up for News From First United'

First United publishes a weekly eblast on Thursdays and a monthly electronic newsletter on the first Wednesday of each month. Use the QR code or email the office to join the list!



## TODAY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- **9:45 a.m.** - Adult Ed Speaker Series
- **9:45 a.m.** - Bible Group
- **9:45 a.m.** - Church School
- **11 a.m.** - Worship, In-person / YouTube
- **After worship** - Social time and House to Home signups
- **1 p.m.** - Cub Scouts
- **5 p.m.** - FUJI/FUSH Kick-Off Cook-Out

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- **Noon** - Council Leadership
- **Noon** - Youth Ministry Sandwich Making
- **5:30 p.m.** - SMEF Task Force
- **7 p.m.** Finance Team

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- **4 p.m.** - Pro Musica Youth Chorus
- **7 p.m.** - Council Meeting
- **7 p.m.** - Scout Troop 308

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- **10 a.m.** - Building Management Meeting
- **11 a.m.** - Wednesday Bible Study
- **1:30 p.m.** - All-Staff Meeting
- **2 p.m.** - Worship Planning Meeting
- **3:30 p.m.** - Beyond Hunger Distribution
- **6:30 p.m.** - Sanctuary Bell Rehearsal
- **7:30 p.m.** - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- **6 p.m.** - Staffing Task Force
- **6:30 p.m.** - Learning Edge
- **7 p.m.** - Sanctuary Band

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- **5:30 p.m.** - Parents' Night Out
- **7 p.m.** - Scouts Troop 16

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- **9 a.m.** - Beyond Hunger Distribution
- **2 p.m.** - FUNS Bike Rally

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## Announcements and Save the Dates

### Sign up for House to Home

House to Home kicks off today! Donate new household items to create kits for Housing Forward clients who are moving into permanent housing. Sign up in the lounge or visit the eblast for a link to sign up electronically.

## FUSH/FUJI Kick-Off TONIGHT

All First United junior (6-8) and senior (9-12) high kids and parents are invited to a cookout at 5 p.m. to kick off the FUJI and FUSH program years! Use the link in the eblast to register.

## Parents Night Out on Sept. 25

Enjoy a night out while your children ages birth through fifth grade are supervised by First United. Watch the eblast for more information and the link to register.

## Adult Ed Speaker Series Sept. 27

Dr. Kevin Schultz, Chair of the History Department at UIC, will continue the discussion of his book *Why Everyone Hates White Liberals (Including White Liberals)*. Meet in Centennial Hall at 9:45 a.m.

## Fourth Sunday Offering Next Week

Next week's Fourth Sunday Offering will benefit New Moms, an organization dedicated to expanding opportunities for young mothers ages 18-25.

## Grief and Loss Care Group Starts Soon

The Grief and Loss Care Group will begin Sept. 29 and run through Nov. 17. Gatherings will include learning, sharing, and discussion. We meet Tuesdays from 5:30-7 p.m. Reach out to Pastor Michael with questions.

## Environmental Justice - Watch Party

Join Faith in Action on Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. at Unity Temple to watch *Faithful Resistance in a Warming World: Climate Courage, and Collective Action*, a keynote by author Bill McKibben.

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**Website:** [firstunitedoakpark.com](http://firstunitedoakpark.com)

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Lead Pastor: Michael Jones

Associate Pastor: Lydia Mulkey

Music Director: Sally Sloane

Organist: Bobby Nguyen

Church Administrator: Heather Vanderberg

Financial Administrator: Patricia Morales