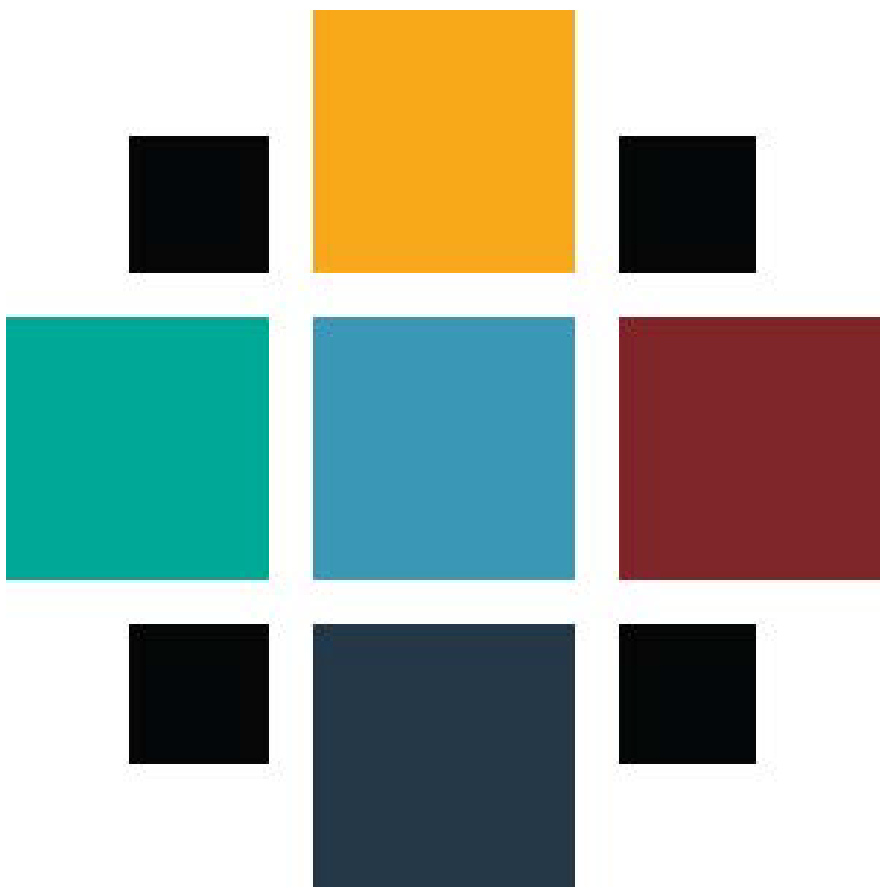


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

October 5, 2025



Living God’s All-Inclusive Love

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Clair de lune by Claude Debussy

WELCOME

Pastor Phil Price

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Macaulay

From Global Ministries - Written by Rev. Taisaku OBATA (Minister, Ube Church, United Church of Christ in Japan)

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

Many: **Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.**

One: What do we find at today's table?

Many: **God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.**

One: What is not at today's table?

Many: **The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.**

One: Let us repent, and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation to all who believe.

Many: **Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.**

All: **Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

In Christ There Is No East or West (Black hymnal no. 395)

**In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.**

**In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek, and neither slave nor free;
For men and women live in God, and all are kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;
One joyous, true community throughout the whole wide earth.**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Pastor Phil

**Gather us as grain is gathered, sifted, the chaff blown away, the grain used to nourish.
Gather us as a shepherd gathers and leads the lambs and sheep to places of rest and
nourishment. Gather us into families of faith where differences are embraced and
common goodness is lifted up. Forgive our tendencies toward exclusion and
recrimination. Find us and forgive us when we have lost our way following idols and lies.
Bring us back into honest and affirming community where the hard work of truth-
seeking and grace-giving are normal and expected.**

Time for silent prayer.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

God is with us. In us and among us. God is in our forgiveness, in our kindness, our humility
and our passion for justice.

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

Pastor Lydia

*HYMN OF ILLUMINATION

De Colores (Black Hymnal no. 402)

**Sing of colors, sing of colors that over the hills in profusion are springing;
Sing of colors of the birds that fly outside my window their canticles singing;
Sing of colors, in the rainbow's bright colors God's promise of hope we recall;
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.
Sing of colors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who created us all.**

**Sing, rejoicing! Every creature that breathes raise a song to the God of creation.
Sing, rejoicing! Sing to God who so earnestly cares, who has offered salvation.
Sing the good news! Sing the love of the Savior reflecting the colors of all.
Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us God's love to recall.
Many colors that shine from God's face, many colors that tell us God's love to recall.**

SCRIPTURE READING – JOHN 17:21-23

Susan Macaulay

SERMON – ONENESS, NOT SAMENESS

Pastor Phil

***COMMUNION HYMN**

Let Us Talents and Tongue Employ (Black hymnal no. 347)

**Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
Bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

**Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves
abound! (x2)**

**Christ is able to make us one, at his table he set the tone,
Teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. R/**

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! R/**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Pastor Lydia

SHARING OF THE BREAD & CUP

Beginning from the rear pews, an usher will invite everyone to come to the front of the Sanctuary to share in the joyful feast. As you reach the servers, take a piece of bread and a cup of grape juice. The final server holds crackers free of gluten and the nine major allergens. Eat and drink the elements as you receive them. Place your offering in the plate and pink prayer cards on the communion table. Return to your pew by the outside aisles.

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary Choir

We Remember by Joel Raney

As we gather here, we remember how you turned the water into wine;
How you fed the hungry crowd with five loaves, how you healed the sick and the blind.

As we gather here, we remember how you gave your life on the tree.
We remember, Lord, your sacrifice; we remember Calvary.

As we gather here, we remember how you freely gave to those in need;
How you shared your father's love, his undying care, with each word, each thought, every deed.

As we gather here, we remember how you gave your life on the tree.
We remember, Lord, your sacrifice; we remember Calvary.
As we share this bread and wine, as we fall on bended knee,
We remember, Lord, your sacrifice; we remember Calvary.

When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of glory died.
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

As we gather here, we remember how you gave your life on the tree.
We remember, Lord, your sacrifice; we remember Calvary.
As we share this bread and wine, as we fall on bended knee,
We remember, Lord, your sacrifice; we remember Calvary.

*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

Let There Be Light 142

The musical score is for the hymn 'Let There Be Light' by William H. Burges. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 63. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are provided below the vocal line.

1. Let there be light, let there be un - der - stand - ing,
2. O - pen our lips, o - pen our minds to pon - der,
3. Per - ish the sword, per - ish the an - gry judg - ment,
4. Let there be light, o - pen our hearts to won - der,

let all the na - tions gath - er, let them be face to face.
o - pen the door of con - cord o - pen - ing in - to grace.
per - ish the bombs and hun - ger, per - ish the fight for gain.
per - ish the way of ter - ror, hal - low the world God made.

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

Ballo del Granduca by J. P. Sweelinck

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.

Vigil Against Gun Violence, Today

Join Waging Peace at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church's annual Vigil Against Violence to honor youth victims of gun violence. 600 W.Fullerton, Chicago. 4-6 p.m. on October 5.

Adult Ed Next Week

Join us on October 12 and 19 to hear Dr. Laurel Keopf from the McCormick Theological Seminary, who will lead a discussion on how biblical families were structured and how that differs from our families today. Meet in Centennial Hall at 9:45 a.m.

Dinner and a Movie, October 10

Meet in the lounge on October 10 for a showing of "The Whale." Dinner at 6 p.m. (\$5 donation); movie at 6:30 p.m. Watch the eblast for the link to RSVP or email Ron Haas (haas.inchicago@comcast.net).

MIDPOINT Backyard S'mOREOs, and S'mores, October 11

Join us at Barbara Metric's backyard for a bonfire. Please bring a beverage to share. 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 11, at 820 S. Humphrey in Oak Park. Feel free to bring a new church friend! Please rsvp on evite or to barbarametric@comcast.net.

Prime Time Lunch Outing, October 16

Join Prime Time for a multi-course lunch at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, October 16, at New Star Restaurant, 7444 W. North Ave. \$25 per person includes the cost of the family-style meal, tax, and a tip. RSVP to Janet Haisman (jhaisman59@gmail.com) by Monday, Oct. 13.

90+ Birthday Party, October 19

It's party time in the lounge after worship on October 19 as we honor those in our First United family who celebrate 90+ years in 2025!

Newcomers' Class Forming Now

The next Newcomers' Class will begin on October 19 and run for three consecutive weeks on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in the Chapel. Email Pastor Lydia (lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com) for more information or to RSVP.

Still Time to Donate to House to Home

Visit the tables in the lounge or use the QR code to sign up to contribute to House to Home kits. Questions? Reach out to Ann Tanner (847-977-5932; awtanner@gmail.com).

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 evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the season. Our Handbell Choir rings a few times per year and rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Both programs run September through May. 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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Living God's All-Inclusive Love

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

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