

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK



Living God's All-Inclusive Love
May 17, 2026

Ascension Sunday

11:00 A.M. Worship

Bold text indicates congregation participation – *Indication to stand in body or spirit

Prelude

Bobby Nguyen

La Cathédrale engloutie by Claude Debussy

Welcome

Rev. Michael Jones

*Call To Worship

Patrick Bracco

Ascended God, we praise you for your love poured out on all the earth!

We gather to praise your name.

Ascending God, we give thanks for your continuing reign of truth and love.

Come, all people, the Holy Presence is near!

Awe-inspiring God, the Alpha and the Omega, we revere your Holy Name, and yearn for the time when God's Kingdom of justice and peace is realized.

May we be lifted up with Christ!

*Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*Opening Hymn #151 (Blue hymnal)

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Special Music

Preschool Church School Class

Little People Can Do Big Things by Mark Burrows

Prayer for Wholeness

Rev. Lydia Mulkey

God of the Ascension: We acknowledge your light and love in the world, but when the world grows dark and threatening, we lose faith and we despair. When our hopes are delayed, we grow disappointed and disillusioned. When love and truth become hard and painful, we choose expediency and self-interest. Chase from our hearts the darkness, the cynicism, and the mocking. Fill our minds with memories of empty tombs, fill our ears with echoes of forgiveness, and fill our lives with reflections of glory. In the name of all that you have lifted up: Amen.

Assurance of Love

Michael Jones

We are made whole through God's grace and love, which we receive freely. It lifts us, it surrounds us, and it lives within us. This is the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus, the Christ. **Amen.**

Music Assurance

Kindergarten- 5th Grade Church Schol

With Me Everywhere by Mark Burrows

Chatter with the Angels Traditional

Invitation to the Children

Lydia Mulkey

Musical Response #524 v.1 (Black hymnal)

This Little Light of Mine

Thank You to Church School Leaders & Youth Advisors

Musical Response #524 v.2 (Black hymnal)

This Little Light of Mine

Everywhere I go...

Psalm - Psalm 47:1-2, 5-9

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy. For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth. God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm. God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

New Testament Reading - Acts 1:1-11

Patrick Bracco

“This,” [Jesus] said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Response

Sanctuary Band

Ten Thousand Reasons by Matt Redman

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul. Worship God’s holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul. I’ll worship Your holy name.

Sermon

Michael Jones

*Hymn #442 (Black hymnal)

I’m Pressing on the Upward Way (Higher Ground)

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 middle pew. Prayer requests will be lifted up 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.

Thank You to Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary Bells, Sanctuary Band, and All Musicians

Offertory

Sanctuary Choir

How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place by Johannes Brahms

How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts.

For my soul, it longeth, yea fainteth, for the courts of the Lord.

My soul and body crieth out, yea, for the living God.

How lovely is the dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts.

Blest are they that dwell within Thy house; they praise Thy name evermore.

How lovely is Thy dwelling place.

*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 #257 (Black hymnal)

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

*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

Apparition de l'Église éternelle by Olivier Messiaen

Bobby Nguyen

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.

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-Prayer for Wholeness adapted from *Food For The Road: Life Lessons From The Lord's Table*
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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.

All-Church Picnic Today After Worship

Thank you to everyone who made this program year such a wonderful experience. Everyone is invited to stay after worship to enjoy a sandwich lunch and fellowship, fun, and games on the church lawn.

Worship Time Change Starts Next Week

We move to our summer schedule on May 24. Adult Ed and Church school do not meet through the summer and worship moves to 10 a.m. Don't be late!

May Fourth Sunday Offering, May 24

Next week's Fourth Sunday offering will benefit Housing Forward. Housing Forward offers a range of solutions to permanently prevent the occurrence or reoccurrence of homelessness. Please give generously to this important community asset.

First United Closed May 25

First United will be closed on May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

Waging Peace Invites You to RIFL Act Advocacy Day, May 26.

The RIFL Act, shifting costs of gun injury from taxpayers to the gun industry, needs your voice. Come to Springfield to advocate! Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/RIFL5-26>.

Memorial Service for Carl Nauert on May 30

We celebrate the life of Carl Nauert with a memorial service on May 30 at 2 p.m. Reception to follow in the lounge.

Seeking Summer Musicians

We are looking for musicians (solos, ensembles, students) to provide special music each Sunday during the summer. Contact Sally Sloane (ssloane@firstunitedoakpark.com; 708/822-0655).

Seeking Holy Rollers to support FUSH Mission trip

On June 7, First United youth and advisors will travel to Asheville, NC, to be of service to that local community. Can you be a "Holy Roller" so support the trip? Use the QR code to make a donation. Select "YM Mission Fund" from the drop-down fund menu.



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.

Interested in learning more about First United Church? Look for members wearing gold buttons, talk to one of the pastors, or watch for the next Newcomers class.

Assistive Listening System If you are in need of assistance in hearing during the worship service, please speak with one of the greeters.

Adult Education Adult Education takes a variety of forms. 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! 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 8th 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.

Transportation Assistance In need of a ride to church? Call or email: 847-801-9459 / FUCOP848@gmail.com.



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

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www.firstunitedoakpark.com | 708-386-5215

facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark | Instagram @firstunitedoakpark

Lead Pastor:	Michael Jones – mjones@firstunitedoakpark.com
Associate Pastor:	Lydia Mulkey – lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com
Church Administrator:	Heather Vanderberg – hvanderberg@firstunitedoakpark.com
Financial Administrator:	Patricia Morales – pmorales@firstunitedoakpark.com
Music Director:	Sally Sloane – ssloane@firstunitedoakpark.com
Organist:	Bobby Nguyen – bnguyen@firstunitedoakpark.com