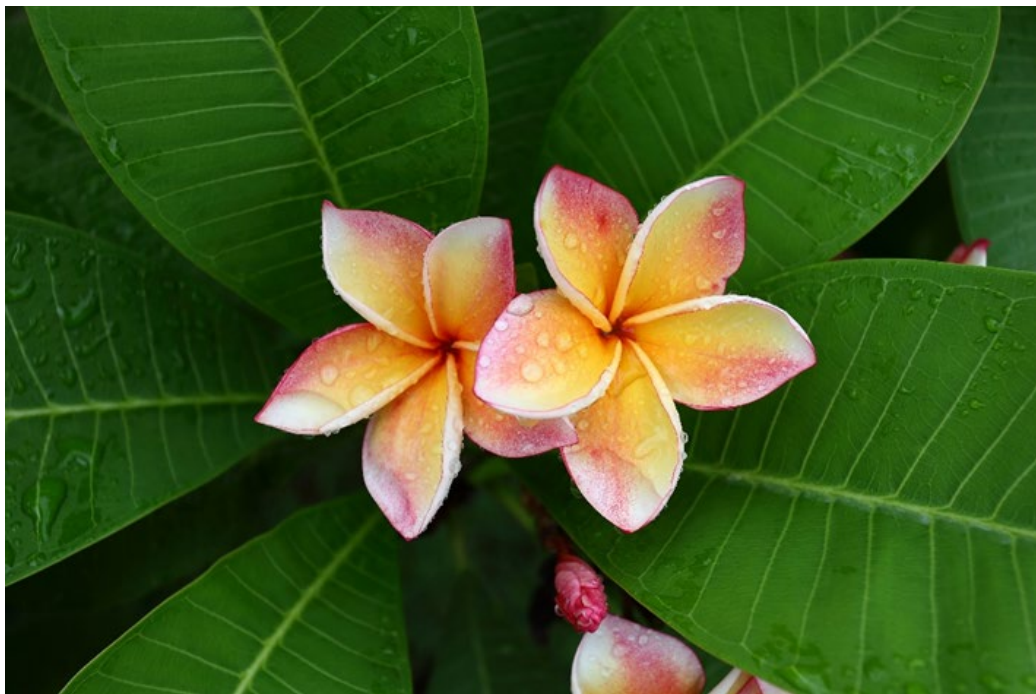


# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK



*Living God's All-Inclusive Love*

April 5, 2026

# Easter Sunday

11:00 A.M. Worship

**Bold text indicates congregation participation**

\*Indication to stand in body or spirit

Prelude

Bobby Nguyen

*Fanfare for the Common Man* by Aaron Copland

Welcome

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

\*Processional Hymn #233 (Black hymnal)

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

*Online worshippers: the words to hymns listed in the hymnal are available as a supplement at the end of this bulletin.*

\*Call To Worship (Inspired by Psalm 118)

Tom Wolford

O give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good; God's love abides, endures, and prevails forever!

**Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!**

In distress, I call. In grief, I cry. In despair, I come. The Holy One answers. The Holy One comforts. The Holy One comes.

**Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!**

God, my refuge and confidence, surrounds me with strength and victory!

Exalt God's holy name!

**Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!**

\*Passing the Peace

## Prayer for Wholeness

Lydia Mulkey

**Living Christ, we have seen the ways of death, and we ache for ways of life. In every ending, there is a beginning. In the same way, beginnings signal an end. May the promise of new life enable us to end the things that do not serve us, to end the attitudes that do not honor you, and to end the ways in which we are complacent and complicit in the world. Empower us to leave those things in the tomb and follow your trail. Grant us grace when the realities of life overwhelm, threaten to consume us, and mire us in the past. For the newness of life, we pray. Amen.**

## Assurance of Love

Michael Jones

Christ is risen. The Holy One is yet alive, and therefore, doing a new thing. Receive the grace of God that rises to meet us in our weakness. Embrace the grace of God to move forward boldly in new life. Hold fast to the grace of God to guide you in living the resurrected life. May this day be a day of rejoicing for each one of us. Amen.

## Gloria #759 (Black hymnal)

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

## Invitation to the Children

Lydia Mulkey

## Musical Response #524 v.1 (Black hymnal)

*This Little Light of Mine*

## Time for Sharing

Lydia Mulkey

## Musical Response #236 (Black hymnal)

*Halleluja*

# Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Reading

Tom Wolford

## Psalm 118:1, 19-24, adapted

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever! The Lord is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the God's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## New Testament Reading

### Colossians 3:1-4

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

## Anthem

Sanctuary Choir and Sanctuary Bell Choir

### *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* by John Behnke

I know that my Redeemer lives; what comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head.

He lives triumphant from the grave; Eternally to save;

He lives all-glorious in the sky; He lives, He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to plead for me above;

He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with His eye;

He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears;

He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; He lives and love me to the end;  
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;  
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to His name! My Jesus still the same;  
Oh the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know, I know that my Redeemer lives!

## Gospel Reading

Tom Wolford

### Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

\*Hymn of Illumination #108 (Blue hymnal)

*Christ Is Alive!*

Sermon

Michael Jones

## Sermon Response

Sanctuary Band

“*We Belong to Each Other*”, music by Annie Schlaefer,  
words by Nikita Gill

**Every one, oh every one, oh every one of these people are ours,  
Just like we are theirs.**

**We belong to them and they belong to us.**

## Invitation to Communion & the Offering

Michael Jones and Lydia Mulkey

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*First United Church welcomes all to come forward for Communion. An usher will invite everyone forward. You are welcome to bring your offerings and/or pink prayer request cards and place them in the offering plates on the pedestals, and then to move forward to receive Communion. If you are worshipping online, you can give by going to [firstunitedoakpark.com/give](http://firstunitedoakpark.com/give) and you can share a prayer request in the live chat. For those of you in the sanctuary, when you reach the servers, take a piece of bread and a cup of grape juice. The center server holds crackers free of gluten and the nine major allergens. You may eat and drink as soon as you receive the elements and then return to your pew by the outside aisles. If you are unable to come forward, an usher will bring Communion to you and will also be willing to bring forward your offering and/or pink prayer request card. Prayer requests will be prayed for by staff and deacons later this week.*

## Offertory

Bobby Nguyen

## \*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 #240 (Black hymnal)

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

## \*Blessing

Michael Jones

## \*Benediction Response

*Hallelujah Chorus*

## Postlude

Bobby Nguyen

*Allegro Maestoso from Water Music* by G. F. Handel

# 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 one of the pastors, or join us for a Newcomers class held three times per year.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

**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.



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Organist:	Bobby Nguyen – <a href="mailto:bnguyen@firstunitedoakpark.com">bnguyen@firstunitedoakpark.com</a>

# Hymn Supplement: April 5, 2026 (Easter)

## Processional Hymn – Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle one, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!  
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Let the Victors people sing, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!  
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

## Hymn of Illumination – *Christ Is Alive!*

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,  
But saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains,  
But daily, in the midst of life, Our Savior in the God-head reigns

In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, ye loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died

## Closing Hymn – *All Glory Laud and Honor*

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

To the tomb the women bring, Alleluia!  
Spices rich, an offering, Alleluia!  
Asking where might Jesus be, Alleluia!  
Savior come to set us free, Alleluia!

There the angel closed in white, Alleluia!  
Tells the news with great delight, Alleluia!

This the news the angel gives, Alleluia!  
That the Sovereign glorious lives, Alleluia!

“Hasten now to Galilee,” Alleluia!  
“Tell the others what you see!” Alleluia!  
With excitement trembling, Alleluia!  
Off they run, good news to bring, Alleluia!

Christ appears in full array, Alleluia!  
Sing with joy this Paschal day, Alleluia!  
Christ now from the dead is raised, Alleluia!  
Holy Trinity be praised, Alleluia!