

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK



Living God's All-Inclusive Love

May 10, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

11:00 A.M. Worship

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

Prelude

Bobby Nguyen

Andante from Sonata in A Major by Franz Schubert

Welcome

Rev. Lydia Mulkey

Processional & Introit

Sanctuary Handbell Choir

Processional in C by John Behnke

Promised Land Calypso by Joel Raney

*Call To Worship

Patrick Bracco

Though the presence of God is always near,

it is rarely loud, often subtle, and always prefers an invitation.

Permeating all of life, always and everywhere available, the Holy asks us

to listen, to be still, to pay attention, and to practice the Love we receive in community.

The Holy Mystery of Love, the Sacred Calling of Courage, the Lure of Truth and Beauty,

they are always moving us toward the restoration of life.

Praise be to God

who is revealed in our longings, felt in connection, and encountered in the spiritual community we call church.

*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

Rev. Michael Jones

Spirit of Truth, you have always been trying to get our attention.

Through the cries of prophets, the whispers of saints, and the groans of the earth, you have been calling to us for ages. As we grieve all that has been lost to destruction's hand, we renew our commitment to practicing love in this place. With humility, we pray, come and lead us in the way of life. Amen.

Assurance of Love

Lydia Mulkey

You are known by God and received as you are—wonderfully and beautifully made. Seek the Holy One who loves you and finds the good in you. Come to the One who will not reject or rebuff you but will renew and restore you in hope and love. We are made new in God's love. **Thanks be to God. 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 of Gathering

Musical Response #524 v.2 (Black hymnal)

This Little Light of Mine

Everywhere I go...

Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Reading

Patrick Bracco

Psalm 66:8-20

Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip. For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried. You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place. I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows, those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble. I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatted calves, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has heard the words of my prayer. Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

Gospel Reading

John 14:15-21

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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 #539 (Black hymnal)
Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

Invitation to the Offering

Michael Jones

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.

Offertory

Sanctuary Choir

Kyrie from Mass in G by Schubert

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore:

Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

Blessing of the Quilts

Michael Jones & Lydia Mulkey

Gracious and loving God, you call us to be a people and church of compassion, stitching love into the fabric of our lives and the lives of others. Today, we gather to bless these quilts, works of heart and hand, that they may bring warmth, comfort, and hope.

Bless these quilts, O God, and the hands that have made them.

For the fabric-woven with care, bright with color, soft to the touch-may it remind those who receive it that they are seen, known, and loved.

May these quilts be a sign of your steadfast love.

For the hands that have cut, pieced, and stitched, laboring with love and prayer, may they be strengthened to continue acts of mercy and justice in your name.

Bless the work of these hands, O God.

For the new moms who will receive these quilts, may they feel your presence and our love and support wrapped around them.

May these quilts bring healing, peace, and hope.

As these quilts go out into the world, may they carry not only warmth but also the presence of your Spirit and the divine love that connects us all.

And so we bless these quilts in the name of the Creator, Christ, and Spirit.

May they be a blessing in the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer Michael Jones

**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 #28 (Black hymnal)

For the Beauty of the Earth

*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

Jamaican Melody arr. J. Behnke

Handbell Choir & Percussion

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- Call to Worship and Prayer for Wholeness adapted from www.enfleshed.com.

- Assurance of Love adapted from liturgy written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.
 - Blessing of Quilts adapted from litany from The Reformed Church of Locust Valley.
- 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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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.

Loving with Books Continues Look for the Loving with Books table after worship in the lounge to support First United Mission Partner New Moms. We will continue collecting funds through May 17.

All-Church Picnic May 17

Our program year comes to an end next week. Stay after worship to enjoy a sandwich lunch, fellowship and fun and games on the church lawn.

Adult Ed Next Week: Coffee and Conversation with Pastor Michael

For our final Adult Education session this program year, we will get to know Pastor Michael a little better! Send your questions in advance to Marsha Hubbuch (marshahubbuch@yahoo.com). Meet in Centennial Hall at 9:45 a.m.

Worship Time Change Starts May 24

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!

First United Closed June 1

First United will be closed on June 1 in observance of Memorial Day.

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

The Chancel Choir's last Sunday singing is May 17. 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).

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

Living God's All-Inclusive Love

www.firstunitedoakpark.com | 708-386-5215

facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark | [Instagram @firstunitedoakpark](https://instagram.com/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

Hymn Supplement: May 10, 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!

Musical Response – This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine. Let it shine. Let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine. Let it shine. Let it shine.

Hymn of Illumination – *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant*

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Closing Hymn – *For the Beauty of the Earth*

For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.