



FIRST
UNITED
CHURCH OF
OAK PARK

Sunday, June 21, 2026

www.firstunitedoakpark.com

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Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 A.M. Worship

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

Prelude

Bobby Nguyen

Prière à Notre-Dame by Léon Boëllmann

Welcome

Rev. Michael Jones

*Call To Worship

Amy Bender

In a world riddled with grief and uncertainty—

What words do we speak to soothe our spirits, oh God?

Smoke fills the air, violence fills our public space, illness lingers—

Where do we go to feel safe, oh God?

We are seeking restoration, longing for connection, yearning for joy—

How do we reach for flourishing, Oh God?

Be with us in our questions and inspire us to speak your truth, whatever the risk—

Draw your presence of justice and compassion close.

*Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*Opening Hymn #21 (Black hymnal)

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

Prayer for Wholeness

Spirit of Creativity, we acknowledge your presence that invites us to draw near to you. Christ, who spoke truth to power at great risk, we long to follow your path of truth. Holy and Righteous One, lead us from places of fear to places of freedom, that we may shake the chains of oppression and create the beloved community. Amen.

Assurance of Love

Hear the good news of the Gospel of Jesus, the Christ: We are all living proof of God's love. We are connected to one another and the beauty of creation around us. Through the Divine Spirit, we are given words of truth to speak into the world. **Amen.**

Musical Response #756 (Black hymnal)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Invitation to the Children

Gathering Response #524 v.1 (Black hymnal)

This Little Light of Mine

Time for Sharing

Musical Response #524 v.2 (Black hymnal)

This Little Light of Mine

Everywhere I go...

Hebrew Bible / Old Testament Reading

Amy Bender

Jeremiah 20:7-13

O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out; I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him and take our revenge on him." But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O Lord of

hosts, you test the righteous; you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

Gospel Reading Matthew 10:24-39

A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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

*Hymn of Illumination (See Insert)

Rise Up by Kim Williams

Sermon

Sermon Response #286 (Black hymnal)

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness (Refrain & Verse 4)

**Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness,
calling and free,**

**Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.**

**You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes, from the bondage of
sorrow the captives dream dreams; Our women see visions, our men clear
their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise.**

Invitation to the Offering

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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring by J.S. Bach

Rick Ashton, Laura Loveless,

Linda Sandman & Rich
Wheelock

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore:

Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

Prayer for Gun Violence Awareness

Kathryn Heavey

Adapted from "More Than Statistics" by Julie Hester

Hear our prayer: **They are more than statistics.**

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

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 #575 (Black hymnal)

O for a World

*Blessing

*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

Menuet by Léon Boëllmann

Today's Liturgist: Having grown up in the bosom of First United, Amy Bender is now back caring for her mother, Barbara. They divide their time between Oak Park and Washington, DC.

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

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.

Annual Meeting, June 28

We will hold our Annual Meeting after worship in the Sanctuary on June 28. We will begin as soon as we have achieved a quorum. The meeting will be livestreamed and voting remotely will be available in the chat. We will elect new Council members, Deacons, and members of the Nominating Team as well as approve a 2026-27 ministry outline and budget.

Memorial Service for Mary Lou Anderson, June 27

There will be a memorial service celebrating the life of Mary Lou Anderson on Saturday, June 27, at 2 p.m. The service will also be livestreamed on YouTube.

Sign Up for Summer Dinners for Eight (or Nine)

Summer Dinners for 8-9, Saturday July 11, 6:00 pm. We are looking for hosts and diners. Interested? Please contact Brenda at brendajm@comcast.net.

First United Closed, July 3

First United will be closed on July 3 in observance of Independence Day.

Stay and Play, July 12

Join the Children's Ministry Team after worship on the lawn for water play, games, and hot dogs!

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

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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: June 21, 2026

Opening Hymn – God Reigns O’er All the Earth

God reigns o’er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low,
The farms and towns in golds and browns God’s grace and beauty show.
God reigns o’er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains,
In rainbow hues – reds, yellows, blues – of streams and country lanes.

God reigns o’er human life! Through youth and aging years,
In death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
God reigns o’er human life! Our inspiration still.
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God’s reigning will.

God reigns o’er time and space! In history’s bygone days,
Christ’s faithful folk in reverence spoke to bring God earnest praise.
God reigns o’er time and space! O’er galaxy and sun,
Through timeless years the cosmos hears the heavenly music run.

God reigns! Emmanuel! God with us every day,
In all our past and to the last, our comfort and our stay.
God reigns! Emmanuel! Let praise to Christ be sung!
God’s presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung!

Musical Response After the Invitation – 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.

Hymn of Illumination – See Next Page

Closing Hymn – *O For a World*

O for a world where everyone respects each other’s ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God’s glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Rise Up

Words and Music By
Kim Williams

♩.=92

Em Em/D Cmaj7 B Em Bm/D

1. Rise up to - day and
 (2. Reach) out to all hu -
 (3. For) some the day has
 (4. Re -) ceive God's love that

6 Em/C B Am9 B Em Bm/D

stand as one in love and u - ni - ty. Let's rec - og - nize each
 man - i - ty for we de - fine the church. May we look in - ward
 now ar - rived, the truth no long - er hides. The chains of hope - less -
 nev - er fails, no rid - i - cule or blame. A love that will not

10 Em/C B Am B Em Am

child of God cre - at - ed beau - ti - f'ly. En - graved up - on God's
 at the heart to see each per - son's worth. Our lov - ing - kind - ness
 ness and fear, re - placed by joy and pride. May we rise up, to -
 let us go, an ev - er - last - ing flame. Re - gard - less of i -

14 Em/G Am/F# B C

lov - ing hands, each one of us by name. Com - plete - ly known and
 brings great hope to those in deep de - spair. We're called to be the
 geth - er strong, em - brac - ing hu - man hearts. Pro - claim - ing God's great
 den - ti - ty or sex - u - al - i - ty, Christ died for all and

18 D2 Am9 B aug Em

loved by God, each beat - ing heart the same.
 light of Christ, a bea - con ev - 'ry where.
 love for all, with free - dom to im - part.
 wel - comes all in - to e - ter - ni -

**Optional
vocal interlude
(Rise*

21 Em Em/D Cmaj7 B Em

up! Rise up! In love and u - ni - ty!) Reach
 For Re- ty.