



FIRST  
UNITED  
CHURCH OF  
OAK PARK

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Sunday, July 5, 2026

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# Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 A.M. Worship

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

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Prelude

Bobby Nguyen

Welcome

Rev. Michael Jones

\*Call To Worship

Don Sibley

We enter this space rooted in our Sacred Worth—

**Love and peace are blooming in our hearts like wildflowers.**

The Living God does not shame us for who we are—

**God is abundantly gracious and compassionate.**

We enter this space trusting the work of liberation—

**Our efforts mingle and swell with the work of others.**

The Living God takes delight in us and gives us peace—

**Let us worship God!**

\*Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

\*Opening Hymn #6 (Black hymnal)

*Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good*

Prayer for Wholeness

**Spirit of Understanding, when life overwhelms us we sometimes soothe our nervous systems in ways that don't serve us. We turn to negative self-talk, self-harm, mindless scrolling, over-working, and more. Where we feel shame around these patterns, meet us with your abundant compassion. Grant us the courage, community, and support we need to move through pain in our lives. Give us the inner peace that Jesus promised. When we are ready, help us weave a new story. Amen.**

## Assurance of Love

The God of peace is still with us. By the power of the Spirit, we receive an inner peace that gives rest to our souls. This is the good news. The God of peace is here and present within each of us. **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

Don Sibley

### Zechariah 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

## Gospel Reading Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ‘For John came neither

eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

\*Hymn of Illumination (Tune: WINCHESTER NEW 8.8.8.8, same as Black Hymnal #115 "The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore")

*O God, the Things that Make for Peace* Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

**O God, the things that make for peace Seem hidden, distant, out of reach.  
Our world is violent, bent on war; Lord, show us peace worth struggling for.**

**Your peace begins when we embrace Your Son — your wondrous gift of grace.  
For peace with others surely starts When we find peace within our hearts.**

**Yet peace is not a quiet thing, An inward gift to which we cling.  
For Jesus blessed the ones who share Your peace and justice everywhere.**

**We thank you that your love extends Beyond the circle of our friends.  
You teach us: Give the stranger bread And see that enemies are fed.**

**We long to live your way, O Lord, To see relationships restored;  
May we, in all we say and do, Seek peace and therefore honor you.**

Sermon

## Sermon Response #478 (Black hymnal)

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

## Invitation to Holy Communion and the Offering

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.**

## Communion Prayer & Sanctus #793 (Black hymnal)

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

**Holy, Holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!**

**My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy, God.**

*First United Church welcomes all to come forward when an usher invites your pew for Communion. You are welcome to bring your offerings and/or pink prayer request cards and place them in the offering plates on the pedestals. Bread, crackers that are free of gluten and the nine major allergens, and grape juice are available. Feel free to take your time in receiving the bread and the cup. You may eat and drink as soon as you receive the elements or take them with you to the pew. Please 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.*

*Online worshipers can give by going to [firstunitedoakpark.com/give](http://firstunitedoakpark.com/give), you can share a prayer request in the live chat, and please join in Communion.*

## Offertory

Enzo Toth

*Sonatina Op. 36 #1 Vivace by Clementi*

## \*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

**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 #438 (Black hymnal)

*When Peace, Like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)*

\*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

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**Today's Liturgist:** Don Sibley is a Deacon, Church School teacher, and member of the Sanctuary Band. As a church member since 1975, Don has served on church committees, including Council, Building and Grounds, and Personnel.

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-Call to Worship and Prayer for Wholeness adapted from [www.enfleshed.com](http://www.enfleshed.com).

-Assurance of Love adapted from UCC Worship Ways, written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

-Hymn of Illumination Text: Copyright © 2012 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

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# From the Deacons

As a reminder, you can report care concerns for yourself or others at any time by emailing the Deacons ([deacons@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:deacons@firstunitedoakpark.com)), using the Google form accessible by link in the eblast (or this QR code), or picking up a paper form at the Welcome Desk.



## 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](http://firstunitedoakpark.com/calendar). Follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)) for our weekly newsletter and lots more.*

### **Stay and Play, July 12**

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

### **Ordination of Deacons and Elders, July 19**

On July 19, we will ordain our Deacons and Elders.

### **No Outdoor Worship in July**

We will not have outdoor worship in July. Watch upcoming eblasts for information about our August outdoor worship that will include a blessing of the animals.

### **PrimeTime Picnic, July 23**

Join us for a picnic lunch on the church lawn at 1 p.m. on Thursday, July 23! Bring your own lunch and a lawn chair if you wish to. (A limited number of chairs will be provided.) RSVP to Janet Haisman ([jhaisman59@gmail.com](mailto:jhaisman59@gmail.com)) by Monday, July 20.

### **Listening Assistance Training, July 26**

Are you someone who uses, would like to use, or would like to learn more about the new Listening Assistance System at First United? On Sunday, July 26, Pete Todd will do a training after worship (location TBA) to explain the system, demonstrate its use, and answer questions.

### **Quest Returns This Fall!**

This fall First United will be offering a Confirmation class for the program year! If you know a youth or are a youth entering ninth grade or any high school student not yet confirmed who is interested, please contact the church office. More information will be shared in the coming months.

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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: 708-334-2512 / [FUCOP848@gmail.com](mailto:FUCOP848@gmail.com).



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

*Living God's All-Inclusive Love*

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

# Hymn Supplement: July 5, 2026

## Opening Hymn – Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good

Sing praise to God, our highest good, profound respect expressing.

God gives us health, life, livelihood, with every needed blessing.

To God, who wondrous works performs, creating life and calming storms, to God give praise and glory!

Creation thanks you, Holy One: you made us and renew us.

Delighted at what you have done, you show your greatness through us.

So may all living things proclaim the wonders of their Maker's name: to God give praise and glory!

What God has made, God will preserve, with righteousness unfailing.

Regardless what we may deserve, we see this good prevailing. To God who governs evermore with justice serving rich and poor, to God give praise and glory!

I cry to God, in pain and grief, "Please, God of mercy, hear me!"

My certain help provides relief, faith, hope, and love to cheer me.

So let me sing, joyful and free: ah, thankful Christians, sing with me: to God give praise and glory!

## *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.

## Sermon Response – I've Got Peace Like a River

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, in my soul.

## Closing Hymn – *When Peace, Like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)*

When peace, like a river, upholds me each day, when sorrows like sea billows roll,

Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain: It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come, let this blessed assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: R/

My sin – oh, the bliss of this glorious though – my sing – not in part, but in whole –

Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise, the Lord, O my soul! R/

O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when clouds are rolled back as a scroll:

The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall appear, "even so" – it is well with my soul. R/