



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
Living God's All-Inclusive Love



Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
11:00 A.M., Sunday, October 4, 2026

Service for the Worship of God

Prelude

Bobby Nguyen

Chorale No. 1 by César Franck

Welcome

Rev. Michael Jones

*Call To Worship

Joanne Despotes

God, the Creator, invites us into the art and rituals of shaping shared life.

Together, we craft our moral, political, cultural, and material lives.

Neither saviors nor helpless, we all play a part.

We honor, too, all that is beyond our control.

This World Communion Sunday, we come to the table to find

God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.

May the Spirit come and inspire us, as we commune with one another and God.

*Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*Opening Hymn #12 (Black hymnal)

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Prayer for Wholeness

Michael Jones

Holy Companion, we acknowledge the world we live in is complicated. So few choices are morally pure. We can feel stuck and overwhelmed. But you, in the midst of it all, invite us into rituals of life and peace. As we are renewed together again today, we pray for your support, and that we might be a collective of thoughtful, reflective, and committed people. Amen.

Assurance of Love

Rev. Lydia Mulkey

Know that God loves you. From the very beginning God's loving mercy has been poured out upon you. On behalf of Jesus Christ, our Savior: you are forgiven; forgive others. You are restored; restore others. You are reconciled with God; be reconciled with others, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. **Amen**

Invitation to the Children & Time for Sharing

Lydia Mulkey

Siyahm' ekukhanyen' kwenkos' (Black Hymnal #526)

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

**Those who choose to do so may rise in body or spirit and sing.*

***Hymn of Illumination #586 (Black hymnal)**

Come to Tend God's Garden

Hebrew Bible / Old Testament Reading

Joanne Despotes

Isaiah 5:1-7, Red Pew Bible, p. 634

Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:33-46, Red Pew Bible, pp. 24

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

Sermon *Rituals*

Michael Jones

Song of Response *Carry This All* by Alexandra "Ahlay" Blakely

You do not carry this all alone.

This is way too big for you to carry this on your own.

Invitation to Holy Communion and the Offering

From every corner of the earth, Christ calls us to the table.

We come from many peoples, many places, many traditions.

We come with the songs of our ancestors and the prayers of those who came before us.

We come carrying stories of faith, struggle, hope, and joy.

From the villages of Africa and the islands of the Pacific, from the mountains of Asia and the cities of the Americas, from the churches of Europe and the Middle East—

We come as one people, gathered in Christ.

Some come to this table with abundance. Some come longing for daily bread.

Christ welcomes us all.

Today, the walls that divide us do not have the final word. Language does not divide us. Geography does not divide us. Culture does not divide us.

At Christ's table, there is room for all.

Come, people of God. Come with open hands and open hearts.

We come to receive. We come to remember. We come to share. We come to be made one.

First United Church welcomes all to come forward when an usher invites your pew for Communion and 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.

Online worshipers can give by going to firstunitedoakpark.com/give, you can share a prayer request in the live chat, and please join in Communion.

Offertory

Sanctuary Choir

We Remember You by Joel Raney

*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

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 #332 (Black hymnal)

As We Gather at Your Table

*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

Bobby Nguyen

Chorale No. 1 by César Franck