

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK



This drawing is by Anja Rozen, a 13 year old student in Slovenia. She is the winner of the Lions International Peace Poster Competition 2021-2022 competition. Anja said, "When people look at my poster, I want them to think about how much we are connected to people we might not even know. In my poster, people are holding onto each other. If someone lets go, the rest of them will fall. The hands represent earth and earth connects us all. It holds us together. We need to respect and take better care of the earth, because I believe that it is through peace, the nations and our entire planet can achieve stability and growth."

Living God's All-Inclusive Love

April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

11:00 A.M. Worship

Bold text indicates congregation participation

*Indication to stand in body or spirit

Prelude

Bobby Nguyen

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele by J. S. Bach

Welcome

Michael Jones

*Call To Worship

Walter Miller

(A globe is brought forward)

The world belongs to God, **the earth and all its people.**

(A tea towel is brought forward)

It is good to live in community, **to work and talk with each other.**

(A Bible is brought forward)

Love and faith come together; **justice and peace join hands.**

(Stones are brought forward)

If the friends of Jesus keep silent, **these stones would shout aloud.**

(A candle is brought forward)

We are glad to be in God's house, **to listen and sing and pray.**

*Passing the Peace

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*Opening Hymn

Traveling Companions by Mark Miller

We are traveling companions, journeying as one,

Moving ever forward, our faces to the sun,

In the family of God, a place for everyone

Together we are community, traveling, journeying as one.

Prayer for Wholeness

Michael Jones

For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly, and the promises which we never kept; for the careless use of our time and money and the lame excuses we should never have made, **forgive us.**

For all we should be and all we can amend, God, in your love, **renew us.**

For all you have in store for us, God, in your love, **prepare us.**

For the life of the world and the love of its people, God, in your love, **commit us.**

Assurance of Love

Lydia Mulkey

Once we were no people, now we are God's people. So let us live as those who treasure God's generosity by safeguarding God's earth, delighting in its people, and loving our Maker, to whom is the glory forever. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Musical Response #236 (Black hymnal)

Halleluja

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

Invitation to the Children

Michael Jones

Musical Response #524 v.1 (Black hymnal)

This Little Light of Mine

Time for Sharing

Michael Jones

*Hymn of Illumination #393 (Black hymnal)

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

New Testament Reading

Walter Miller

Acts 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell

their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Sermon

Lydia Mulkey

Sermon Response

Sanctuary Band

Ten Thousand Reasons by Matt Redman

Chorus: **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.**

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the even- ing comes.** Chorus

**You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.** Chorus.

Invitation to the Offering

Lydia Mulkey

During the offering all are welcome to come down the two center aisles to bring forward offerings to the offering plates and/or pink prayer cards to the basket at the front of the sanctuary on the communion table. Prayer requests will be lifted up during the Prayers of the People. If you are unable to come forward, please ask a neighbor in the pew to bring it forward or lift a hand, and we will make sure there is someone to bring it forward for you.

Offertory

Sanctuary Choir

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) by Hillside United

You call me out upon the waters the great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery in oceans deep my faith will stand
And I will call upon Your name and keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise

My soul will rest in your embrace for I am Yours and You are mine

Your grace abounds in deepest waters Your sovereign hand will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me You've never failed and you won't start
now

And I will call upon Your name and keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise
My soul will rest in your embrace For I am Yours and You are mine

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Saviour

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Saviour

I will call upon Your name. Keep my eyes above the waves.
My soul will rest in Your embrace. I am Yours and You are mine

*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

**Our Creator, Our Mother, and Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

Jones

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

Lean On Me by Bill Withers

Sometimes in our lives,

We all have pain, We all have sorrow

But if we are wise, We know that there's always tomorrow.

Chorus: **Lean on me, when you're not strong,**

And I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on

For it won't be long 'til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.

Please swallow your pride if I have things you need to borrow

For no one can fill those of your needs that you won't let show.

Bridge: **So just call on me, brother, when you need a hand,**

We all need somebody to lean on

I just might have a problem that you'd understand,

We all need somebody to lean on

Repeat Chorus; Repeat Bridge

If there is a load you have to bear that you can't carry

I'm right up the road, I'll share your load, If you just call me (call me)

(Call me) if you need a friend, (Call me) Call me

(Call me) if you need a friend, (Call me) if you ever need a friend, call me

*Blessing

Lydia Mulkey

*Blessing Response

Go now in peace, go now in peace.

May the love of God surround you.

Everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Postlude

Bobby Nguyen

April by P.I. Tchaikovsky

- Call to Worship, Prayer for Wholeness, and Assurance of love come from Iona Abbey
Worship Book
-

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 Starts Today

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. Donate electronically with the QR code.

Baby Shower Next Week!

Please join us on May 3 at 2:30 p.m. in Centennial Hall to honor Pastor Lydia and her wife Sam as well as First United member Vivian Gama who are expecting little ones this summer. Cake and punch will be served. Find the links to the baby registries in the eblast. If you wish, bring a package of diapers to be entered into the diaper raffle!



Adult Ed Next Week

Professor Phil Bohlman discusses the Eurovision Song Contest, the world's largest televised music contest. The original songs are performed live and often reflect social and political issues of the day. Meet at 9:45 in Centennial Hall.

CROP Walk – May 3

First United has raised money as part of the local CROP Hunger Walk for over 40 years. Use the QR code for more information about the walk and register to walk and/or donate to support our team!



Sanctuary Choir Looking to Swell the Ranks!

Ever wanted to sing one of the world's most beloved choral pieces? Join the Sanctuary Choir Wednesday evenings from 7:30 - 8:30 pm to rehearse "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place" from the Brahms Requiem for worship on Sunday, May 16. We would love to swell our ranks! (That's an organist's joke.)

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! Kids are welcome to use our Pray-ground throughout worship or take an activity bag to the pews. 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 8th 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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www.firstunitedoakpark.com | 708-386-5215

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

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