

# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK



Living God's All-Inclusive Love

# Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

11:00 A.M. Worship

**Bold text indicates congregation participation**

\*Indication to stand in body or spirit

**Prelude**

Bobby Nguyen

*Cantilène* by Josef Rheinberger

**Welcome**

Pastor Lydia Mulkey

**\*Call To Worship**

Joanne Despotes

We join together, each with different needs.

**God meets every need with blessing.**

We join together, each with different gifts.

**God welcomes every gift as blessing.**

We have come together to dream God's dream.

**No gift is too small, no dream is too big. Amen.**

**\*Passing the Peace**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* (Black hymnal no. 1)

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

**Prayer for Wholeness**

Pastor Michael Jones

**Gracious God, we know that only when everyone has a seat at the table can we glimpse your dreams for us as a church community.**

**Forgive us when we think some gifts are better than others or when we leave people behind. Help us to see your blessings and dreams for our world. Bring us together again in generosity and hope. Amen.**

*Time for silent prayer.*

## Assurance of Love

We are free to dream again as God's people, loved and blessed. May we know that we are invited to the table, set free to claim the mercy of God. This is the good news of the Gospel. Amen.

## Invitation to the Children

Pastor Lydia

## Musical Response

*This Little Light of Mine* (Black hymnal no. 524 v.1)

## Time for Sharing

Pastor Lydia

## Hebrew Scripture Reading

Joanne Despotes

### Micah 6:1-8

"With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

## New Testament Scripture Reading

### Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of

God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

## \*Hymn of Illumination

*Blessed Are the Poor In Spirit* (TUNE: NETTLETON, “Come O Fount of Every Blessing” Black hymnal no. 459)

**Blessed are the poor in spirit; all God’s realm is surely theirs.**

**Those in mourning will find comfort as an answer to their prayers.**

**Meek ones whom this world despises will inherit everything.**

**God, your kingdom still surprises; may we seek the reign you bring.**

**Blessed, too, are those who hunger and who thirst for what is right.**

**They will not be prone to wander, for your will is their delight.**

**Those who show God’s care and mercy will receive that mercy, too.**

**God, in Christ, you show us clearly of the joy we have in you.**

**Those who share the peace God gives them will find blessings as God’s own.**

**Those oppressed for faithful living will call heaven’s kingdom home.**

**When the world’s ways seem distressing and we feel life’s painful sting,**

**God reminds us of the blessings of the wondrous life you bring.**

## Sermon

Pastor Michael

## \*Sermon Response

*Come Let Us Dream* (TUNE: O WALY WALY, Black hymnal no. 362)

**Come, let us dream God’s dream again**

**Come, one and all, let us ascend**

**the mountain top where those of old**

**saw God’s new day on earth unfold.**

**The lame shall walk, the blind shall see,  
the doors swing wide, all prisoners free,  
the lowly raised, the proud brought low.  
This is God's dream: let justice flow.**

**When hatred ends and war shall cease,  
so all may dwell in deepest peace,  
then be assured the time is near  
when perfect love casts out all fear.**

## Stewardship Testimony

Len Palombi

## Invitation to Communion & the Offering

*Beginning from the rear pews, an usher will invite everyone to come to the front of the Sanctuary to share in the joyful feast. As you reach the front of the aisle, if you would like to give, you can place your offering in the plate. If you have prayer requests, place your pink prayer cards in the basket. Take a piece of bread and a cup of grape juice. The center server holds crackers free of gluten and the nine major allergens. You may eat and drink as soon as you receive the elements and then return to your pew by the outside aisles.*

## Offertory

*Dona Nobis Pacem* arr. Hal Hopson

Sanctuary Choir

Dona nobis pacem, pacem.

Dona nobis pacem.

## \*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    Pastor Lydia  
**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

*Dream God's Dream* (see insert)

### \*Invitation to Join the Circle

Benediction

Pastor Michael

### Response

**Go now in peace, go now in peace.**

**May the love of God surround you.**

**Everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

Postlude

Bobby Nguyen

*Fugue in C Major* by Dieterich Buxtehude

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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), 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.*

## **Let's Gather Again: Small Group Sign Up Now Open**

Small Groups are returning for a six-week journey of faith and fellowship. Groups will meet once a week, beginning the week of February 15 running through the week of March 22.



## **Solidarity and Christian Love to Minneapolis**

Many have asked how our church can support Minnesotans. Let's care for our at-risk immigrant communities by supporting mutual aid/food distribution, such as:

- Casa Maria | St. Nicholas Episcopal Church <http://www.saint-nicks.org>
- Dios Habla Hoy ("God Speaks Today") <http://www.dhhmn.com>
- Stand with Minnesota <http://www.standwithminnesota.com>

## **Adult Ed Speaker Series Next Week**

It's time for an update on how we are doing this fiscal year. Please join us next Sunday at 9:45 in Centennial Hall to hear from Church Treasurer, Jackie Eckholm, and Finance Chair, Carl Nauert on "The Status of our Church Budget for Fiscal 2026."

## **Consecration Sunday and Potluck, February 15**

This year's Stewardship Season will wrap up with a celebratory worship service followed by a potluck lunch in Centennial Hall on February 15. Watch your mail for your pledge mailing and return your card when you are able!

## **Ash Wednesday, February 18**

Lent comes early this year. Gather in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. on February 18 for a family-friendly worship service for Ash Wednesday.

## **Save the Date: Pastor Michael's Installation on February 22**

Pastor Michael will be officially installed as the Lead Pastor of First United on February 22 at 3 p.m. in a special worship service in the Sanctuary with representatives from our denominations. A reception will follow in the lounge.

## **Save the Date: Dinners for Eight or Nine**

Dinners for Eight or Nine returns on Saturday, March 7. Sign-up will begin in the lounge next Sunday!

# 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.

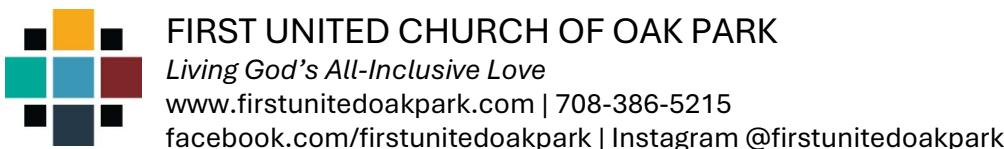
**Adult Education** Faith formation doesn't end after Church School. Adult Education takes a variety of forms, from small, group Bible studies to Sunday morning Speaker Series. Weekly Bible Study and Speaker Series meet at 9:45 a.m. September through May.

**Children In Worship & Our Nursery** We love to have children in worship! Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the sanctuary. 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



Lead Pastor: Michael Jones – [mjones@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:mjones@firstunitedoakpark.com)

Associate Pastor: Lydia Mulkey – [lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com)

Church Administrator: Heather Vanderberg – [hvanderberg@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:hvanderberg@firstunitedoakpark.com)

Financial Administrator: Patricia Morales – [pmorales@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:pmorales@firstunitedoakpark.com)

Choir Director: Sally Sloane – [ssloane@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:ssloane@firstunitedoakpark.com)

Organist: Bobby Nguyen – [bnguyen@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:bnguyen@firstunitedoakpark.com)

## Opening Hymn: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;  
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,  
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Your life is life-giving—to both great and small;  
In all life you're living, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,  
Then wither and perish—but naught dims your powers.

So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,  
Your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we now render as your angels do:  
In awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

## Closing Hymn (two pages)

### ***Dream God's Dream***

Bryan Sirchio  
[www.sirchio.com](http://www.sirchio.com)

*Chorus*

Dream God's Dream! Ho - ly Spir - it help us

dream of a world where there is

jus - tice and where ev - 'ry - one is free to

build and grow and love and to sim - ply have e -

- nough the world will change when we dream God's

Dream.

Chords: D, Em<sup>7</sup>, D/F#<sup>7</sup>, G, Bm<sup>7</sup>, F#m<sup>7</sup>, G, Em<sup>7</sup>, A, A/G, D/F#<sup>7</sup>, G, Bm<sup>7</sup>, A, G, D, D/F#<sup>7</sup>, Em<sup>7</sup>, Asus, A<sup>7</sup>, D, C, G, D

*Veres on the next page*

**Dream God's Dream, p.2**

C G D C  
 Verses I'm dream - ing of a world where the  
 I'm dream - ing of the call God that is  
 I'm dream - ing of the way

G D C  
 col - or of one's skin will mean less than what's with -  
 of - fer - ing to me; how to use my en - er -  
 want my life to go. I've got hopes and I've - got

Em<sup>7</sup> D C G  
 in gy the per - son's heart. A  
 goals and my best gifts to to  
 I'd like like to meet. I'm

D C G  
 world where wa - ter's clean and where air is safe to  
 do the work of Christ, to say God, please use my  
 reach - ing for the stars, but I won't for - get the

D Em<sup>7</sup> D/F#  
 breathe. And ev' - ry chi - ld born has e -  
 life to spread your who heal - ing to love and to  
 scars of Christ who died to show that the

Em<sup>7</sup> G Dsus D.S. *Al Coda* D C G D C G D  
 nouh live eat. dream.  
 Dream's to your Truth. all.