

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

August 3, 2025



Living God's All-Inclusive Love

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Lied by Louis Vierne

WELCOME

Pastor Phil Price

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship a God who speaks of bounty and of sharing.

We gather to lift up stories and sing hymns that call us to live lives of justice and compassion.

In our worship may we be healed and inspired, called and sent into the world as God's loving people.

*PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor Phil

*OPENING HYMN

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets (Blue hymnal no. 285)

**God, You spin the whirling planets, fill the seas and spread the plain,
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms, call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
We, created in Your image, would a true reflection be
Of Your justice, grace, and mercy and the truth that makes us free.**

**You have called us to be faithful in our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship joined in one community.
When we blur Your gracious image, focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as Your people, we move onward toward Your goal.**

**God, Your word is still creating, calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion. Polish us with loving care.
Thus, new creatures in Your image, we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.**

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Pastor Phil

Bountiful God, who gives to us all that we need to sustain our lives: Open our hearts today to hear your words of compassionate justice, that we may focus on the ways in which you intend us to live and be of service to you by serving the world. In Jesus' Name, we pray.

Time for silent prayer.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

People of God, blessings have been poured upon you so that you may use them to bless others. God walks with you and guides your steps as you reach out in compassion. God sings through your voice as you speak words of mercy and justice. God reaches through your hands as you reach to lift up the fallen.

INVITATION TO THE CHILDREN

Pastor Lydia Mulkey

MUSICAL RESPONSE

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (x3)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

Pastor Lydia

*HYMN OF ILLUMINATION

Standing at the Future's Theshhold (Text: black hymnal no. 538 vv. 1,3,4;

Tune: Abbot's Leigh)

Standing at the future's threshold, grateful for God's guiding hand,

Asking no protected stronghold, called to be a pilgrim band,

Seeking ever for new visions of the gospel for our day,

We move forward in God's mission with our faith to show the way.

Open-hearted in exchanges with the faithful not our own,

Trusting God's way with these strangers not to leave the truth unknown,

Joining them in shared endeavor where we have Christ's clear command,

We have faith that calls us ever toward this good earth's promised land.

**Building justice as the bulwark of the peace that God would give,
Making sacrifice the hallmark of the life we're called to live:
Grant us, God, to bear our witness to this peace in Christ, and move
Forward with our faith's own access to the life of hope and love.**

SCRIPTURE READING – LUKE 12:13-21

SERMON – YOU DUMMY . . .

Pastor Phil

*SERMON RESPONSE

Teach Us Your Ways

**Teach us Your ways, teach us Your ways/As we learn from one another
Learn to love each other/Teach us Your ways.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah/Let us learn from one another
Learn to love each other/Teach us Your ways.**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE OFFERING & COMMUNION

Pastor Lydia

Communion Servers this month are members of the Sanctuary Choir and Sanctuary Band.

OFFERTORY

Eloise Nelson

Beautiful City from *Godspell* by Stephen Schwartz

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,/Praise Christ, all people here below,
Praise Holy Spirit, evermore,/Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Phil

**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.**

GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION & SERVICE

*CLOSING HYMN

We Would Be Building (Black hymnal no. 607)

**We would be building; temples still undone o'er crumbling walls their crosses scarcely lift,
Waiting till love can raise the broken stone, and hearts creative bridge the human rift.
We would be building, Architect Divine, reveal the shape of life in your design.**

**Teach us to build; upon the solid rock we set the dream that hardens into deed,
Ribbed with fine steel, both time and change to mock, the unfailing purpose of our noblest
creed.**

Teach us to build; O Maker, lend us sight to see the towers gleaming in the light.

**O keep us building, Savior; may our hands ne'er falter when the dream is in our hearts,
When to our ears there come divine commands and all the pride of sinful will departs.
We build with you; O grant enduring worth until your promised realm shall come on earth.**

INVITATION TO JOIN THE CIRCLE

Pastor Lydia

*BLESSING

Pastor Phil

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Go Now in Peace

**Go now in peace, go now in peace/May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

POSTLUDE

Bobby Nguyen

Jesus Loves Me arr. by Jason D. Payne

EVENTS AND UPDATES

Below is a sampling of the news and events at First United. We invite you to subscribe to receive our monthly "Messenger Bell" newsletter and our weekly "News & Events" eblast by visiting firstunitedoakpark.com.

Congregational Meeting Immediately After Worship

Please stay after worship today for the Annual Congregational Meeting, when we will receive reports on the past year from our various teams. We will begin as soon as we have a quorum.

Chicago Sky Game Today!

Join us later this afternoon for a Chicago Sky game against the Phoenix Mercury. We'll meet at First United at 3:30 p.m. and then carpool together to Wintrust Arena for the 5 p.m. game. Use the QR code to get more information and reserve your tickets.



Joining Sunday, August 10

Welcome to all who started the New Members Class before worship today. We will officially welcome them into membership during worship next Sunday! If you are interested in membership but were unable to make this morning's class, please reach out to Pastor Lydia (lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com).

When did you last read the U.S. Constitution?

We think reading the U.S. Constitution aloud with members of our faith community can be a grounding practice, and a way of remembering of who we are as a country. Perhaps this experience could inspire how we want to take action. Join us in the Conference Room on Tuesday, August 19, 2-3:30 p.m. For the first hour we will read straight through (without discussion); discussion will follow. Please RSVP to assure we have sufficient material. For more information and to RSVP please reach out to Pete Todd (ptodd@firstunitedoakpark.com) or Sara Stevenson (stevensonsa@comcast.net).

Outdoor Worship and Pet Blessing, August 17

August 17 will be our final outdoor worship for the summer and we will go out in style as we invite you to bring your pets (or pictures of your pets) for a special blessing during worship.

Blessing of the Backpacks, August 24

With back-to-school just around the corner, bring your backpacks to worship on August 24 for a special blessing for a safe, happy, and healthy school year! Teachers, bring your bags, too!

Church School Registration Carnival, August 24

Join the fun after worship on August 24 for food, carnival-style games and fun on the church lawn. We will also have Children's Ministry volunteers around to help you get registered for the upcoming year in Church School!

First United Closed, September 1

First United will be closed and all staff will have the day off on September 1 for Labor Day. Please contact Heather in the office to reschedule your team meetings if you typically meet in the building on the first Monday of the month.

Music Ministry Rehearsals Resume, September 3

This year's first Sanctuary Choir rehearsal will be from 7:30-8:30 p.m. on September 3 in the choir room. And back regularly for the first time since the Covid shutdown: the First United Bell Choir! We have five octaves of newly refurbished handbells and 4 octaves of hand chimes just waiting for ringers! The first Bell Choir rehearsal will be September 3 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Interested in ringing or singing? Contact Dr. Sally Sloane (ssloane@firstunitedoakpark.com) for more information.

Gathering Day, September 7

Sure . . . it's still early. But there is Halloween candy at Target. Mark your calendars for Gathering Day on September 7 when Church School resumes, we have a celebratory worship service, and enjoy rootbeer floats on the lawn after worship.

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 Pastor Lydia, or join us for a Newcomers class held three times per year. Contact Lydia Mulkey (lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com).

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 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. Contact Lydia Mulkey (lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com).

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Our Sanctuary Choir leads worship most Sundays and rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the season. Our Handbell Choir rings a few times per year and rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Both programs run September through May. Contact Sally Sloane (ssloane@firstunitedoakpark.com).

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. Contact Lydia Mulkey (lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com).



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