



Indigenous People's Sunday

11:00 A.M., Sunday,
October 11, 2026

Nicholas Black Elk, Heháka Sápá
December 1863 – August 19, 1950
Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux

A vision from Black Elk:

“And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell and understood more than I saw; for I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must live together like one being. And I saw that the sacred hoop of my people was one of many hoops that made one circle, wide as daylight and as starlight, and in the center grew one mighty flowering tree to shelter all the children of one mother and one father. And I saw that it was holy.”



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

Service for the Worship of God

Prelude

Bobby Nguyen

Estampie Retrove from Robertsbridge Codex (ca. 1360, anonymous)

Welcome

Rev. Lydia Mulkey

***Call To Worship** (based on Chief Seattle's words)

Jim Heininger

All is Sacred!

All is Sacred!

Every part of this earth is Sacred.

Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore,

Every mist in the dark woods,

every clearing and insect is holy.

The rocky crest, the juices of the meadow, the beasts and all people;

all belong to the same family.

Teach your children that the Earth is our Mother.

Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth.

The water's murmur is the voice of our father's father.

We are a part of the earth and the earth is a part of us.

The rivers are our brothers; they quench our thirst.

The flowers are our sisters.

The air is precious,

For all of us share the same breath.

The wind that gave our grandparents breath also received their last sigh.

The wind gave our children the spirit of life, and will continue.

This we know: the earth does not belong to us;

we belong to the earth.

All things are connected.

Our God is the same God, whose compassion is equal for all.

We did not weave the web of life;

we are merely a strand in it.

Whatever we do to the web,

we do to ourselves.

Let us give thanks for the web in the circle that connects us.

Thanks be to Creator, the God of All!

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

*Passing the Peace

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

*Opening Hymn #3 (Black hymnal)

Wakantanka Taku Nitawa

(Many and Great, O God Are Your Works)

Land Acknowledgement

Tara Dull

We acknowledge that our church building is situated on the ancestral land of the Bodewamiadkiwen (Potawatomi), Myaamia (Miami), Oceti Sakowin, Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), and Peoria. We honor them and thank them for their stewardship of this land. We commit ourselves to developing deeper partnerships that advocate for the progress, dignity and humanity of the many diverse Native Americans who still live and practice their heritage and traditions on this land today.

Prayer for Wholeness

Lydia Mulkey

Great Spirit, look at our brokenness. We know that in all creation the human family has strayed from the Sacred way—the way of love, respect, gratitude and reverence for all life. We know that we are the ones who are divided. And we are the ones who must come back together to walk the Sacred Way—the way of love, respect, gratitude and reverence for all life. Sacred One, teach us love, compassion, and honor, that we may heal the earth and heal each other. Amen.

Assurance of Love

Rev. Michael Jones

As surely as the rain comes forth to water the earth, God's mercy comes to us as a gift, abundant and freely given. You are loved; you are restored. In Christ, you are made new. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Invitation to the Children, Community Fridge Collection, & 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.

*Hymn of Illumination

THE WORD

454 Take the Saving Word of God

Dawk'yah towgyah thawy báht-awm



Take the sav - ing word of God;

Daw - k'yah tow - gyah thawy báht - awm;



put it first with - in your life.

daw - k'yah tow - gyah thawy báht - awm.



Noth - ing comes be - fore God's ho - ly word.

Daw - k'yah tow - gyah thawy Gyah O' Boy Daw.

This brief sacred song comes from a Native American tradition now centered in Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle. As often happens when moving between languages, the English text cannot retain the structure of the original but tries to convey its essential spirit and intention.

TEXT: Pawltay (Kiowa); English vers. John Thornburg, 2008

MUSIC: Kiowa melody; transcr. Carlton R. Young, 2008

English Vers. and Transcr. © 2008 General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik

DAWK'YAH TOWGYAH

7.7.9

Gospel Reading

Jim Heininger

Matthew 22:1-14 from the *First Nations Version New Testament*

Creator Sets Free (Jesus) continued to speak to them using stories such as one: “Creator’s good road from above is like a chief who prepared a wedding feast for his son. When the feast was ready, he sent out trusted messengers to gather the ones who had been invited, but no one came. So he sent out others who had been invited, but no one came. So he sent out others with this message: ‘I am serving my best meat fresh from the herd. So come, the wedding feast for my son has been prepared!’ But some ignored the messengers and returned to their work, while others mistreated them and even killed them. When the chief found out what they had done, he was filled with rage and sent his warriors to kill those murderers and burn their village to the ground. Then the chief told his messengers, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but the ones invited have proved they have no honor. Waste no time, go out into the village pathways, and invite all you find to come to the feast.’ So they went and did as they were told and gathered as many as they could find, whether honorable or bad-hearted. So the lodge was filled with many wedding guests for his son. When the chief came in to see the guests, he saw someone who was not wearing the proper regalia that was provided for the guests at the wedding feast. He said to the guest, ‘How did you get in here without the proper regalia? Why have you dishonored my son by not wearing the outfit provided for you?’ There was nothing the man could say. The chief called his warriors and said to them, ‘Bind him with leather straps from head to foot and throw him outside into the darkness, to weep and grind his teeth in anger.’ So you can see,” Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said, “many are invited, but few accept his invitation.”

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

Song #580 (Black hymnal)

Lydia Mulkey

O Kou Aloha No (The Queen’s Prayer)

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 the Offering

Michael Jones

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

Offertory

Sanctuary Choir

He, Watching Over Israel, by F. Mendelssohn

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore: Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

Prayer

Jaymi Raad

The Garden is Rich from the Chinook Psalter

The garden is rich with diversity

With plants of a hundred families

In the space between the trees

With all the colours and fragrances.

Basil, mint and lavender,

Great Mystery, keep my remembrance pure,

Dill, anise, tansy,

Holy winds blow in me.

Rhododendron, zinnia,

May my prayer be beautiful
May my remembrance O Great Mystery
be as incense to thee
In the sacred grove of eternity
As I smell and remember
The ancient forests of earth.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer Lydia Mulkey

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 #576 (Black hymnal)

For the Healing of the Nations

*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

Preambulum in G Minor by Heinrich Scheidemann



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

Living God's All-Inclusive Love

848 Lake St. | Oak Park, IL 60305

708-386-5215 | firstunitedoakpark.com

Hymn Supplement: October 11, 2026

Opening Hymn – *Wakantanka Taku Nitawa (Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works)*

May and great, O God, are your works, Maker of earth and sky;
Your hand have set the heavens with stars, your fingers spread the mountains and plains.
Lo, at your word the waters were formed; deep seas obey your voice

Grant unto us communion with you, O star abiding one;
Come unto us and dwell with us: with you are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end, eternal life with you.

Closing Hymn – *For the Healing of the Nations*

For the healing of the nations, God we pray with one accord;
For a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
That redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
Pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
For our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,
That by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

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**.

Learn more about First United Church

Look for members wearing gold buttons, talk to one of the pastors, and watch for the next Newcomers class.

Worship Assistance

Assistive Listening - speak with a greeter to access to the assistive listening system.

Large Print Bulletins - available from our ushers.

Transportation to Worship - Call or email: 708-334-2512; (FUCOP848@gmail.com).

Adult Education Bible Group and Speaker Series meet at 9:45 a.m. September through May. Watch the e-blast for other opportunities.

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 8th 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.

Today in Worship

Today's Liturgist Jim Heininger is an Iowa native and proud Hawkeye now rooted in Chicago. Jim is a father of three grown children, marketing communications veteran, fitness devotee, and newly appointed Council Moderator.

Ways to Give

Your offering helps support the mission and ministry of First United Church. There are many ways to make your contribution:

- **In-Person** Place offerings in the offering plates, before or after worship, or during the Offertory.

- **Online** www.firstunitedoakpark.com/give or scan the QR Code

- **By Mail:** Mail checks to the church 848 Lake Street Oak Park, IL 60301.



Thank you for your generosity!

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Call to Worship, Prayer for Wholeness, and Assurance of Love adapted from Native American Sunday: A Liturgy for Worship Northern Great Lakes Synod Marquette, Michigan of the ELCA.

Sign up for our Eblast

First United publishes a weekly eblast on Thursdays and a monthly electronic newsletter on the first Wednesday of each month. Use the QR code or email the office to join the list!



TODAY, SUNDAY, October 11

- 9:45 a.m. - Adult Ed Speaker Series
- 9:45 a.m. - Bible Group
- 9:45 a.m. - Church School
- 11 a.m. - Worship, In-person / YouTube
- **After worship** - Social time, Second Sunday Sundaes & House to Home
- 1 p.m. - Cub Scouts

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

- **Staff working from home, Office Closed**
- **FUNS Closed - Indigenous People's Day**
- **Noon** - Council Leadership by Zoom
- 2 p.m. - The People's Lobby Training
- 5:30 p.m. - SMEF Task Force

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

- 4 p.m. - Pro Musica Youth Chorus
- 5:30 p.m. - Grief Care and Support Group
- 6 p.m. - FUNS Ice Cream Social

WEDNESDAY, October 14

- 10 a.m. - Building Management Meeting
- 11 a.m. - Wednesday Bible Study
- 1:30 p.m. - All-Staff Meeting
- 2 p.m. - Worship Planning Meeting
- 3:30 p.m. - Beyond Hunger Distribution
- 6:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Bell Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

- 4:30 p.m. - Adult Education Team Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. - Learning Edge
- 7 p.m. - Sanctuary Band Rehearsal
- 7 p.m. - Raging Grannies Rehearsal

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

- 7 p.m. - Concert Series - George Rahi
- 7 p.m. - Scout Troop 16

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

- 9 a.m. - Beyond Hunger Distribution

Announcements and Save the Dates

Office Staff Working from Home on Monday

Office staff will be working from home tomorrow, October 12. Custodial staff will be in the building. FUNS is closed for Indigenous People's Day

Join FIA for Indigenous People's Day

Learn about Native American art and ceremony at The Art of Regalia Making, an exhibit preview and meet-the-artist event at the Trickster Center in Schaumburg on October 12. Meet in the First United Parking Lot at 4 p.m. to carpool to the event that runs from 5-7 p.m.

Adult Ed Speaker Series, Oct. 18

Attorney Azam Nisamuddin will return for a two-part discussion of the US Constitution, specifically: (1) whether the Supreme Court is upholding the wall of separation between Church and State, and (2) whether it applies the Constitutional Protection of Religious Liberty Equally. Meet in Centennial Hall at 9:45 a.m.

First United Concert Series, Oct. 16

Join composer and sound artist George Rahi for *Music for the Augmented Pipe Organ* at First United on Friday, October 16 at 7 p.m. A free-will offering will be collected.

New Members Class

Interested in learning more about membership at First United? The fall New Members Class will start on October 25 at 9:45 a.m. in the chapel. There are two class sessions (October 25 and November 1) followed by a joining celebration on November 8. Contact Lydia Mulkey (lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com) with questions.

Trick or Treating

Mark your calendars for our annual Halloween Celebration on October 25. Kids (of all ages) are invited to wear their costumes to church. After worship, we'll have a spooky scavenger hunt with lots of treats and maybe some tricks, too.

Phone: 708-386-5215

Email: office@firstunitedoakpark.com

Website: firstunitedoakpark.com

Socials: facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark | Instagram @firstunitedoakpark

Lead Pastor: Michael Jones

Associate Pastor: Lydia Mulkey

Music Director: Sally Sloane

Organist: Bobby Nguyen

Church Administrator: Heather Vanderberg

Financial Administrator: Patricia Morales