

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
August 24, 2025



Living God's All-Inclusive Love

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

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## PRELUDE

Elizabeth Perryman

*Simple Song* from *Mass* by Leonard Bernstein

## WELCOME

Pastor Phil Price

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to pay attention to life, time and being.

**We gather to be nourished, strengthened and sent.**

We gather to be reminded that we are called to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

**We gather to be healed of that which holds us back and to be empowered to make a difference.**

**Let us worship God!**

## \*PASSING THE PEACE

## \*OPENING HYMN

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* (Black hymnal no. 304)

**All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;**

**Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Christ servant of all.**

**Attend the Savior's sovereign claim and crown Christ servant of all.**

**Adorn, O martyred saints of old, the coronation hall;**

**Extol the wounded One foretold, and crown Christ bearer of all.**

**Extol the wounded One foretold, and crown Christ bearer of all.**

**All heirs of Israel's chosen race, now ransomed from the fall,**

**Proclaim the wonders of God's grace, and crown Christ healer of all.**

**Proclaim the wonders of God's grace, and crown Christ healer of all.**

**Before the cross, with heaven's throng, we on our knees shall fall;**

**We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Christ savior of all.**

**We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Christ savior of all.**

## PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Pastor Phil

**O God of boundless creativity, forgive our satisfaction with the solutions of yesterday in trying to solve the problems of today. O God of boundless generosity, forgive our continuing to believe in scarcity and lack. O God of unending love, forgive us when we choose fear over faith and apathy over hope. Breathe your goodness into us and free us to dare to dream bold dreams. Amen.**

*Time for silent prayer.*

## ASSURANCE OF LOVE

You are forgiven! As we acknowledge failings, they are already behind us, and we are on a path of recovery and healing. The only failings that cannot be healed are the ones never acknowledged. God is with us, among us, and in us. We receive the grace that allows God to be expressed through us.

## 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

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### BACKPACK BLESSING

Pastor Lydia

### \*HYMN OF ILLUMINATION

*Amazing Grace* (Black hymnal no. 547, vv. 1, 3 & 5)

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;  
'Til grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

## SCRIPTURE READING – LUKE 13:10-17

# SERMON – WHEN THE ANSWER BECOMES THE PROBLEM

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

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### FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING

Marilyn McKenna

*This Month's Offering will benefit Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America*

### CALL TO THE OFFERING

Pastor Phil

### OFFERTORY

Sanctuary Band

*People Get Ready*

People get ready, there's a train a-coming  
You don't need no baggage; you just get on board.  
All you need is faith to hear the diesels humming  
Don't need no ticket, you just thank the Lord.

People get ready for the train to Jordan / Picking up passengers from coast to coast.  
Faith is the key, open the doors and board 'em  
There's room for all among the loved the most.

There ain't no room for the hopeless sinner  
Who would hurt all mankind just to save his own.  
Have pity on those whose chances are thinner  
'Cause there's no hiding place from the Kingdom's throne.

So, people get ready, there's a train a-coming  
You don't need no baggage; you just get on board.  
All you need is faith to hear the diesels humming  
Don't need no ticket, you just thank the Lord.

I'm getting ready, I'm getting ready, This time I'm ready, This time I'm ready.

## \*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 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.

## GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION & SERVICE

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### \*CLOSING HYMN

#### *Canticle of the Turning*

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that You bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight and my weakness you did not spurn.  
So, from east to west shall Thy name be blest: could the world be about to turn?

*Refrain:* My heart shall sing of the day you bring, let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all the tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my All, you work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. R/

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn.  
There are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. R/

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast.  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forbears heard is the promise that holds us bound  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. R/

## 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

*Waltz in E Minor* by Frédéric Chopin

# 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](http://firstunitedoakpark.com).*

## Church School Carnival Today After Worship

Head out to the lawn after worship for popcorn, fun, and games as well as a chance to register for Church School. Need to register, but unable to stay? Use the QR code so you are ready to go when we resume on September 7.



## Fifth Sunday Offering Next Week

Next week we will begin a new mission opportunity. In each month of the year where there is a fifth Sunday, we will hold a special offering to support the Pastoral Emergency Fund. This fund allows our church to support members and friends in times of need. Please give generously!

## Prime Time Breakfast at Al's Grill, August 28

Join Prime Time at 9 a.m. on August 28 at Al's Grill (1100 Madison, Oak Park) for breakfast! \$20 pp will cover breakfast, tax and tip. Please RSVP to Janet Haisman ([jhaisman59@gmail.com](mailto:jhaisman59@gmail.com)) by August 25.

## BUILD Bike Ride, August 30

Join Waging Peace on a bike ride with BUILD, Inc. through the Austin community on August. 30. All ages welcome! The ride starts at 5100 W. Harrison Street and leaves at 10 a.m. Want to ride with First United friends to BUILD? Meet at the Columbus Park Refectory (5701 W. Jackson) at 9:30 a.m.

## First United Closed, September 1

First United will be closed and all staff will have the day off on September 1 for Labor Day.

## Music Ministry Rehearsals Resume, September 3

Music rehearsals begin September 3! Bell Choir will rehearse September 3 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Sanctuary Choir will rehearse from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the choir room. Contact Dr. Sally Sloane ([ssloane@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:ssloane@firstunitedoakpark.com)) for more information.

## Youth Programs Resume September 7

Youth groups will kick off on September 7 for Middle School (6-8 grades) and High School. Both groups will meet from 5-7 p.m. on the church lawn. Watch the eblast for more information and a button to register!

# 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](mailto: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 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. Contact Lydia Mulkey ([lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com)).



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