

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK  
2 APRIL 2017 - LENT FIVE



*An open community united in love and justice*

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“The world is always there, yet we vanish into self-absorption, boredom, viewing the world at a distance. When awakened, we see things more simply, more vividly, and in a more sustained manner.” - Martin Heidegger

\*Please stand in body or spirit. Please silence cell phones.

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Andante religioso from Sonata IV*  
*Finale: Andante from Sonata VI*

Felix Mendelssohn

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the red pew pad.

Britt Cox

# GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Britt Cox

In the first signs of spring,  
**We see how God loves us.**

In the tears of a worried father or the weariness of a mother after a long day's work,  
**We see how God loves us.**

In tender words of comfort, or hope given to the brokenhearted,  
**We see how God loves us. Let us worship God!**

## \* HYMN 466

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

blue hymnal

## CALL TO CONFESSION

The truth is, if we say we never fall short then we are deceiving ourselves. Yet God is merciful and just, and in our confession we will find peace. Let us do so now...

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we are set free by your saving grace, yet we confess that we are still often bound by our pride. We seem unable to throw off the habits that bind us, to be freed to respond to your call. We cling to our fears, to what is familiar and to what feels safe. Break the bonds of our sin and fear. Give us strength and hope. Call us to new life through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SILENCE IS KEPT.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! We can put our hope in God, for God provides love that never fades, and life that never ends.

**God's hope, God's love and God's grace are forever. Thanks be to God!**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE**

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

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

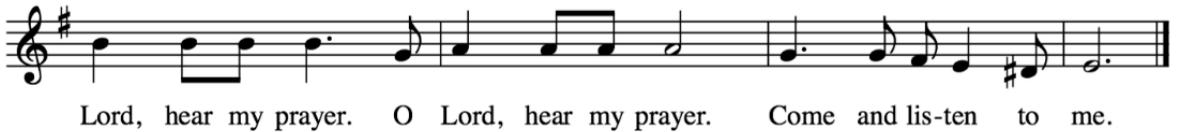
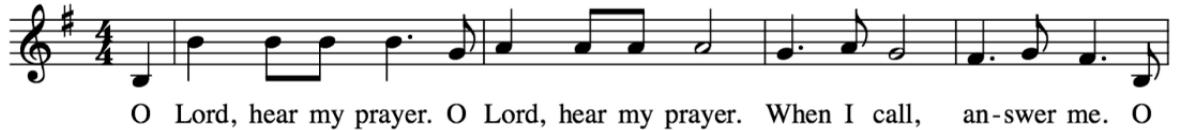
TIME FOR SHARING

Alicia Reese

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

TAIZE



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HEBREW BIBLE READING

Psalms 130 (OT p. 573)

Lydia Mulkey

GOSPEL READING

John 11:1-45 (XT p. 104)

SERMON

Awakened

John Cole

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**\*HYMN 311**

*We Meet You, O Christ*

NORMANDY

blue hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lydia Mulkey

Offerings are a sacred act of worship. We invite you to use the green giving cards in the pew rack to celebrate what you've already given or to make an additional donation.

OFFERTORY

*In Deep Despair I Call to Thee*

Felix Mendelssohn

In deep despair I call to you, O God; hear my bitter crying. Incline your gracious ear to me and hearken to my sighing. If you mark iniquities, remember our infirmities. God, who can stand before you?

Although our sins and failings stand, God's grace through all prevails; God's love remains our helping hand, God's mercy never fails. In steadfast love our Friend and Guide does stand forever at our side, from danger to defend us. (*Psalms 130, paraphrased*)

**\*DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

**INVITATION**

John Cole

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Lydia Mulkey

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We bring our hearts to God.**

Let us give thanks to our God of hope.

**We rejoice in God, who dwells in our souls.**

From the very first moment, God unbound creation and let it grow. God's hand was on the dust of the earth. God's Spirit breathed life into us all. From the very beginning, God longed to be with us, and for us to respond to God's call. When we allowed sin and death to lead us down wrong paths, God sent prophets to urge us back. Still, we did not believe their words. So God sent Jesus, to cause new life to come upon us.

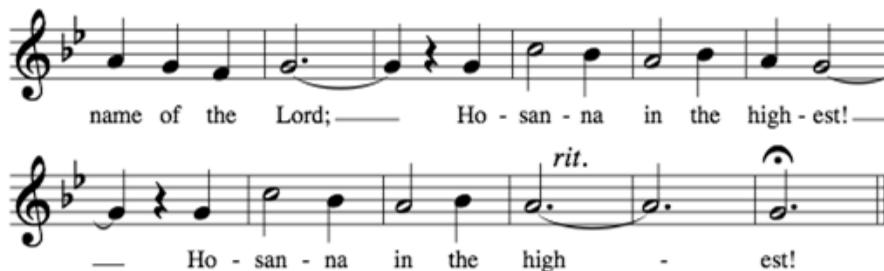
With those who have stood beside graves and those who wait for songs of hope, we sing our praises to you:

**SANCTUS**

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (from Mass of Creation)*

Marty Haugen

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. A fermata with the number '4' above it covers the first measure. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, God of pow - er, God of might, Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. — Ho - san - na in the high - est! — Bles - sed is he who comes in the



You are holy, O God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son. Seeing that those he loved were sick, he brought us healing. Finding us wandering in despair, he gave us hope. Believing that you loved him, he went to the cross for us. And when we felt we were trapped, at the end and out of hope, he cried out, "unbind him, and let him go!" For he is the Resurrection and the Life, the One who calls us to new life, which is why we proclaim that mystery we call faith:

**Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, help the body of Christ be One, and send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Help the left hand and the right hand work as one in ministry to all the world.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Alicia Reese

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Britt Cox and John Cole

### SHARING THE FEAST

Today we serve communion by intinction. Beginning from the middle pews, we invite everyone to come to the front to share in the joyful feast. As you reach the servers, take a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. Gluten free bread is available at the station by the baptismal font. Return to your place by the outside rows. There are also stations available in the back of the sanctuary.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Britt Cox

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you and each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

# GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION AND SERVICE

\* **HYMN 384**  
blue hymnal

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

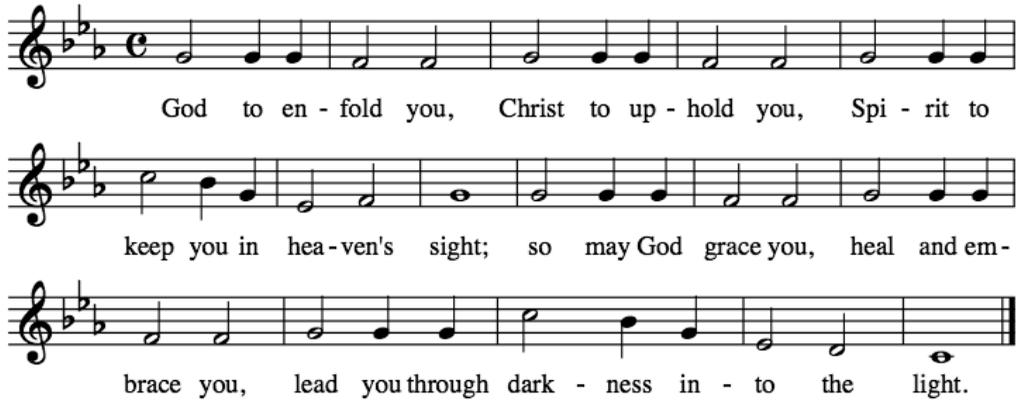
ST. MARGARET

\* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\* **BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*God to Enfold You*

Iona Community



God to en - fold you, Christ to up - hold you, Spi - rit to  
keep you in hea - ven's sight; so may God grace you, heal and em -  
brace you, lead you through dark - ness in - to the light.

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**SENDING MUSIC**

*Allegro maestoso e vivace from Sonata II*

Felix Mendelssohn

# TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

**THE BULLETIN COVER** is a coloring page for all ages to color during or after worship.

**IT'S TIME TO ORDER EASTER LILIES!** If you'd like to order an Easter Lily (for the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday) in honor or memory of someone, please fill out an envelope at either Sanctuary entrance and return in the offering plate or to Amanda in the office by Monday, April 10.

**THIS SUNDAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are in celebration of Chris Davis' 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, from Stan Davis! Happy Birthday, Chris!

**EVENING DIVISION MEETING AFTER CHURCH TODAY:** Evening Division members and friends, don't forget our meeting in Centennial Hall after church.

## **MAF: ORGAN AND TRUMPET CONCERT TODAY IN THE SANCTUARY**

Rhonda Sider Edgington, former First United organist, and Brian Reichenbach, Assistant Professor of Music at Trinity University in Deerfield, will present a concert of organ and trumpet music today in the Sanctuary at 4 p.m. After seven years of organ study in Germany, Rhonda is now organist at Hope Church, staff accompanist at Hope College in Michigan, and maintains an active concert career.



**PLEASE RECYCLE** your bulletin in one of the bins near the Sanctuary exits.

**JOIN THE DEACONS** for prayer and anointing in the chapel following Worship.

**HEARING AMPLIFICATION DEVICES--INCLUDING T-COIL CABLES, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, BIBLES AND HYMNALS** are available for use during worship. Please talk to a greeter to obtain these items and return the amplification device to the greeter. Large print bibles and hymnals should be returned to the table behind the middle pews.

# **NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 9**

## **NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 9 – PALM SUNDAY**

Anointed – Isaiah 42:1-9, John 12:1-8

### **NEXT WEEK IN ADULT ED: PALM SUNDAY... PARADE OR PROTEST?**

Next Sunday we will parade down the aisles of the sanctuary, waving palm branches to welcome Jesus with songs of "Hosanna!" However, for Jesus and his disciples, there was much more to this week than a parade in the streets of Jerusalem.

What if this year we renamed Holy Week for what it truly was and should be for us today?

Resistance Week. Justice Week. Protest Week.

Join us in Centennial Hall for a presentation and discussion about the political messages of Palm Sunday. Pastor Britt Cox will facilitate.

### **MOVING FROM PLANNING TO ACTION**

We listened. We heard you. We reported what you said. Now it's time to share plans to move forward with our collective goals. Please join the Strategic Planning Task Force in Centennial Hall after worship next Sunday. We'll have a light lunch. We think you'll be as excited about the future of First United as we are!

# EVENTS AND UPDATES

## **REFUGEE PROJECT UPDATE: WE HAVE A FAMILY!**

RefugeeOne has found a family who arrived early this year for us to sponsor! Our next move is to have a RefugeeOne-provided training for family visitation and tutoring here at First United. Watch for a date to be announced soon!

## **FIRST UNITED HONORED BY HOUSING FORWARD**

First United and four other congregations were honored at Housing Forward's February Gala for their founding roles and continued support of the organization. Since 1992, First United has provided housing space for homeless individuals served by Housing Forward, as well as teams of volunteers, facilities, supplies and donation funds. Representing First United were Mark Jolicoeur, Tai Zimmerman, John Cole, Sallie Smylie (President, Board of Directors), Mark Smylie, Beth Mrkvicka and Steve Mrkvicka.

**FYI: THIS MONTH'S DINNER AND A MOVIE, PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 7, HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, MAY 5.**

## **YARD SALE TO HELP GUN VIOLENCE VICTIMS' FAMILIES**

April 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in front of the Hemingway Museum

Proceeds to help gun violence victims' families. Sponsored by the New Life Austin-Oak Park Church

## **THREE PREMIER CHICAGO CHILDREN'S CHOIRS COME TOGETHER TO SING AT FIRST UNITED**

Saturday, April 8, 3 p.m. in the First United Sanctuary

Three Choirs Live brings together Pro Musica Youth Chorus, Evanston Children's Choir, and Anima (Glen Ellen Children's Choir) for an amazing day of singing, culminating in a community concert. Pro Musica is honored to be hosting the event this year, so let's pack the house for this wonderful collaboration! Cost: \$10 at the door

## **SAVE THE DATE! - BREAD BAKING AND FELLOWSHIP**

**On Wednesday, April 12,** we will bake the bread for Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday and prepare the space for our Maundy Thursday meal in Centennial Hall. We will begin at 4:30 and end when all the loaves are completed. Newcomers and veteran bread bakers welcome! Come and learn, come and connect with each other Lent comes to a close. Dinner will be provided. All are welcome! Email Britt Cox if you are interested, [bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com)

## **HELP US HELP NEW MOMS**

Make a Flower Power donation in the lounge today; suggested tax-deductible amount is \$10-\$15. New Moms serves struggling and impoverished teenage parents and their children with housing and services that enable them to achieve independence and family stability. The Church School classes will plant the pots for tots on May 7. More details in the April Messenger Bell.

### **JOIN PRESBYTERIAN ACTIVIST COUNCIL IN CHICAGO - APPLY BY APRIL 3!**

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship's (PPF) Activist Council is coming to Chicago April 27-29! The Activist Council is like the hands and feet of the organization working for peace. Anyone who commits to follow the nonviolent way of Jesus and be active in and contribute to the work of PPF is welcomed.

The gathering is open to all—if you are curious about PPF you can come, participate and discern whether joining the Activist Council is for you. Visit [www.presbypeacefellowship.org](http://www.presbypeacefellowship.org) for gathering registration and information.

### **PETER STEINKE'S CONTACT INFORMATION**

Church Council has engaged Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke, a noted church consultant, to help us learn about how we can become a healthier congregation. At the workshop Peter presented on March 18, he encouraged all interested members to contact him directly, and provided the following contact information:

11713 Astoria Drive  
Austin TX 78738  
512.263.7861; [hcongregations@austin.rr.com](mailto:hcongregations@austin.rr.com)

Peter will return to First United on Saturday, April 22, with a report of his analysis so far.

Interested in reading Dr. Steinke's book? We have two copies of *Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach* available for church members to check out from our First United library. It's a quick read, full of anecdotal stories. We request copies be returned within four days.

**LOSE SOMETHING?** Check out the lost and found bin under the coat racks. All items still remaining in the bin will be donated to the Economy Shop by April 15.

**OUR DONATION BINS HAVE MOVED!** Kids Klostet and Food Pantry book donations now have designated shelves across from the kitchenette and lounge bathrooms.

# Moving from

*words to witness*  
in our relationship with God,

*individualism to intimate*  
fellowship in our relationship with other members of the church community,

*charity to changing*  
structures in our relationship with the world.

**WELCOME-** We're glad you joined us for worship. Learn about First United:

- Visit the welcome desk in the lounge or the visitor table in the narthex to receive more information about the church and a gift to take home with you.
- Sign the registration pad when it's passed. Include your email to receive our weekly e-news and devotional!
- Speak with any greeter or minister or join us for coffee hour following worship.
- Contact Britt Cox at 708.386.5215 or [bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com) for information about Newcomers Gatherings and any additional questions.

**ABOUT US -** We are a union church of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ. We seek to be an inclusive expression of Christ's body celebrating our diversity while finding our unity in Christ. We are a More Light/Open and Affirming congregation, committed to full inclusion of GLBTQ people in membership & ministry.

**ABOUT WORSHIP -** Worship is our time to praise and grow closer to God. Worship each week includes song, prayer, learning, silence and giving. If you have any questions about what we do, please ask a minister or a member.

**WORSHIP WITH CHILDREN -** We welcome all children to participate fully in worship. Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the sanctuary. We offer safe, quality childcare and quiet play for children five and under in our nursery (just off the lounge). Accompanied by a parent, these children may leave after Time for Sharing.

**RESTROOMS & WiFi -** Accessible restrooms are located off the church lounge. Free Wireless Internet is available in all areas except the Sanctuary. Network: 'FirstGuest', password: 'FirstUnited'.

**GIVING -** Offering envelopes are in the pew racks. You can also give one time or recurring gifts online at [www.firstunitedoakpark.com/giving](http://www.firstunitedoakpark.com/giving).



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*an open community united in love & justice*

848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301 | 708.386.5215

[www.firstunitedoakpark.com](http://www.firstunitedoakpark.com) | [facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark](https://www.facebook.com/firstunitedoakpark)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2 - LENT FIVE**

9:30 am Church School and Adult Ed  
11:00 am Worship  
12:00 pm Evening Division planning meeting  
12:15 pm Safe Church Policy team meeting  
1:00 pm Bluegrass Easter rehearsal  
4:00 pm MAF: Organ and Trumpet Concert  
6:00 pm FUJI/FUSH

**MONDAY, APRIL 3**

6:30 pm Pack 16 Meeting  
7:00 pm Gargoyle Organ and Brass rehearsal  
7:00 pm CROP Walk Team meeting  
7:00 pm Deacon meeting

**TUESDAY, APRIL 4**

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus  
6:00 pm Communications committee meeting  
7:00 pm Children's Ministry meeting  
7:00 pm Personnel committee meeting  
7:00 pm Troop 16 committee meeting

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5**

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group  
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

**THURSDAY, APRIL 6**

6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring

**FRIDAY, APRIL 7**

4:00 pm Ward Fisher Memorial Service  
6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 16 Meeting

**SATURDAY, APRIL 8**

3:00 pm Three Choirs Live Concert

**SUNDAY, APRIL 9 - PALM SUNDAY**

8:30 am Church School Leader Breakfast  
9:30 am Church School and Adult Ed  
11:00 am Worship  
12:00 pm Maundy Thursday worship rehearsal  
12:00 pm Presentation of Strategic Plan  
3:00 pm Eagle Scout Reception  
6:00 pm FUJI/FUSH

**CONTACT THE FIRST UNITED OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9 AM TO 5 PM  
708.386.5215**

John Cole, Lead Pastor (ext. 101)

Britt Cox, Associate Pastor (ext. 105)

Lydia Mulkey, Director of Christian Education (ext. 103)

Alicia Reese, Coordinator of Youth & Children's Ministry (ext. 104)

William Chin, Director of Music (ext. 108)

Michael Surratt, Organist

Donna Montgomery, Church Administrator (ext. 102)

Amanda Swanson, Administrative Assistant (ext. 100)

LynToya Pate, Financial Assistant (ext. 106)

Keith Liesse, Head Custodian

First United Church Nursery School

Prevail/Housing Forward

Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry

The Kid's Closet, children's clothing ministry

[jcole@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:johncole@firstunitedoakpark.com)

[bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:brittcox@firstunitedoakpark.com)

[lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:lydiamulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com)

[areese@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:aliciareese@firstunitedoakpark.com)

[bill@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:bill@firstunitedoakpark.com)

[msurratt@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:michael.surratt@firstunitedoakpark.com)

[donnam@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:donnam@firstunitedoakpark.com)

[office@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:office@firstunitedoakpark.com)

[lpate@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:lpate@firstunitedoakpark.com)

[kliesses@firstunitedoakpark.com](mailto:kliesses@firstunitedoakpark.com)

708.848.4910, [www.firstunitedschool.com](http://www.firstunitedschool.com)

708.386.1946, [www.housingforward.org](http://www.housingforward.org)

708.386.1324, [www.oprffoodpantry.org](http://www.oprffoodpantry.org)

[sjzaruba@yahoo.com](mailto:sjzaruba@yahoo.com)