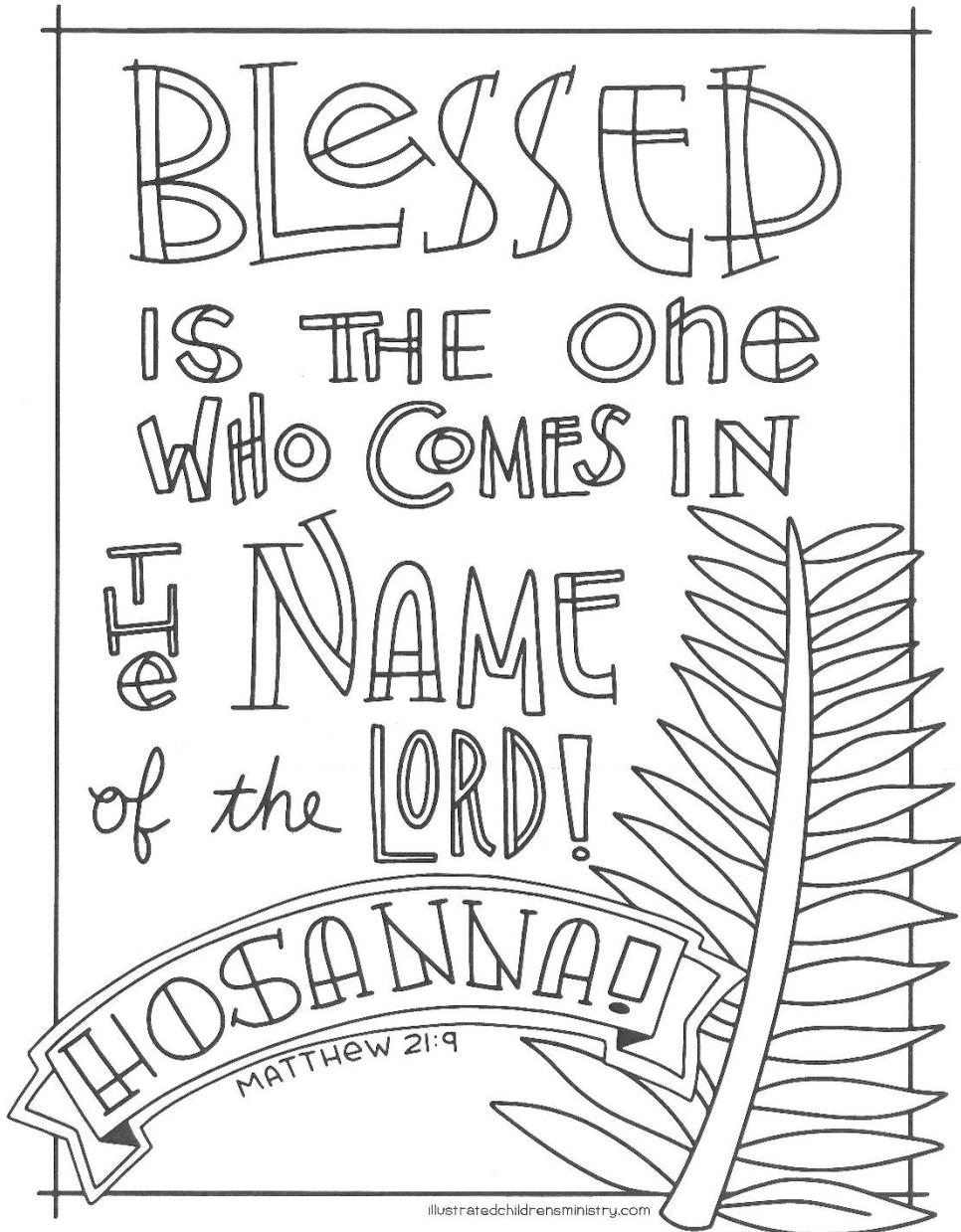


FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

9 APRIL 2017 - PALM SUNDAY



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“By carving a niche for herself on the enormous wall of resistance that faced her, she left a foothold for others.” - Paula Blanchard

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

GATHERING MUSIC *Prelude and Fugue in B-minor* J. S. Bach

OUR LIFE TOGETHER Please sign and pass the red pew pad. John Cole

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

* CALL TO WORSHIP John Cole

Give thanks for this day that begins a Holy Week!

Come with your branches, hosannas and songs!

Fill the air with welcome to the Lord!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Let us worship God!

* HYMN 88 *All Glory, Laud and Honor* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN
blue hymnal

TIME FOR SHARING Lydia Mulkey

CALL TO CONFESSION John Cole

Jesus arrived at Jerusalem to bring liberation and hope. As we approach God with honesty, we will experience forgiveness and peace. Let us do so now. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you remained faithful to your call even when it led to conflict, violence and death. Forgive our imperfect gratitude. When we struggle with mundane desires, remind us that you gave everything. When we withhold our compassion from others, when we fail to care for your creation, when we fall short of living grace-filled lives, we have rejected the cornerstone of our faith. Forgive us. Heal what we have broken, nurture what we have neglected, and lead us to your vision. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! God came to us in humility to set us free. In Christ's obedience, our sins have been forgiven. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free.

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

SONG OF ILLUMINATION

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

TAIZE



O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, an-swer me. O



Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis-ten to me.

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HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 42:1-9 (OT p. 670)

Alicia Reese

GOSPEL READING

John 12:1-8 (OT p. 106)

SERMON

Anointed

John Cole

ANOINTING

We invite you to receive a blessing through the ritual of anointing from Deacons at the front and back of the sanctuary. Oil is used to mark a prayer for peace, healing or blessing, whatever your need. All are welcome.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN 557

O What Shall I Render?

GRATITUD

blue hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Alicia Reese

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

Hosanna to the Son of David

Orlando Gibbons

Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Blessed be the King of Israel, the Kingdom that cometh in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest places. Hosanna in the highest heavens.

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDRETH

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 AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Britt Cox

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.

GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION AND SERVICE

***HYMN 90**

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

THE KING'S MAJESTY

blue hymnal

***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

Litanies

Jehan Alain

"When Christian souls in distress can no longer find new words to implore the mercy of God, they repeat the same invocation without ceasing with vehement faith. Reason reaches its limit. Faith alone continues its ascension." -Jehan Alain

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

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.

PRESENTATION OF FIRST UNITED'S STRATEGIC PLAN - TODAY in Centennial Hall following worship
Come learn about First United's Strategic Plan! Led by Vision 2020, the Task Force has reflected back the needs, strengths and hopes of the congregation in a strategic plan that will guide our church through 2020. Learn about our goals for the next three years as a church community.

THIS SUNDAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are in loving memory of Rachel Gamble Smylie, from her family.



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.

HOLY WEEK AT FIRST UNITED



The week ahead at First United has many opportunities to experience the journey towards Easter Sunday. In order for everything to happen we need lots of helping hands and God's help. We are still in need of soup warmers, table hosts, and communion servers for the events of the week. If you are interested, email Britt Cox, bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com

Wednesday Bread Baking & Fellowship, 4:30 p.m.

We bake the bread for Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday and prepare Centennial Hall for our Maundy Thursday meal. Newcomers and veteran bakers welcome to come and connect with one another as Lent comes to a close. Dinner provided.

Maundy Thursday Dinner & Worship, 6:30 p.m.

In our fullest expression of emotions of the week, we begin with a simple soup dinner and worship around tables, sharing communion and, for those who wish, footwashing. We provide soup and bread. Please bring cheese and fruit.

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Worship, 8 p.m.

From Centennial Hall, we move through the candlelit tunnels into the darkened Sanctuary, sharing Jesus' betrayal to crucifixion while reflecting on how these events of our traditions mirror the violence in our communities. Words echo in the emptied space. Our faith symbols disappear and we are left in the desolation of what humanity can do. We wait in the days without God.

Good Friday Peace Vigil, 7 p.m.

Join us on the Lake Street steps of First United.

Bluegrass Easter Sunday Worship: 8:15 a.m. labyrinth walk, 8:30 worship

John 20:1-18

Celebrate the resurrection through bluegrass music! At 8:15, arrive for a contemplative labyrinth walk. 8:30 worship begins in the Memorial Garden before making our way into the Sanctuary to joyfully sing about Jesus' resurrection with some toe-tapping bluegrass tunes.

Easter Breakfast & Silent Auction, 9:30 a.m.

Have Easter Breakfast with your church friends, accomplish your to-do list, pack PADS lunches and send our youth on a life-changing trip all at one time! Join us for an Easter Breakfast and silent auction in Centennial Hall. Youth will auction off their babysitting, garage- cleaning, tutoring and a host of other services!

We are packing lunches for those who take shelter in our building on Monday night! Sign up at <http://bit.ly/2oaT1rp> to bring needed supplies and then join us during the Easter Breakfast to help pack!

Traditional Easter Sunday Worship, 11 a.m.

Seeing is Believing – John 20:19-31

Traditional worship in the Sanctuary.

EVENTS & UPDATES

BRIDGEBUILDER: PETER STEINKE GIVES ACTION REPORT TO FIRST UNITED APRIL 22

In the next step of First United's Bridgebuilding exercise, Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke returns to First United on Saturday, April 22. During this visit, Rev. Dr. Steinke will deliver his Action Report during a congregational meeting to be held in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. There will be opportunities for members of the congregation to ask questions and offer comments during that meeting. It is anticipated that the meeting will conclude by 10:15 a.m. All members of the congregation and staff are encouraged to attend.

After the congregational meeting, Pete will meet with an Action Planning Team of congregational members to discuss Pete's report and plan next steps, which will include meetings of focus groups of congregational members to be held during the following 4 weeks. At present, it is expected that Pete and the Action Planning Team will deliver a final report to Church Council on May 21.

Please feel free to contact Tom Wolford or Laurie Jolicoeur if you have any questions.

MOMENTA PRESENTS: CONSTRUCTING A DANCE

Choreography, pointe work, the challenges of ensemble and partnering, reconstructing historical works – members of MOMENTA (the resident performing arts company of Oak Park's Academy of Movement and Music) demonstrate it all at Evening Division's April meeting. Thursday, April 20, with supper (\$15 donation) at 6 p.m., program (free) at 7, in Centennial Hall. Call 708.848.2757 to reserve. All ages welcome – join us! Don't miss JP in tights!

THE LEGACY OF THE REV. DR. ROBERT WORLEY will be honored at McCormick Seminary with a dinner gathering on Thursday, April 20, and a Symposium on Friday, April 21 beginning at 9 a.m. and ending by 3:30 p.m. Dr. Worley was Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program and a Vice President of the Seminary. His ideas and initiatives shaped the seminary and led to the multicultural reality that is McCormick today. All are welcome. Info on the lounge desk. Contact Pauline Coffman with questions.

IT'S TIME FOR A MIDPOINT CARDS NIGHT! Euchre, gin rummy, spades and everyone's favorite, spoons! Whether you know how to play or are interested in learning a new card game, join us! Friday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. Please bring your favorite wine/beer to share, along with a tasty snack. Bring a friend who hasn't attended a MIDPOINT event—we'd love to have them join in the fun. Please email barbarametric@comcast.net with any questions.

FLOWER POWER! Leading into Mother's Day, the Housing Team is sponsoring a flower project to benefit New Moms, one of Faith in Action's primary beneficiaries. New Moms serves struggling and impoverished teenage parents and their children with housing and services that enable them to achieve independence and family stability. Make a Flower Power donation today in the lounge; suggested tax-deductible amount is \$10-\$15. First United Sunday School classes will create the "Pots for Tots" on May 7.

WORSHIP MUSINGS

WORSHIP MUSINGS

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 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.



FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

an open community united in love & justice

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

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 rehearsal
 12:00 pm Strategic Plan presentation
 3:00 pm Eagle Scout Ceremony & Reception
 6:00 pm FUJI/FUSH

MONDAY, APRIL 10

8:30 am FUNS Staff meeting
 6:30 pm Pack 16 meeting
 7:00 pm Building and Grounds meeting
 7:00 pm Worship, Music and Arts meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

7:30 am Housing Forward Resource Dev.
 12:00 pm FUNS Staff meeting
 1:30 pm Cooking Matters program
 4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
 6:30 pm Tech committee meeting
 7:00 pm Finance committee meeting
 7:30 pm Faith in Action committee meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

8:00 am FUNS staff conferences
 11:00 am Wednesday Small Group
 4:30 pm Lenten Bread Baking
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

THURSDAY, APRIL 13 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:30 pm Dinner and Worship
 8:00 pm Tenebrae Worship

FRIDAY, APRIL 14 - GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 pm Good Friday Peace Vigil

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

11:30 am Bluegrass Worship rehearsal

SUNDAY, APRIL 16 - EASTER

8:15 am Labyrinth Walk
 8:30 am Bluegrass Worship
 9:30 am Breakfast & Auction
 11:00 am Worship

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

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