



# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK

## 16 APRIL 2017

EASTER SUNDAY, 8:30 AM

*An open community united in love and justice*

### PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

"Our God is in the business of bringing dead things back to life, so if we want in on God's business, we better prepare to follow God to all the rock-bottom, scorched-earth, dead-on-arrival corners of this world—including those in our own hearts— because that's where God works, that's where God gardens."

- Rachel Held Evans

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

#### LABYRINTH WALK

In the 15 minutes before worship, you are invited to walk the Labyrinth as a symbol of walking into Christ's death (as you move to the center), and Christ's resurrection (as you walk out). In the center of the Labyrinth, consider the empty tomb; at the same time, ask God to empty you of sin, of fear or of anything else that keeps you from rising with Christ.

#### GATHERING MUSIC

*Down to the River to Pray*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

John Cole

We come rushing to the empty tomb, though we do not understand.

**We come looking, hoping, praying for new life against all odds.**

We come singing Alleluias, for light is streaming out of the darkness!

**May our Alleluias ring out as we rush to follow the risen Christ into the world!**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

#### GOSPEL READING

John 20:1-10 (Part 1)

#### TIME FOR SHARING

Lydia Mulkey

**\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*Lord of the Dance*

You are invited to pick up an Easter lily in the narthex and bring it to the front of the sanctuary

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

**Chorus:**

**Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he**

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John  
They came with me and the Dance went on.

**Chorus**

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;  
The holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,  
And they left me there on a cross to die.

**Chorus**

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,  
But I am the Dance, and I still go on.

**Chorus**

They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

**OUR LIFE TOGETHER**

Please sign and pass the red pew pad.

**Britt Cox**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**Britt Cox**

Logically, rationally, we have no need to confess. Our petty sins pale in comparison to the great evils of our time. But this is the day that God tossed logic out the window and raised Jesus from the dead; so we must throw out our claims of innocence, and confess how we have not lived as God's Easter people. May we sing a song of confession together:

## **SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Hold Fast to the Light*

Kneel down by the side of your mother, my friend  
You have only a moment, I know  
But stay till I give you this parting advice  
It is all that I have to bestow

### **Chorus:**

**Hold fast to the right, hold fast to the Light  
Wherever your footsteps may roam  
Forsake not the way of salvation my friend  
That you learned from your mother at home**

I gave you to God in your cradle, my friend  
And I've taught you the best that I knew  
And as long as His mercies permit me to live  
I shall never cease praying for you

### **Chorus**

Instrumental Break

You will find in your satchel a bible, my friend  
It's the book of all others the best  
It will help you to live and prepare you to die  
And will lead you to the gates of the blessed

### **Chorus**

You leave us to seek your employment, my friend  
By the world you have yet to be tried  
But in the temptations and trials you meet  
May your heart to the Savior confide

### **Chorus**

## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

What a day! Easter Day! God's dawn of new hope, new mercy, new life.

**On this first day and every day, we can walk as God's people, forgiven and made whole.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **\*PASSING THE PEACE**

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

# LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

## SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*Gospel Plow*

Once the music begins you are invited to make your way back to your seat and join in singing

Well I got my hands on the gospel plow  
And I won't take nothin' for my journey now  
Keep your hands on the plow of God.

### **Chorus:**

**Hold on, Hold on**

**Keep your hands on the plow hold on.**

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John  
All those prophets are dead and gone  
Keep your hands on the plow of God.

### **Chorus**

I've never been to heaven but I've been told  
The streets up there are made of gold  
Keep your hands on that plow of God.

### **Chorus and end**

## GOSPEL READING CONTINUED

John 20:11-18 (Part 2)

## SERMON

*While It Was Still Dark*

Britt Cox

## \*HYMN

*Over in the Glory Land*

I've a home prepared where the saints abide  
Over in the glory land.  
I long to be by my Savior's side  
Over in the glory land.

### **Chorus:**

**Just over in the glory land**

**I'll join the happy angel band.**

**Over in the glory land**

**Just over in the glory land, there with the mighty host I'll stand,**

**Over in the glory land.**

I'm on my way to those mansions fair  
Over in the glory land.

There to sing God's praises and His glory share. *Continued on next page*

## Chorus

What a joyful thought my Lord I'll see  
Over in the glory land.  
And with kindred saved there forever I'll be  
Over in the glory land.

## Chorus

## 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

*There's a Light at the River*

There's a deep, silent river flowing just beneath,  
And its waters run deep and wide.  
My faith sees a light, Lord, a beckonin' light,  
Down by the river side.

### Chorus:

**There's a light at the river, a light at the river,  
A light at the river I can see.  
My Lord will stand and hold in his hand  
A light at the river for me.**

Instrumental

To that deep, silent river we must one day come  
And cross over its waters wide.  
They will carry us away from the realm of the day  
To our home on the other side.

### Chorus

Instrumental

### Chorus

## \*DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

# THE JOYFUL FEAST, THE HEAVENLY BANQUET

## INVITATION TO THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Alicia Reese

The God of every morning be with you.

**And also with you.**

People of Easter morning, lift up your hearts!

**We lift them to the One who has raised Jesus from the grave.**

People of Easter's joy, give thanks to the One who raises us to new life.

**We sing our hallelujahs to the God of everlasting love.**

On this day of joy and hope, we sing our praise to you, Redeemer of the lost. Very early in the morning, your Word shattered the silence of chaos, and grace flowed forth like a river.

**You reached down and gathered up the dust of creation, forming us into your image and breathing life into us.**

Yet the day came when we chose to turn from you, believing our wisdom was superior to your will for us. You sent us the prophets to speak of your gracious hope, but we refused to listen.

**When you could have let us remain in the clutches of sin and death, you sent Jesus to be one of us, so we could come home to you.**

Therefore, we join our voices this morning with those who stood at the empty tomb, as well as those in every time and place, singing our Easter joy to you:

## SANCTUS

Repeat after the leader.

**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, God of every day, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Bright Morning Star.

**Creator of all that is good, he entered the shadows of hell to lead us into hope's light.**

Beloved of your Heart, he embraced our sin so we could be forgiven;

**Glorious beyond imagination, he welcomed death so we could enter life eternal.**

Even as we believe what we may not understand, we trust that mystery we call faith:

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Christ has died, but death does not have the final word;**

**Christ is risen, and Easter begins for us**

**When Christ calls us by name.**

**Christ will come again and lead us into God's glory.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lydia Mulkey

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Britt Cox and John Cole

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Britt Cox

It is here at this Table, Resurrecting God, that we are fed by your love. As you pour out your Spirit upon the Bread and the Cup,

**Fill us with the spirit of Jesus, so we may go forth to be your people.**

Feed us with the Bread of Heaven,

**So we can fill the hunger of the world.**

Touch our lips with salvation's cup,

**So we can proclaim the good news of this day to everyone we meet.**

And when the morning comes when we are united with all the saints gathered around heaven's Table, we will lift our voices to you.

**God in Community, Holy in One, forever and ever. Amen.**

## SHARING THE ELEMENTS

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 in the cup. Gluten free bread is available with the servers at the baptismal font.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

Fiddle Tunes Medley

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

John Cole

Gracious God, we give thanks for bread for the journey, for your wisdom guiding us along the way. May there be friends to share the road as we dare to dream of creation renewed, and hope in the promise of justice for all. May we experience resurrection in our very lives as we pray the prayer you taught us to pray:

## 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.**

## \*CLOSING HYMN 245

*Traveling the Highway Home*

**Chorus:**

**I'm traveling the highway home.**

**Oh, narrow's the way, thank God I can say**

**I'm traveling the highway home.**

Going toward the sunset of time

Traveling the highway home.

Leavin' this world of sin far behind,

Traveling the highway home

**Chorus**

*Continued on next page*

Well ol' Satan said I'd never be  
Traveling the highway home.  
When I resisted, he had to flee;  
Traveling the highway home

**Chorus**

Sometimes the road seems weary and long  
Traveling the highway home.  
But in my heart there's always a song,  
Traveling the highway home

**Chorus**

**\*EASTER BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed!**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*I'll Fly Away*

Some bright morning when this life is o'er,  
I'll fly away  
To a home on God's celestial shore,  
I'll fly away.

Oh how glad and happy when we meet,  
I'll fly away.  
No more cold iron shackles on my feet,  
I'll fly away.

**Chorus:**

**I'll fly away, oh glory,  
I'll fly away.  
When I die, Hallelujah by and by,  
I'll fly away.**

**Chorus**

Just a few more weary days and then  
I'll fly away  
To a land where joys will never end  
I'll fly away

When the shadows of this life have gone,  
I'll fly away.  
Like a bird from these prison walls, I'll fly,  
I'll fly away.

**Chorus (2X)**

**Chorus**

**POSTLUDE**

*A Robin Built a Nest on Daddy's Grave*

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN OUR SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP FUSH IN CENTENNIAL HALL  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP FOR EASTER BREAKFAST.**

# TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

## **THANK YOU TO THE MUSICIANS WHO MADE TODAY'S WORSHIP POSSIBLE:**

Kevin Crowell, Tom Gorman, Len Palombi, Ron Paluck, Don Sibley, Ed Studinski, David Swain, Lily Alter, Nicole Cerniglia, Lura Honderich

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FIRST UNITED BUILDING WILL BE CLOSED TOMORROW, April 17, in order to allow the staff a day of rest.**

**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.
- 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 x105 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.



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

**HEARING AMPLIFICATION DEVICES, 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.

# EASTER LILY DEDICATIONS

From the Faust family in memory of Sara's parents, William & May Rickert, and her brother David Rickert.

From the Faust family in honor of Stan's mother, Julia Faust, and in memory of his father, Carl.

In honor of the ministry of Rev. Marylen Marty-Gentile, love Brett Gentile, Ray Cullen, Liz Gentile and Chase Gentile.

In memory of Leslie Ann Doulens, whose life was centered on the promise of Easter, from Karin and Dan Pietrini.

From Diane Stephenson, in honor of John and Clara Stephenson.

In loving memory of Lawrence H. Hunt, Lawrence H. Hunt, Junior and Douglas H. Hunt, from Margaret Hunt Campbell.

In loving memory of Mary and Gordon Macaulay, from Susan Macaulay.

In honor of Janice Arnold, from the Arnold-Anderson family.

From Gayle Jessen, in loving memory of Louis and Helen Jessen.

In memory of Richard Waichler, from Nancy Waichler.

In celebration of Grace, Emily, Kate, Parker and Meg, from Lee and Mary Lou Anderson.

From Craig and Kelly Bechtel, in memory of Rev. Dr. J. Gordon Bechtel.

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

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First United Church Nursery School

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

Prevail/Housing Forward

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

Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry

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

The Kid's Kloset, children's clothing ministry

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



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