

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
5 MARCH 2017 - LENT ONE



 Sanctified Art Illustration by: Lauren Wright Pittman | Inspired by: John 3:1-17 | sanctifiedart.org

An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“A basic assumption of spiritual renewal is that our call is ongoing. We come to understand our faith journey through the telling of our stories. The project of existence — the story of our lives — is thus renewed each day, continually transforming our lives, bringing replenishment and hope.” - Edward P. Wimberly, Recalling Our Own Stories

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

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COLOR THE BULLETIN COVERS THROUGHOUT LENT!

Coloring can be a kind of meditation and you are encouraged to use the colored pencils and crayons located in baskets against the front, right wall, nearest the baptismal font.

GATHERING MUSIC *Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us; Christ, Have Mercy Upon Us* 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

We are gathered together to worship God.

We belong to one another. We are all God's children.

Today, we are at the start of a journey.

As we pray, grant us peace.

As we sing, fill our hearts.

As we listen, give us strength. Let us worship God!

*** HYMN 202** *O God, How We Have Wandered* PASSION CHORALE
black hymnal

CALL TO CONFESSION John Cole

In quiet trust, in simple words, we enter a space for prayer. As we confess our sins, may the door to God's heart be open, and may we share in God's grace and mercy. Let us pray...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, we come to you when we have lost our way, when we need your Light to guide our path. Too often, we do not seek you, we hide from you, we think we know it all already, we find someone else to blame. At times, we have let our anger consume us, we have turned on our neighbor, we have allowed our hearts to be closed. Forgive us. Tear down the walls that we have built. When we stray, draw us back. Don't give up on us. Guide our way. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! God's love is steadfast. God's mercy is abundant. God does not condemn, but forgives. Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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



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

Genesis 2:15-17 (OT p. 2)

Lydia Mulkey

GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-16 (NT p. 93)

Bob Berry and Sarah Lineberry

SERMON

Coming Out of the Dark

John Cole

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN 193

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

RATHBUN

black 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*Call to Remembrance*

Richard Farrant

Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercy and thy loving kindness, which hath been ever of old. O remember not the sins and offenses of my youth, but according to thy mercy, think thou on me, O Lord, for thy goodness.

***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

Alicia Reese

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God, our creator and redeemer. In your wisdom, you made all things and sustain them by your power. You formed us in your image to love and serve you, but we forgot your promises and abandoned your commandments. In your mercy, you did not reject us but still claimed us as your own. You freed us from bondage, you fed us in the wilderness, you satisfied our thirst. You gave us your law to guide us in your way. You led us to the land of your promise and sustained us in times of trial. When we strayed, you called us back. You sent your only Son to be the way to eternal life. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful in every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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

Marty Haugen

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It begins with a four-measure rest, indicated by a '4' above the staff. 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
name of the Lord; — Ho - san - na in the high - est! —
— Ho - san - na in the high - est!

You are holy, O God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son. He took upon himself the weight of our sin and carried the burden of our guilt. He shared our life in every way, and though tempted, was sinless to the end. Baptized as your own, he went willingly to his death, and by your power was raised to new life. In his dying and rising, you gave birth to your church, delivered us, and made a new covenant with us. Remembering all of these things, we take this bread and cup from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won in Jesus Christ. Accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

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

Lydia Mulkey

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leah Pollock

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

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

Michael Readling

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 497

Guide My Feet

GUIDE MY FEET

black hymnal

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

God to Enfold You

TAIZE



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

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

J. S. Bach

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOCUS GROUP FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Today following worship, the Strategic Planning Task Force will hold a focus group for all Committee Chairs on the draft strategic plan. All Committee Chairs should attend. Location: Centennial Hall. If you have questions, please contact Chair of the Strategic Planning Task Force Mary Anderson at: maryanderson1998@gmail.com



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.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

O.W.L. PARENT MEETING

Parents of 7th/8th Graders who wish to participate in the March O.W.L. retreat must attend the informational meeting tomorrow, March 6, at 7 p.m. in the chapel. Contact Lydia if you have a conflict or question. lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com

2017 EVENING DIVISION MEMORIAL GRANT

Applications for the 2017 Evening Division \$1500 Memorial Grant are available on the lounge desk. Please pick one up for any organization that would benefit. Award presentation is June 8.

EAT PIZZA AND SUPPORT CLUSTER TUTORING

Please support Cluster's fundraiser with Lou Malnati's, 1038 Lake St., from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Wednesday, March 8. Dine in, carryout, or delivery -- Cluster will receive 20% of total sales when you present the fundraiser flyer or show it on your phone. Make sure you mention the fundraiser when ordering. Flyers are available at both entrances to the sanctuary.

I AM WOMAN: POEMS IN HONOR OF WOMEN FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Evening Division is pleased to present its fifth annual, well-loved poetry evening on Thursday, March 9. Barbara Ballinger has assembled a group of readers who will present *I Am Woman*, poems familiar and unfamiliar, old and new--in Honor of Women. 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!

THE JULIAN CHIN TRIO IN CONCERT - TRIBUTE TO AHMAD JAMAL

Join us as Music at First presents an evening of jazz with the Julian Chin Trio in a tribute to Ahmad Jamal, Saturday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. The trio features Julian Chin on piano, Jarad Kleinstein on drums, and Ben Dillinger on bass.

IT'S TIME TO THINK SPRING!

The Nursery School offers beautiful plants each year and appreciates your support. Order forms may be picked up in the church lounge today and must be returned by March 17. Gorgeous plants will be in Centennial Hall for pick up May 5, in perfect time for planting.

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 12 - LENT TWO

"Living Water" – John 4:5-30

Don't forget to spring ahead for Daylight Saving time!

ADULT ED NEXT WEEK

STANDING WITH STANDING ROCK

The standoff at Standing Rock between the Water Protectors and the DAPL raises multiple concerns: water safety and security, environmental stewardship, the rights of indigenous peoples and a history rooted in colonization and the doctrine of discovery. As people of faith, how can we best respond and what is our appropriate role? Please join in conversation with Rev. Lisa Noel Seiwert, Project Director of the InterReligious Institute at Chicago Theological Seminary. Lisa traveled to Standing Rock last November to participate in an interfaith gathering of religious leaders offering witness and support to the Water Protectors at the Oceti Sakowin Camp. She will share her experience and guide our conversation.

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.



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an open community united in love & justice

848 Lake Street, Oak Park IL 60301 | 708.386.5215

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SUNDAY, MARCH 5 - LENT ONE

9:30 am Church School and Adult Ed
 11:00 am Worship
 12:00 pm Committee Chair focus group
 3:00 pm Quest World Religions program
 6:00 pm FUJI/FUSH (away)

MONDAY, MARCH 6

6:30 pm Pack 16 meeting
 7:00 pm Deacon meeting
 7:00 pm O.W.L. Parent meeting
 7:30 pm Adult Ed committee meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

4:00 pm Pro Musica Youth Chorus
 6:00 pm Communications committee meeting
 7:00 pm Children's Ministry meeting
 7:00 pm Council Called meeting
 7:00 pm Troop 16 committee meeting
 7:00 pm Planned Giving meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

11:00 am Wednesday Small Group
 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir
 7:00 pm Food Pantry Resource Dev. meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

9:30 am True North meeting (Presbytery)
 6:00 pm Evening Division
 6:30 pm Cluster Tutoring

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 16 Meeting

SATURDAY, MARCH 11**SUNDAY, MARCH 12 - LENT TWO**

Daylight Saving Time!
 9:30 am Church School and Adult Ed
 11:00 am Worship
 3:00 pm Eagle Court of Honor and 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)	jcole@firstunitedoakpark.com
Britt Cox, Associate Pastor (ext. 105)	bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com
Lydia Mulkey, Director of Christian Education (ext. 103)	lmulkey@firstunitedoakpark.com
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First United Church Nursery School	708.848.4910, www.firstunitedschool.com
Prevail/Housing Forward	708.386.1946, www.housingforward.org
Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry	708.386.1324, www.oprffoodpantry.org
The Kid's Kloset, children's clothing ministry	sjzaruba@yahoo.com