



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
September 10,
2023
10:00 AM**

**Fifteenth Sunday
After Pentecost**





Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. Masks and distance recommended, not required

Livestream on YouTube. Live at 10am then available on our channel

"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast. Available wherever you get your podcasts, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



Ways to Give

Text Your Gift. Text your gift to [844-977-2346](tel:844-977-2346)

After a short set-up the first time, simply text your gift amount

Use PayPal. [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&from=seller=&to=stpeteruccskokie)

Send a Check. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

Set up Vanco. Contact the church office to enroll in regular giving



Open Communion

All Christians and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who **loves everyone**, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we **joyously welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): revlanford@gmail.com

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

Ben Westphal (Music Director): bcwestphal@gmail.com

Facebook/Instagram/YouTube: [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

Website: www.stpeteruccskokie.org

Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!



8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166

St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 10:00am
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.

PRELUDE Partita on "Built on the Rock" arr. Fedak
V. Toccata

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our Call to Worship today is a hymn for us to sing; it is "Shine, Jesus, Shine" And is on the next page, as well as Supplemental Songbook # 32.

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;
 blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
 Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;
 send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
 2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our fac - es dis -
 dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
 play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry.

set us free by the truth you now bring us.
 mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain

Shine on me, shine on me:
 Shine on me, shine on me:

Text: Graham Kendrick
 Music: SHINI...I:SUS, SHINI, Graham Kendrick

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CALL TO CONFESSION

P: In one line of the song, we referred to “so our faces, displaying Your likeness.” We know that is the ideal; Scripture does say we are to be changing from glory to glory in Christ, by God’s grace, but are you and I displaying God’s glorious likeness when we stumble as we humans do? We affirm that no one is perfect. Not all that we say, think or do pleases our loving God. Please join me then in the spirit of prayer as we own up to our missing the mark and ask for grace to grow in glory again. Let us pray this silently to ourselves first and then together aloud.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Christ Jesus, our Teacher and Friend, we confess we have not listened for Your word amid the clamor of words all around us. We are more pleased to repeat familiar tunes than to listen for new melodies and strange harmonies. We try harder to defend what we think we know than to reach for that beyond our grasp. Slow to trust, afraid of the unknown, we are cautious to hear and do Your will. We pray for ears to hear the cries of our neighbors, and for hearts which resonate with Your Spirit. Silence us and instruct us all, until we learn afresh to sing the songs of faith, hope, and love. In the blessed name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

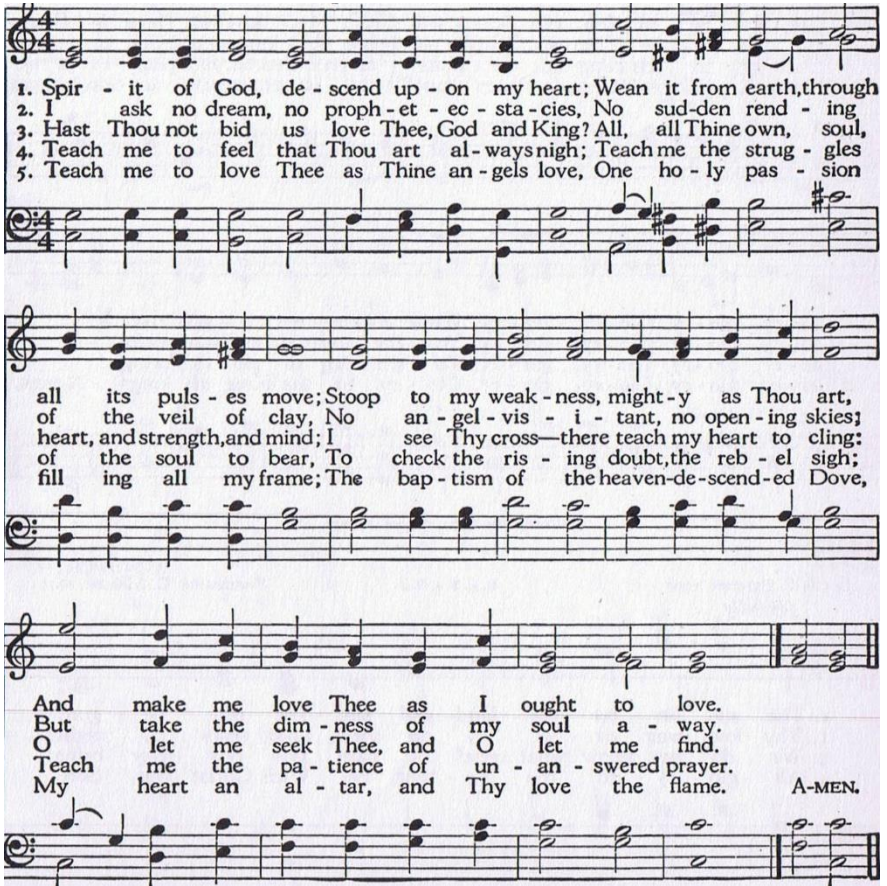
ASSURANCE OF PARDON *First Corinthians 15: 19-22*

P: Paul wrote, “If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being (Adam), the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.”

In Christ, to whom we have prayed for forgiveness, who went to Calvary for us, and who rose in power over the grave for us, we will live. We will be made alive in Christ, first in how we live here in the power of the Spirit, and later in the heavenly realm. Our sins are washed away, along with their power; we now belong to the triumphant life-over-death Jesus Christ and our life is His life. In a moment of rejoicing in what God has done for us, let the congregation say . . .

A: Thanks be to God!

HYMN "Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart" # 193



1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart; Wean it from earth, through
 2. I ask no dream, no proph - et - ec - sta - cies, No sud - den rend - ing
 3. Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King? All, all Thine own, soul,
 4. Teach me to feel that Thou art al - ways nigh; Teach me the strug - gles
 5. Teach me to love Thee as Thine an - gels love, One ho - ly pas - sion

all its puls - es move; Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as Thou art,
 of the veil of clay, No an - gel - vis - i - tant, no open - ing skies;
 heart, and strength, and mind; I see Thy cross—there teach my heart to cling:
 of the soul to bear, To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 fill ing all my frame; The bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove,

And make me love Thee as I ought to love.
 But take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek Thee, and O let me find.
 Teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 My heart an al - tar, and Thy love the flame. A - MEN.

The congregation may be seated

A CALL TO OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jenn Schneider

Old Testament:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Epistle:

2nd Timothy 3:10-17

MUSICAL MEDITATION Partita on "Bulit on the Rock"

IV. Introspection

Will those who are able please stand up

GOSPEL

Matthew 7:24-29

RESPONSE

“Alleluia!”

#495

The congregation may be seated

PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**A: 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**

HOMILY

“On Christian Education”

Will those who are able please rise to sing

HYMN “Lord, Speak to Me that I may Speak”

#256 (vv. 1-4)

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In liv - ing ech - oes of Thy tone;
 2. O lead me, Lord, that I may lead The wan - dering and the wa - vering feet;
 3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach The pre - cious things Thou dost im - part;
 4. O fill me with Thy full - ness, Lord, Un - til my ver - y heart o'er - flow
 5. O use me, Lord, use e - ven me, Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;

As Thou hast sought, so let me seek Thy err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 O feed me, Lord, that I may feed Thy hun - gery ones with man - na sweet!
 And wing my words, that they may reach The hid - den depths of many a heart.
 In kin - dling thought and glow - ing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.
 Un - til Thy bless - ed face I see, Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glo - ry share. A - MEN.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

P: Go in peace, open to the call and grace of God.
 The blessing of God's unfailing love,
 Jesus Christ's unceasing presence,
 And the Spirit's unsurpassed gifts
 Be with us now and forever. Amen.

C: Amen!

POSTLUDE Partita on "Built on the Rock" I. Fantasia

The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Peter Svenson
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

News in the Pews

Welcome to worship, Christian education and fellowship — a chance to be fed and nourished by God's Word before being sent again to serve the world in the week ahead.

The Board of Elders meets today after worship.

Please plan to stay for a special Rally Day Coffee Hour hosted by the Board of Education, downstairs!

Our Micah 6:8 Committee meets tonight over Zoom at 6:30 PM.

MANY MANY EXTRA HANDS NEEDED NEXT TUESDAY AT SORTING – We will be setting up the Memorial Room with clothing and accessories and things still need to come down from upstairs. Even if you haven't helped before we really need you!! They'll be something for everyone, including folding clothes, so if your knees are bad you can still help! Talk to Annie with any questions.

RUMMAGE SORTING/PRICING SCHEDULE: Openers and sorting times this week are Annie, Tuesday from 10 AM to noon, Heidi/Maria, Wednesday from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM and Ani/Ginger, Friday from 10 AM to noon. You are welcome to come anytime within those hours and stay as long as you are able.

Next Sunday, September 17th, the Church Council meets after worship. If you are responsible for a report, please complete it and send it to our Drop Box for the September meeting by Thursday.

The Strategic Planning Committee Meeting/Profile Group on Zoom, has been rescheduled to 7pm, Thursday, September 14th.

The day after that Council meeting, Monday the 18th, is the DEADLINE for articles for our October Announcer!

The Fall Meeting of our Chicago Metropolitan Association is happening on Saturday, September 30th from 10 AM to 1 PM at our Cluster 1's Northfield Community Church. If you are not planning on helping serve that day for St. Peter's at A Just Harvest's Community Kitchen, here's a good chance to be exposed to new ideas and new friends within our wider church! Let Pastor know of your interest.

Pastor Lanford is trying to schedule a New Members/Seekers Class, to hopefully be held as soon as possible. Please talk with him if you are interested in being part of this exploratory and educational one-time class!

We shop groceries for, and serve at, the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest this month! Our turn is September 30th, from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM, and both Chad and Peggy McCoy cannot be there as usual. Please, we'll need \$500 total in cash donations to purchase the groceries, with which the kitchen staff will make the lunch, and then 5 servers to help serve the meal. Although he will be gone that Saturday, if you're interested or have questions, please see Chad today!

This morning's Prayer of Confession and Charge / Benediction were reprinted by permission of the publisher from Touch Holiness, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright 1990 by The Pilgrim Press. Copyright 2012 Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.

Our People

Happy birthday / anniversary! Having a birthday this week are Judy Paige's grandson Nathan Paige, Carol Iannotti's sister Judy Williford, and Bruce Mau's granddaughter Isabella Gemignani. Having a wedding anniversary are Roy and Wendy Svenson (tomorrow) and Maribel Powers and Joey Powers Laarveld. May God bless all their celebrations and grant them a year of good health and spiritual growth.

The Bake Sale is in need of bakers for the Bake Sale, too! Please talk to Barb Todd if you have not already to let her know your plans for participating. Thanks much to everyone who does!

According to the schedule, barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Peter Svenson. The Nursery attendant will be Heidi Tarzian.

The sermon next Sunday will be about hanging on.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

Regular Reminders!

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

Let us know you were here! Please sign the attendance sheet in the black pew pads and when you think your pew is ready, please pass the pad towards the center aisle of the church. Our Deacon will pick them up after worship. Please fill them out; having a record of your being with us is important to us! Thank you.

Please remember that we can always use food contributions for the Mini-Pantry!

Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts! Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" and you'll find us! Pastor's weekly podcasts include the prior Sunday's scriptures and sermon, and some words and prayer from Pastor just for the listeners of the podcast!



MISSION MOMENTS

September 10, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14

Remember, Restore, Renew

Faith Formation Sunday

God's people have been through so much. After generations of slavery, they too have undergone the plagues that tormented all of Egypt. Now, God's people are given an opportunity to mark themselves as God's own ones by placing a sign, a mark on the door. The mark they place means not only that they belong to God. It also means that they are prepared to move on, out of the place they and their ancestors have lived for so long. By placing the mark on the door, they indicate that they are ready to move forward into freedom, and a new relationship with God.

Doorways are not a place to linger. On the threshold, the invitation is to pass from one space to another. On this Faith Formation Sunday, what mark are you placing on the doorways of your heart and mind? What sign are you giving to God that you are ready to move forward into a new life?

Faith Formation, the willingness to be educated and grow into our faith, is often focused on children. Many adults seem to believe that they already know everything they need to know in order to live out their faith. But the invitation of Faith Formation Sunday is for everyone who is willing to make a step forward and out, and a step into the freedom and new life which comes from knowing and following God.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, Faith Formation is a door available for you to walk through. Are you a person who never learned the stories of the Bible and your ancestors of faith, or never wrestled with how you might bring the practices of our faith into your daily lives? Or, are you someone who has many years of Sunday School under your belt?

If you are either of those, or somewhere in between, listen to God's call and invitation. Today, put a mark on the door of your heart, a sign to God that you are ready. And then, open the door and step through. Whether teaching a class or taking one, whether studying with a couple of companions or a couple dozen, take the opportunity of this day to step out, into the adventure of learning, growth, and freedom in God that awaits.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,

and with all your soul, and with all your might.

Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.

Recite them to your children and talk about them

when you are at home and when you are away,

when you lie down and when you rise.

Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead,

and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Matthew 7:24-29

Jesus said, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!"

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.