



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
September 3,  
2023**

**10:00 AM**

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**Fourteenth 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/display?host=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](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

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

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

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

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://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**



## RESPONSE

## "Lift Up Your Hearts"

#27 (v.1)

1. "Lift up your hearts!" We lift them, Lord, to Thee;  
 2. A - bove the lev - el of the for - mer years,  
 3. Lift ev - ery gift that Thou Thy - self hast given;  
 4. Then, as the trump - et call, in aft - er years,

Here at Thy feet none oth - er may we see;  
 The mire of sin, the weight of guilt - y fears,  
 Low lies the best till lift - ed up to heaven  
 "Lift up your hearts!" rings peal - ing in our ears,

"Lift up your hearts!" E'en so, with one ac - cord,  
 The mist of doubt, the blight of love's de - cay,  
 Low lie the bound - ing heart, the teem - ing brain,  
 Still shall those hearts re - spond, with full ac - cord

We lift them up, we lift them to the Lord.  
 O Lord of Light, lift all our hearts to - day!  
 Till sent from God, they mount to God a - gain.  
 "We lift them up, we lift them to the Lord!" A-ME!

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: We lift up our hearts, but they are not without heaviness, for we understand that along with our zeal for God and desire for worship, they also bear our sins of character, word and deed. To lift up our hearts is praise; it is also a sign of readiness to confess, and upon forgiveness, lift them ever higher.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Merciful God, on this upcoming day of rest, won for us by laborers, we confess we neglect Your command to rest on the sabbath. We may even take pride in how hard and how long we work, which goes against what is right for our physical and mental health, strikes against the shalom You wish for us.

**RIGHT SIDE: Grant us perspective on the balance between labor and rest, so we may better serve You and others.**

**LEFT SIDE: We confess we have fallen short when it comes to worrying about fair treatment of workers; we are more likely to get anxious if a strike is called because of how it will negatively affect us, and not how it will hurt the workers or the company. We get self-focused again, which is rarely if ever where You want us to be.**

P: Speak to us, great God, so we will hear and follow Your words to take rest from our labors, and not play the hero. Speak to us, God, so gatherings of Your people who find themselves on various sides of labor disputes will have open minds toward the parties and issues. Give us eyes to perceive that which is just, and that which is not. All unity is a glory to the One who came that we may all be one, even Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *First Corinthians 15:3,4*

P: Paul wrote, “For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.”

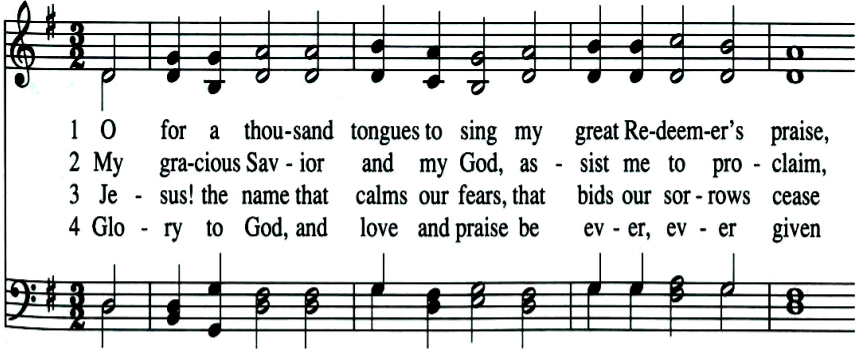
Died for our sins: He took our place, so they are no longer counted against you and me. Love has taken them away, both in terms of our guilt and their power over us (unless we surrender to their power over us again!). We are forgiven, sisters and brothers, by the grace of God and for the purposes of God! Let us find and live out those purposes, as now we are children of love and light, justice and peace, truth and integrity! Let us affirm the scriptures, and together join me in saying of this good news . . .

**A: Amen and amen!**

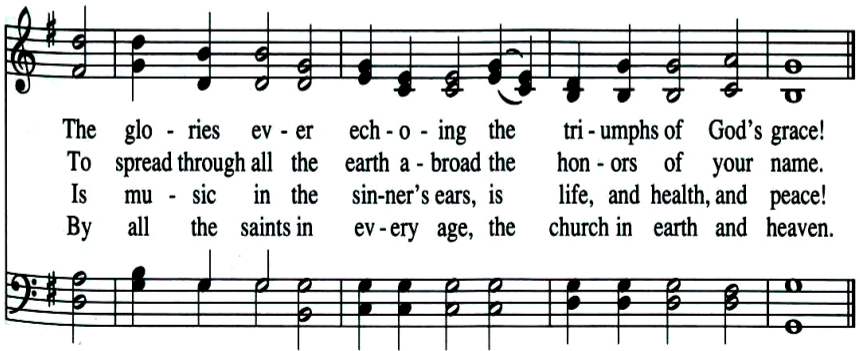


## HYMN "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

SSB #6



1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
 2 My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,  
 3 Je-sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease  
 4 Glo-ry to God, and love and praise be ev-er, ev-er given



The glo-ries ev-er ech-o-ing the tri-umphs of God's grace!  
 To spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
 Is mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!  
 By all the saints in ev-ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

*The hymn is a cento from a longer poem of eighteen stanzas written by Charles Wesley on the first anniversary of his conversion. The present form of the hymn is one edited by John Wesley for The Wesleyan Hymn Book, 1780.*

Tune: AZMON C.M.  
 Carl G. Gläser, 1828  
 Adapt. in L. Mason's Modern Psalmody, 1839  
 Alternate tune: RICHMOND

- 5 **Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,  
 Your loosen'd tongues employ;  
 Ye blind, behold your Savior come,  
 And leap, ye lame, for joy.**



*The congregation may be seated*

**A CALL TO OFFERING**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Barb Todd

Old Testament:

Deuteronomy 24: 14, 15

Epistle:

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:14-17a

**CHORAL ANTHEM** “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**GOSPEL**

Luke 10:38-42

**RESPONSE**

“Alleluia!”

#495

*The congregation may be seated*

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS**

**HOMILY** “What does the Bible say about Labor?”

Will those who are able please rise to sing

**HYMN**

**“Let us Break Bread Together”**

**SSB #18**



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.



3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*

## **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Exhortation and Invitation

Sursum Corda

**P: The Lord be with you.**

C: And also with you.

**P: Lift up your hearts!**

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

**P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Consecration

The Words of Institution

Participation

## **CLOSING PRAYER AND 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**

**HYMN "O God Our Creator, You Work Every Day"**

*Please sing to the tune "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

**O God our Creator, you work every day:**

**A potter, you form us — your people — like clay.**

**A shepherd, you guide us and seek out the lost.**

**A parent, you love us, not counting the cost.**

**Christ Jesus, how rough were your hard-working hands!**

**You labored among us; our God understands!**

**Bless workers who struggle, their families to feed;**

**Bless those who face hardship, oppression, or greed.**

**Lord, some live among us who need constant care,**

**Whose work is to make us more humbly aware.**

**They teach us the best of your lessons, by far:**

**It's not what we do, Lord, you love who we are!**

**We're baptized! Your Spirit gives new work to do,**

**That we, through our serving, may glorify you.**

**Each person's vocation, each calling, has worth**

**As you send us out to bring Christ's love on earth.**

*Text: Copyright © 2000 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Included in [Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship](#) (Geneva Press, 2000). This book includes a permission note for those who own it to use this hymn (along with the 44 other new hymns in the book) in their local church's worship services. Pastor Lanford has the book.*

**CHARGE**

P: Let us take heart and labor diligently for the reign of God. May the grace of God complete every good work through the power of faith, that we might praise God with our lips and glorify Christ with our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with the saints and all the departed faithful, lives and reigns now and forevermore. Amen. *--Adapted from Everett Tilson and Phyllis Cole, Litanies and Other Prayers, Year C (Nashville: Abingdon, 1991), 169.*

**BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord support you all the day long,  
until the shadows lengthen,  
and the evening comes,  
and the busy world is hushed,  
and the fever of life is over,  
and your work is done.  
Then, in God's mercy,  
may God grant you a safe lodging,  
a holy rest, and peace at the last,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen. *--Adapted from John Henry Newman*

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**POSTLUDE**

“St. Denio”

arr. Lehenbauer

*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.*

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**FOR WORSHIP TODAY**

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MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Jenn Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Kathy Zipperer

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# News in the Pews

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**Welcome. As we transition from summer to fall, God leads us, steady in love and care, even as our seasons change. Let us worship.**

**The Board of Elders meet next Sunday after worship.**

**The office is closed tomorrow due to the national holiday.**

**Sunday School Rally Day is next Sunday, September 10th at 9 AM.** We plan to gather in the sanctuary for chapel on the 10th. Classes will break up to their locations depending on whether or not the asbestos in the classroom area has been encapsulated in time. That will be happening, and the Trustees really hope it will be done in time for Rally Day.

**Food needed for food pantry!** We are running low again. All donations greatly appreciated!

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

**RUMMAGE DONATIONS UPDATE!** Though we set a different date, the committee is asking us to bring rummage in by **SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>**, not the 10<sup>th</sup>. This is due to such a large

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amount of rummage coming in this year. Items can be brought during office or sorting hours, call ahead in case something changes.

**Pastor Lanford is trying to schedule a New Members / Seekers Class**, to hopefully be held this month or as soon as possible, with the reception of new members during worship on a Sunday in September. Please talk with him if you are interested in being part of this exploratory and educational one-time class!

**Change to Holiday Craft Show & Bake Sale date** – Due to vendor conflicts, we have changed the date of the show to November 4th. The hours of 10AM to 3 PM remain the same.

**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!

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# Our People

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**Happy birthday / anniversary! Having a birthday this week are Jackie Johnson and Katy Schuhrke Aguayo's daughter Isabella Aguayo. May God bless their celebrations and grant them a year of good health and spiritual growth. There are no anniversaries on our list for this week!**

**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!

**This coming Thursday, Pastor will attend the first meeting of Cluster 1 at 10 AM.** The Strategic Planning / Church Profile Group Zoom meets from 6:30 to 7:30 that evening.

**The Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society** will have a meeting in our Memorial Room this coming Saturday, September 9th from 6 to 10 PM.

According to the schedule, next Sunday's Lector will be Jenn Schneider. The Nursery attendant will be Mike Ryan.

The sermon next Sunday will have the theme of Christian Education, as we begin Sunday School next Sunday, replete with a Coffee Hour downstairs compliments of our Board for Christian Education.

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

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# Regular Reminders!

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**About Communion:** We invite all believers, regardless of denominational background, to join in the Lord's Supper. We do ask our St. Peter's young ones to complete a Communicants Class first (6th grade). The servers will bring the elements to you in the pews. Please hold your bread until all are served; we will partake together at the Pastor's prompting as a sign of Christian unity, likewise with the cup. The innermost circle of cups in the wine tray holds grape juice and the outer circle is wine. Please note: we now offer Gluten-free wafers in a separate cup. Please dispose of the plastic single-serve communion cups and lids as they leave the sanctuary. The Elders are no longer counting the empty cups after the service, and trash receptacles are provided by both exit doors. Thank you!

**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 fill out the black pew pads when you arrive and pass them to the center aisle during the service. 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!

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UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## MISSION MOMENTS

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**September 3, 2023**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Romans 12:9-21**

**Spirit-Led Living**

A Labor Day litany in the wake of pandemic, based on Romans 12:9-21

Holy God,

On this Labor Day, we give you thanks. We thank You, for those whose work brings them to the front lines of caring and curing. We thank you for doctors and hospital janitors, nurses and nursing assistants, office workers who keep hospitals running smoothly, scientists who continually quest for vaccines and cures that will keep us safe.

On this Labor Day, we recall Paul's urging in the letter to Romans, to "Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor." May we do so now.

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On this Labor Day, we mourn. We weep with those who have lost loved ones who served on the pandemic's front lines. We recall other areas where safety is compromised and lives are lost, and we vow to continue to make work a place where no one needs fear for their health or safety.

On this Labor Day, we recall Paul's urging in the letter to Romans, to "Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor." May we do so now.

On this Labor Day, we remember. We remember those who have labored long and given much so that all workers may be safe and fairly compensated. We ask to be reminded that our faith's call to simplicity does not mean that working families should have to sacrifice basic needs like food, housing, and medical care. We pray for the wisdom and the courage needed to create your reign on earth, where all experience plenty, ease, and abundance.

On this Labor Day, we recall Paul's urging in the letter to Romans, to "Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor." May we do so now.

On this Labor Day, we pray that the love, affection, and honor that Paul impressed upon his friends may also fill our hearts and overflow into all places we live and work. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

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**Deuteronomy 24:14-15**

You shall not withhold the wages of poor and needy laborers, whether other Israelites or aliens who reside in your land in one of your towns. You shall pay them their wages daily before sunset, because they are poor and their livelihood depends on them; otherwise they might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt.

**2nd Timothy 2:14-17a**

Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by God, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth. Avoid profane chatter, for it will lead people into more and more impiety, and their talk will spread like gangrene.

**Luke 10:38-42**

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."