

A hand-drawn sign on a dark background. The word 'god' is written in yellow, 'is' is inside a pink heart, and 'love' is written in light blue. There are green floral and vine-like decorations. At the bottom, '1 JOHN 4' is written in white.

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
January 15,
2023**

10:00 AM

**Second Sunday
after Epiphany**



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

8013 LARAMIE AVE - SKOKIE, IL - 60077



Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. Following COVID safety protocols

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



"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast. On Soundcloud, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



Ways to Give

Text Your Gift. 844-997-2346 Super easy after a first-time setup

PayPal. [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&from=paypal-merchant-directory) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peter's

Check or Cash. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

Vanco GivePlus App. Contact the church office to set up 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 invite 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, January 15, 2023 at 10:00am
Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

PRELUDE Selected

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

Those who are able please stand

CALL TO WORSHIP *From Psalm 127*

P: "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

C: Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain."

P: Unless the Lord guides our path together, we sustain Saint Peter's in vain.

**C: We are the beneficiaries of God's outgoing love!
Changed by this love to reflect this love, we trust
God to not let it be in vain. Let us worship God!**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: In these days of unrest, uncertainty, and tension, we confess we cling to the opportunities to find satisfaction in a 'normal' status quo, if there is one, when we can. But our consciences know that there are still injustices to be confronted, there are still calls for us to share our faith in Christ and the gifts of being in a community of faith; yet our wings do not take flight so we can confront or share. It is enough, we say, to just get through the day, and trust You know that to be true.

It is true for so many of us, and that is not a sin to confess. But it is, if we continue rationalizing it for no action at all on behalf of victims of violence, unfairness, or toxic expressions of Christianity. Readjust our vision, Lord, so we see what You want us to see, to perceive; and revitalize our souls and bodies to fulfill Your purposes for us, on behalf of others and of You, O Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Colossians 1:19-20*

P: "For in him (Christ) all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven by making peace through the blood of his cross."

The grace of God for the forgiveness of sins which we find in God's Son Jesus avails even for us, and for all who call on the name of the Lord. There is peace between God and us; our relationship is restored.

Join me then in praising God, saying,

A: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

HYMN "God, With Joy We Look Around Us"

Sing to the tune "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

God, with joy we look around us

At your world's diversity.

Folk of every kind surround us

And you call your church to see:

All are made in your own image!

All are people whom you love!

In the times we've hurt each other,

Lord, we've hurt the ones you bless.

Hating sister, cursing brother,

We've denied what you express:

All are made in your own image!

All are people whom you love!

God, you sent a Savior to us,

Breaking walls that would divide.

By your Spirit, now work through us

As we witness side by side:

All are made in your own image!

All are people whom you love!

Text: Copyright © 2000 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009). The book includes a permission note for those who own this book to use this hymn (along with the 76 other new hymns in the book) in their local church's worship services.

The congregation may be seated

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The New Testament

Carolyn Van Til

Romans 12:9-13; 13:1-8

The Revelation 13:1-10

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected

Will the congregation please rise

THE GOSPEL

John 1:29-42

RESPONSE: "Alleluia!"

Sung to a familiar tune

**"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia;
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."**

The congregation may now take their seats

PASTORAL 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

SERMON

"Love is not Always Obvious"

Will the congregation please rise and sing

HYMN "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

1. Lift ev-ery
2. Ston-y the
3. God of our

voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring, Ring with the har - mo -
road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, Felt in the days when
wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou who hast brought us

nies of lib - er - ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the
hope un - born had died; Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our
thus far on the way; Thou who hast by Thy might led us in -

lis - tening skies; Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
wea - ry feet Come to the place for which our *fa - thers sighed?
to the light; Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - ter
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Th

Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
 We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh
 Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be
 tered, Out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 Thee; Shad-owed be - neath Thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, Let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
 last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

CHARGE *Micah 6:8*

P: The Lord has told us, O mortals, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of us, but . . .

WOMEN: To do justice,

MEN: To love kindness,

C: And to walk humbly with our God.

BENEDICTION

C: Amen!

POSTLUDE

Selected

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	Beth Lanford
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Annie Noorts

News in the Pews

“God is faithful; by him [we] were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:9, NRSV). Welcome to worship.

Your Church Council meets after worship today!

It has been asked, when can we have Coffee Hours again? Seeing as how we have had an event like the Jingle Mingle after the Harmonaires concert over a month ago, and a few post-funeral gatherings like coffee hours, we feel we can open coffee hours again. *There’s a brand-new sign-up sheet in the Memorial Room, please consider hosting or co-hosting!*

The Annual Congregational Meeting is only two weeks away! Please read the special email or letter in the mail you received regarding the proposed changes in the by-laws which we’ll act on in the meeting.

Offering Envelopes are in the Narthex! Please grab yours as you head out the door or make your way downstairs today. *If you are not on our list and would like a box of envelopes, please let us know, we have plenty of extras and would love to include you!*

FunDrive Soft Goods Collection continues! Thanks to everyone who's donated so far, but we need a lot more!! We'll take clothing, bedding, accessories like shoes, hats, bets, purses, gloves, scarves etc. stuffed toys and anything soft and fabric like. They pay by the pound, and this is a great way for folks to help us and themselves!! Annie Noorts is our point-person for this project so if you have questions let her know!

2023 wall calendars courtesy of Haben Funeral Home, with St. Peter's contact information, are available for pick-up in the Narthex, on a desk by the office, and in the Memorial Room.

The Cubs Scouts Pack #85 will be in the Gym this coming Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM building a Pinewood Derby track for their Pinewood Derby scheduled for January 28th.

A reminder that there is no Women's Guild meeting this month.

Are you on our email list? Get weekly updates, our monthly Announcer and weekly electronic bulletins and more by signing up. Give us your email address on the attendance register, or email us at office@stpeteruccskokie.org!

Our People

Birthdays this week belong to Harry Kuras, Karen Christianson, Andre Gloeckner, Alane Schaller and David Iannotti; **celebrating their wedding anniversaries** before next Sunday are Pat and Ray Erdman, and Annie and Gerry Noorts! May they all have festive days marking these life-markers.

As announced last Sunday morning, Chad McCoy's father John died on January 7th in Port Byron, IL. His funeral will be there tomorrow. Please lift him and the family in prayer.

HOSPITALIZED: Gena Zelenka is having knee replacement surgery this week and welcomes your prayers!

Our first hymn this morning was written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette at our own Pastor Richard's request back in 2000 when the KKK announced it was holding a rally right outside the Old Orchard, Skokie, County Courthouse in December. The request was for a hymn that was against the Klan's message, and for houses of worship to sing at services over that weekend. It has since gone on to be published in one of her books of hymn texts, and is often sung in worship near Martin Luther King, Jr's, birthday.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
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.

Donations always needed for our food pantry. There's a list of items on the shelves outside the offices if you aren't sure what to buy. Items can be left on those same shelves under the stairs by the offices.

Pastor's Podcast is now on all the Podcast platforms- iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! You can also get it via the church's webpage link. Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.



MISSION MOMENTS

January 15, 2023

Second Sunday after Epiphany

John 1:29-42

All That We Are

Each week, the UCC Witness and Worship Artists' Group makes available a wealth of resources to enrich your worship service - prayers, psalms, liturgy, scripture studies, sermon starters and more are available by searching the internet for Worship Ways at the United Church of Christ. Here is the Invocation for the worship liturgy created by Rev. Trayce Potter for Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday.

Invocation

God of our weary years and God of our silent tears,
thou who has brought us thus far on the way,
we invite your presence into our midst
as we pay tribute to all who have labored for justice, equality and love.

We pray that in this moment you would strengthen us
to continue to fight for the fulfillment of the dream that the Rev.
Dr. Martin Luther

King Jr.

so eloquently laid out on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.
Help us to labor so that every valley is exalted,
every hill and mountain made low,

the rough places are plain, and the crooked places made straight
so that the glory of the Lord is revealed,
and all flesh see it together.

Let your love guide us to see one another as fully human with
diverse hues, colors, ethnicities and cultures, and respect the
content of their character.

Let your spirit strengthen us for the fight of today and tomorrow
until all God's children can say with full conviction,
"Free at last. Free at last. Thank God All-Mighty, I'm free at last."
Amen.

[https://www.ucc.org/worship-
way/martin_luther_king_weekend_service_january_](https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/martin_luther_king_weekend_service_january_)

*This service quotes from *Our God is Marching On*, and *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, by Martin Luther King, Jr. Lines in italics quote from *We Shall Overcome #570* in *The New Century Hymnal*, and *Lift Every Voice and Sing #593* in *The New Century Hymnal*

ROMANS 12:9-13

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

ROMANS 13:1-8

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience.

For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

REVELATION 13:1-10

And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads; and on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads were blasphemous names. And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And the dragon gave it his power and his throne and great authority. One of its heads seemed to have received a death-blow, but its mortal wound had been healed. In amazement the whole earth followed the beast. They worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

The beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. It was given authority over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all the inhabitants of the earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slaughtered.

Let anyone who has an ear listen:

If you are to be taken captive, into captivity you go;

if you kill with the sword, with the sword you must be killed.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

JOHN 1:29-42

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before

me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).”