



>Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,
June 18, 2023
10:00 AM

Third Sunday
After Pentecost

Father's Day



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL



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=paypal-merchant-directory&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

C: Glory Hallelujah. Let us praise the name of the Lord!

RESPONSE "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

SSB #35 (v. 1)

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

CALL TO CONFESSION *Isaiah 64:6, 9*

P: Isaiah said to God, “We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

C: We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

P: Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.

C: Now consider, we are all Your people.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Righteous God, we find ourselves as your hands, legs, heart and spirit here in the earth. As your children, as were your disciples, we are called to manifest a Gospel of love, justice, reconciliation and healing in the present world. But our concern for a just and egalitarian world too often dissipates at the point of our discomfort. Forgive us for our humanity and our frailty as we dwell in your presence and seek transformation and new energy for the work of your ministry. Revive us again O Lord. O Lord, revive . . .

C: Our love for the communities of faith!

P: O Lord revive...

RIGHT: Our yearning for justice!

P: O Lord revive...

LEFT: Our desire for reconciliation!

P: O Lord revive...

**A: Our need for healing! In Jesus' name.
Amen and Amen!**

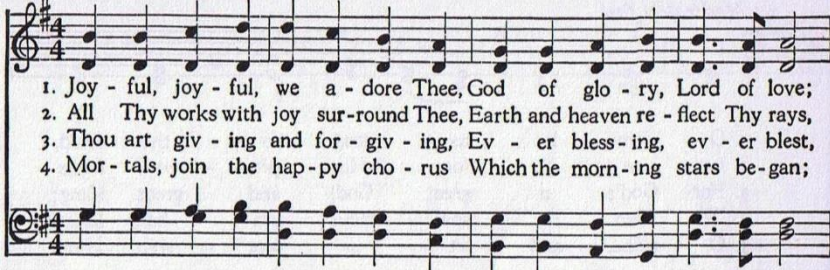
ASSURANCE OF PARDON *John 8:31-36*

“Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’ They answered him, ‘We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’? “Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.’”

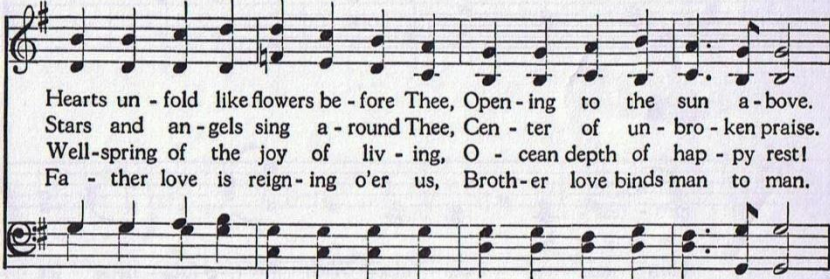
You and I are freed from the power and guilt of our sins by the grace of God in Jesus Christ, and our receiving it by a faith that continues in His ways. The Son by His cross and resurrection have made us forgiven and free! Can I get an Amen, somebody?

A: Amen!

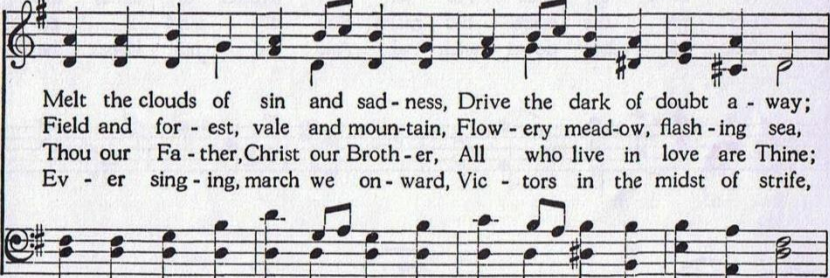
HYMN "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" #21 (vv. 1-3)



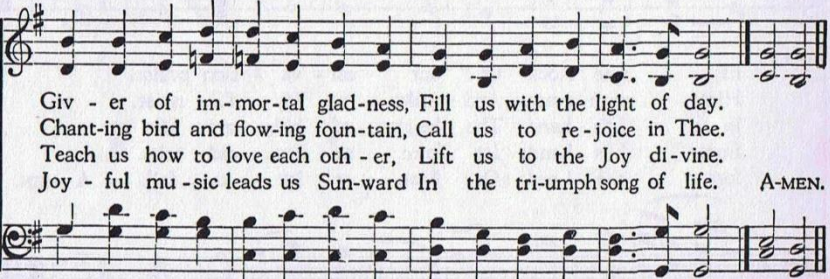
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
 3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
 4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are Thine;
 Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the Joy di - vine.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us Sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - MEN.

The congregation may be seated

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barbara Todd

Old Testament:

Genesis 18:1-8

Epistle:

Romans 15:7-9

Hebrews 13:1-2

MUSICAL MEDITATION “Immortal Invisible”

Will those who are able please stand up

GOSPEL

Matthew 22: 1-14

RESPONSE

“Alleluia!”

Tune #495

The congregation may be seated

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

“Open”

Would the congregation please rise

HYMN “There is Room in God's Great Welcome”

Please sing to the tune of “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

There is room in God's great welcome; See! The doors are open wide!

Here on earth as in God's heaven, hear the call to come inside!

There is so much room for difference — men and women, gay and straight.

In God's love, the rooms are countless, but there is no room for hate.

There is room in our good nation if we stand on justice-ground.

God has made a good creation; colors, cultures all abound. Welcome, sister! Welcome, brother! All those yearning to breathe free!

There is room for one another but no room for bigotry.

There is room for understanding, for the outcast and the poor;

For the Christian, Jew and Muslim — there is room for these and more.

For the people on the fringes, for the ones with long career, There is room for building bridges, but there is no room for fear.

There is room in faithful churches for the wounded and oppressed:

Women who've been told they're worthless, refugees who feel distressed,

Immigrants who fear the future, people scorned and pushed and shoved.

God, may we seek what you treasure: may we all make room for love.

Biblical References: Deuteronomy 10:19; Leviticus 19:34; Isaiah 56:1-8; Matthew 5:26-48, 25:31-46; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 10:35-47, 13:29, 14:15-24; John 3:16-17, 14:2, 10:16, 13:3-35; Acts 2:21, 8:26-40, 10:34; Romans 13:10; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:30-5:1; Hebrews 13:1; 1 John 4:7-8

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P: As you have received Christ, go now and share Christ.

As you have welcomed God's love, go now and welcome others in love.

As you have received grace, go now and be gracious in all your ways, for the God of peace is with you, now and forever. Amen.

C: Amen!

POSTLUDE

“Beecher”

arr. Callahan

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

Maria Altmayer

LIVESTREAM RECORDING

Beth Lanford

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Rita McMahon

News in the Pews

A blessed third Sunday after Pentecost to all, and Happy Father's Day to dads and father-figures. Welcome to worship.

This Sunday has the first of two sermons related to Pride month and St. Peter's Open and Affirming covenant. Today the sermon looks at "Open" and next Sunday will explore "Affirming."

Your Board of Elders met over Zoom last Thursday.

Please join us and be a part of St. Peter's participation in Skokie's Pride gathering at Oakton Park on today from 1 to 4 PM. We welcome anyone to help us represent St. Peter's UCC and help with a craft for the children who come with their families to this family-friendly affair. A table, two chairs, and tent overhead will be available for us.

No July Announcer this year. Due to a lack of events next month, it was decided to skip July and instead rely on our weekly emails and bulletins to communicate important things like the A Just Harvest Kitchen, vacation dates, guest preachers, Church Council and more. *The deadline for the August newsletter will be July 17th.*

There is no Church Council meeting this Sunday.

The St. Peter's special coffee hour to discuss the UCC's "All Church Read" of How to be an Anti-Racist by Ibram Kendi has been moved from Sunday, June 11th to Sunday, June 25th. That is now the date for an engaging coffee hour discussion of the book, sponsored by your Micah 6:8 Committee. You now have more time to read the book! Please plan to stay even if you have not read the book.

Speaking of supporting St. Peter's, one way to boost our profile on Facebook is by liking or loving our posts when you see them on your feed. The more 'hits' we get, the more often our posts will show up, and more people will get the messages! It is also a good digital profile when on-line worshipers can enter through their Google account, visit our YouTube page, and hit the thumbs-up on a service of ours.

This morning's Call to Worship, and Prayer of Confession and Transformation are reprinted by permission of the United Church of Christ from the U.C.C.'s Worship Ways. They were written for today by Pastor Kevin Tindell, Pastor of Community Engagement, GATHER Church Chicago and Vice President of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC.

Our People

Happy Birthday this week to Laurie Mitchell! May her celebration be a blessing.

Biblical References for the Closing Hymn:

Deuteronomy 10:19 - You shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt

Leviticus 19:34 - Love the alien in your land

Isaiah 56:1-8 - God gathers the people including those who feel excluded

Matthew 5:26-48 - We can't just love those close to us; even the tax collectors do that

Matthew 25:31-46 - Just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me

Mark 5:25-34 - Woman who was healed after suffering 12 years

Luke 10:35-47 - The Samaritan was the good neighbor

Luke 13:29 - From east and west and north and south at God's banquet table

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 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! There are now copies of a list of suggestions and items by the narthex and on the shelves where the food is kept by the offices. Take one home! Demand has increased considerably since it was first installed last September. We always appreciate what is brought in, and the need does not go away. Perhaps if you are employed you could ask about doing a collection at your job. Thank you!

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!



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

June 18, 2023

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)

Sarah Laughed

Father's Day

It is not an official church holiday, but many churches today will celebrate Father's Day. In today's scripture story, Sarah is surprised into laughter to find out that she will be a parent. On this Father's Day, recognizing that family is sometimes a source of pain and rejection as well as a haven of joy and acceptance, we give thanks for the many kinds of families that God has blessed. As you say each line of this prayer, silently or aloud, give yourself plenty of time for reflection.

How are these thanksgivings true for you?

How have they or have they not been realized?

What kind of family has God called you into? Consider this question as broadly as possible.

Dear God,

We thank you for our birth family, the family we are linked to by blood. Some of us are very close to our birth family. Perhaps this family is always on our hearts, or even sitting together this very day in this very place. Some of us are far, far away from our birth family, separated by distance or misunderstanding or time or even violence. Whatever our proximity, today we remember that it is our blood family that brought us forth, and we give thanks that we are here.

We thank you for our faith family, for the generations that stretch back further than we can see, even when we stand on tiptoe, peering into the past. We thank you especially for our parents Abraham and Sarah. We thank you that their curiosity, their faith in You, their willingness to follow Your call and their capacity for joy in moments of surprise.

We thank you for the families we have chosen. Those families we have made through law and covenant, families of lovers and friends, families of children and companions. And at the same time, we thank you for the families who have chosen us, drawn us into circles of sweet understanding and easy companionship, taught us to love and to live.

We give thanks for all the families that bring us to laughter, and all the families that we have called home.

In Your holy name we pray, Amen.

Genesis 18:1-8

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."

And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

Romans 15:7-9

Paul wrote, "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, '*Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name.*'"

Hebrews 13:1-2

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying:

"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."