



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
November 26,
2023
10:00 AM**

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Totenfest





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/merchpot/display/external?merchantid=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, November 26, 2023 at 10:00am
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Totenfest**

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

PRELUDE "Just As I Am" arr. Lani Smith
Judith Brown, flute

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP *from Ecclesiastes 3*

P: A Sunday of awe is before us.

C: Yes, for this morning we remember our Church's dead-in-the-flesh, and continue to give thanks in the spirit of last Thursday.

P: A time of thanks, a time of remembrance, sadness, and hope.

C: A time to ponder again our beliefs about the life that follows this one.

P: The life that is promised in the New Testament, and for which hope martyrs have died.

All: Let us praise the God of all seasons of life!

CALL TO CONFESSION *from Psalm 90*

P: Scripture asks God, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a wiser heart."

C: It continues, and so we say, "Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on Your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days."

P: Let us join together in confession; let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Generous God, you have given us so much. Give us one more thing. Give us thankful hearts because we know our hearts can be hard and cold. We often hold on when we should let go. We are clutching when we should be spending, hoarding when we could be generous, doubting when we should lean on faith. We are fearful instead of trusting in your everlasting care. Open our hands and our hearts to the bounty of your love, which cares for the flowers of the fields, the birds in the air, each child who toddles, every parent who worries, every adult who struggles.

Loving God, you have given us so much. Give us again the assurance of your love and care, and fill us with grateful hearts and open hands. In Jesus' name we pray for mercy and a re-orientation of soul towards You. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *First Thessalonians 4:13, 14*

P: “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with them those who have died”

The word ‘forgiveness’ is not in this passage but it is implied as Paul also invokes the death and resurrection of the Lord so we may end up with God not only now but beyond time. By grace we have been saved through faith; our sins are washed away and new life is set to take over! Will the congregation please join me in saying ‘yes’ to this gospel, and say . .

All: Alleluia! Amen!

HYMN "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" #434 (vv. 1, 2)

3. These to Thee, our God, we owe, Source whence all our bless-ings flow;

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home;
 2. All the bless - ings of the field, All the stores the gar - dens yield;
 3. These to Thee, our God, we owe, Source whence all our bless-ings flow;

And for these our souls shall raise Grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

All is safe - ly gath - ered in Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
 All the fruits in full sup - ply, Rip - ened 'neath the sum - mer sky;
 And for these our souls shall raise Grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home;

God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied;
 All that Spring with boun - teous hand Seat - ters o'er the smil - ing land;
 Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home;

Come to God's own tem - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home. A - MEN.

Come to God's own tem - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home.
 All that lib - eral au - tumn pours From her rich o'er - flow - ing stores,
 Come to God's own tem - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home. A - MEN.

The congregation may be seated

WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Olivia Altmayer

The Psalter

Psalm 25

New Testament:

The Revelation 20:11-21:7

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“Air from Overture in D”

by JS Bach

Judith Brown, flute

Will those who are able please stand up

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

RESPONSE

“Thy Word”

SSB #33 (v. 2)

Chorus: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

2 I will not forget your love for me, and yet my heart forever is wandering. Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end.

Chorus

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**

SERMON “What’s it all about?/The Answer’s at the End”

Lighting the Totenfest Candles

Helen Mauer William Dale Todd, Jr.

Candles by Others The Candle for Others

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE *from The Rabbi’s Manual*

P: In the rising of the sun and in its going down,

C: We remember them.,

P: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

C: We remember them.

P: In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,

C: We remember them.

P: In the blueness of the sky and the in the warmth of the
summer,

C: We remember them.

P: In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,

C: We remember them.

P: In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

C: We remember them.

P: When we are weary and in need of strength,

C: We remember them.

P: When we are lost and sick at heart,

C: We remember them.

P: When we have joys we yearn to share,

C: We remember them.

P: So long as we live, they too, in a way, shall live,

For they are now a part of us, as we remember them...

A MOMENT OF SILENCE

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN: "For All the Saints" #418 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

1. For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, Who Thee by faith be -
 2. Thou wast their Rock, their For-tress, and their Might; Thou, Lord, their Cap-tain
 3. O may Thy sol - diers, faith-ful, true, and bold, Fight as the saints who
 4. O blest com-mun - ion, fel-low-ship di - vine! We fee-bly strug-gle,
 5. From earth's wide bounds, from o-cean's far-thest coast, Through gates of pearl streams

fore the world con - fessed, Thy Name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 in the well-fought fight; Thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true Light.
 no - bly fought of old, And win with them the vic-tor's crown of gold.
 they in glo - ry shine; Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
 in the count-less host, Sing-ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A-MEN.

BENEDICTION

P: O Lord, support us all the day long,
 until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
 and the busy world lies hushed,
 and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.
 Then in Thy mercy grant us a safe lodging,
 a holy rest, and peace at the last.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE “For All the Saints” 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	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

News in the Pews

Welcome, one and all, as we worship Christ the King in song and speech, prayer and praise.

Thank you to Judith Brown for her flute music today!!

Thank you to all who attended the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service last Tuesday; it is appreciated, especially given the theme of “Lament and Gratitude for the Earth.”

Wreath pick-up continues after worship today. Please go downstairs to the Memorial Room to pick yours up.

Advent Devotionals are available in the Narthex!

Hanging of the Greens! This Wednesday is the time to decorate the sanctuary! Come no later than 7 PM to help make it happen! We'll also need help setting up half of our Gym for the Jingle Mingle refreshment time which follows the LakeSide Flutes Holiday Concert we're hosting at 3 PM on December 3rd. Pastor Richard will miss this event as he will be attending the next meeting of the Skokie Officers Ethics Commission which also meets at 7 PM that evening.

Next Sunday, December 3rd, is the First Sunday of Advent! That means we will receive the last donations of cookies, scarves, tins or plastic containers of cocoa mix, winter hats, etcetera that day, and “bag and tag” the cookies and count them, all the other items, and box them for delivery to the Night Ministry. The Sunday School will also be making a craft today!

The Sunday School Advent Mission Project once again is asking folks to buy and bring to church specific needs for newborns and their moms, starting December 3rd. These important items, given in a style reminiscent of a baby shower (for baby Jesus!) will at the end of the year be given to the Niles Township Food Pantry, which provides much more than food these days. The items specifically requested are: **Baby food, formula, lotion, shampoo, Cheerios, diapers, fruit cups, fruit snacks, juice/milk boxes, pudding cups, wipes. No clothes or blankets.** The donations may be placed under the Christmas tree. We will end collection at the end of December.

Holiday Concert and Jingle Mingle! Celebrate the opening of the Christmas season at St. Peter's by joining us for beautiful music from Lakeside Flutes and amazingly tasty treats! They will favor us with a program of Christmas holiday music on Sunday December 3rd at 3:00pm. Following the concert will be a "Jingle Mingle" in our Gym at 4:00pm and will feature sweet and savory hors' d'oeuvres, and liquid refreshments. Suggested donation is \$10.00 for adults and \$5 for children 3-12 years old. RSVP here: <https://www.stpeteruccskokie.org/event-details/lakeside-flutes-holiday-concert-and-jingle-mingle/form> or call the Church office at 847-673-8166 to let us know you are coming. Donations will be collected at the door (cash or check).

Poinsettia Orders being taken now! Find the form in this bulletin. Orders must be received by December 5th and there are limited amounts this year. Thank you!

Please donate to the Holiday Meals program at the Jewel at Village Crossing Shopping Center in Niles. We provide a full holiday dinner for needy 4-6 people for Christmas. All you must do is donate at the register to their holiday meal program. While

you're at it, shop there and support them, they've been doing this for many years and we are so grateful to be the only beneficiary!!

Change in 2024 Offering Envelopes - Due to the increase in online giving, we are downsizing our offering envelopes starting with the 2024 offering envelopes. If you've been using your envelopes you will still continue to receive them, and the number will be changed due to the downsize. We will have a limited amount of extras in the event you would like them and were taken off the list, or for newer folks. For specific holidays like Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas we will provide special envelopes in the pews for those who do not already have them in your offering envelopes. Envelopes will be available by 12/15 in the Narthex, we will update you when they have arrived. Please speak to anyone on the Board of Finance with questions and thanks so much!

Our People

Winter is coming! It's a good time to buy a plot at our St. Peter's U.C.C. Cemetery. See Kathy Zipperer to get the ball rolling.

Happy birthday! Wishes for blessed birthdays go out to Felix Roy Svenson, Emily Brzozowski and Sandy Guenther!

HOSPITALIZED (formerly): Ron Schuhrke remains in hospice; Ginger Kalensky remains recovering at home, and Pat Erdman is home now from P/T at Glenwood Terrace.

According to the schedule, next weekend's lector is David Iannotti and the Nursery attendant is Kathy Zipperer.

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! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

Mini Food Pantry food needed!! Donations accepted during office hours or on Sundays; leave it on the shelves by the offices and thank you so much!

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.

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!

POINSETTIAS

Orders are now being taken for Christmas

Poinsettias. This years' colors are Red and Marble. See below for details on each. To place an order, please fill in the form below, include payment and drop it off at the office, mail it to St Peter's, or place it in the collection plate on Sunday morning. *The deadline for ordering is Tuesday, December 5th, 2023.* The plants will be delivered to the church in time to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Please take your plants after Christmas Eve worship if possible.



Name:	Phone #:	
In Honor Of:	In Memory Of:	

Quantity	Color	Price	Total
	Red (6-½) Single (12 available)	\$16.00	
	Marble (6-½) Single (6 available)	\$16.00	
Grand Total			



MISSION MOMENTS

November 26, 2023

Reign of Christ

Matthew 25:31-46

Reigning Compassion

United Black Christians Anniversary

Today we celebrate the Anniversary of the United Black Christians (UBC) group of the United Church of Christ. From the ucc.org website: United Black Christians represents lay and clergy persons who faithfully minister in more than 278 predominately African American congregations of the United Church of Christ and those African American members in congregations that are not predominantly African American.

UBC seeks to preserve our tradition as a people of faith and hope. UBC recognizes that it is the Black Church that has meant survival for African Americans on these shores.

UBC affirms that it is the Black Church that will assure our continued growth, development, endurance and ultimate liberation.

UBC affirms that each of us has gifts to offer and is entitled to the full rights and privileges of the United Church of Christ.

United Black Christians (UBC) is an officially recognized special interest group of the United Church of Christ (UCC), providing voice and vision for more than 70,000 African Americans.

United Black Christians seeks to:

Provide voice for the African American members of the United Church of Christ

To strengthen Black churches in the UCC

To train and nurture leaders of our churches for Gospel inspired service to the Black community

To provide relevant ministry for our youth and young adults

To empower the laity for present day ministry

To create ecumenical and worldwide partnership for service and evangelism

To be active advocates for liberation and racial justice at home and abroad

To provide spiritual nurture for our members

To enhance clergy-lay ministry partnership

To provide support to African American Seminarians

You can learn more about United Black Christians at their website:

[https://www.ucc.org/domestic-](https://www.ucc.org/domestic-policy/ourfaithourvote_about/about-us_united-black-christians/)

[policy/ourfaithourvote_about/about-us_united-black-christians/](https://www.ucc.org/domestic-policy/ourfaithourvote_about/about-us_united-black-christians/)

Psalm 25:1-18, 20, 21

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

Who are they that fear the LORD?

He will teach them the way that they should choose.
They will abide in prosperity, and their children shall possess the land.
The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him,
and he makes his covenant known to them.

My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress.
Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.
May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.
Redeem Israel, O God, out of all its troubles.

Revelation 20:11-21:7

Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire; and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

Matthew 25:31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."