



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
December 25,
2022**

10:00 AM

Christmas Day



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&url=https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/stpeteruccskokie) 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, December 25, 2022 at 10:00am

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

PRELUDE "O Morning Star, How Bright and Fair"

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

Those who are able please stand

READING 1 *(as a Call to Worship) (John 1:1-14)*

P: In the beginning was the Word

C: The Word.

P: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

C: He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

Ben: What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Beth: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

P: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

C: John, sent from God.

Ben: He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

C: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Beth: He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not accept him.

P: But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born not of blood, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of humankind, but of God.

Ben: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of father's only son, full of grace and truth.

C: Full of grace and truth.

Beth: Full of grace and truth.

P: Full of grace and truth.

A: Full of grace and truth! Alleluia, Christ is born!

OPENING RESPONSE "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#112 (vv. 1, 2)

Joyously

1. O come, all ye faith-ful, Joy-ful and tri-umph-ant, O
 2. O sing, choirs of an-gels, Sing in ex-ul-ta-tion! Sing
 3. A-men, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap-py morn-ing, O

come . ye, O come ye to Beth-le-hem! Come and be-hold Him,
 all . . . ye cit-i-zens of heav-en a-bove! Now to our God be
 Je-sus, for-ev-er be Thy Name a-dored; Word of the Fa-ther,

REFRAIN

Born the King of an-gels! O come, let us a-dore Him, O come, let us a-
 Glo-ry in the high-est!
 Now in flesh ap-pear-ing!

dore Him, O come, let us a-dore Him, Christ the Lord! A-MEN.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: What a rare gift this Day and season bring. Families come together. Little children are heard. We claim our church family as our own link to God's love. God works miracles among us, even if they are not the miracles we've asked for. Let us confess our need.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: O God, we almost missed Your light. Despite the effort we made through cold and snow today, we confess our neglect of worship, our forgetfulness of Your gifts. We have failed to see evidence of Your love amid the pressures and costs of the season. We have not listened long to cries for justice, which Mary knew You would hear. We have viewed salvation as strange rhetoric rather than healing transformation. We have given in to mouthing platitudes in many cases, while You call for a new song of true joy and peace. Is there forgiveness for us in this season? Is there hope for new life? It is for these we humbly pray. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: There is good news. The Light still shines, and it is for you, for me, for all of us together in-person and on-line. God still works miracles within and among us. The hills are singing, the oceans roar, and the rivers clap. Let all the people shout for joy. Celebrate God's saving power, God's compassion, God's initiative towards us, and God's acceptance of us. God's forgiveness helps us confront and overcome the evil in our own lives; God offers us peace that has no other source than God's faithfulness, revealed in Bethlehem. Let all the people say . . .

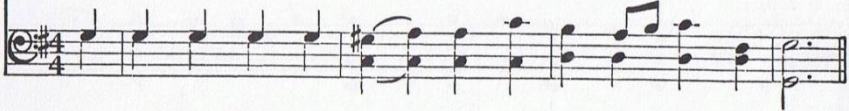
A: Alleluia! Amen.

RESPONSE "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #108 (vv. 1, 3)

in joy and serenity



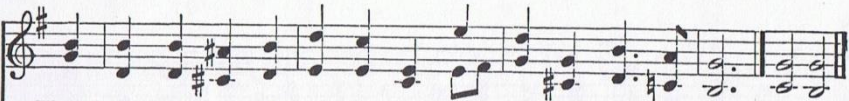
1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie;
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, And gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is given!
4. O Ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by:
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heaven;
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The Ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No ear may hear His com - ing, But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night,
 And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth!
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el! A - MEN.



P = Pastor

C = Congregation

A = All

The congregation may be seated

READING 2

Isaiah 52:7-10

Beth Lanford

RESPONSE

“The First Nowell” #114 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

READING 3

Hebrews 1: 1-12

VOCAL SOLO

“O Holy Night”

Sung by Jessica Schneider

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE “Emmanuel: Homo Pro Aliis”

Will the congregation please rise and sing

HYMN: "What Child is This?"

In unison

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come peas - ant, king, to own him;

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

REFRAIN

This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:

Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y.

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

x2

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo marking of ♩=65. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; come and be fed, come now and dine. Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; here all are fed, here all may dine." Chord markings above the notes include Eb, Ab, Ddim, Cm, Fm, Fm7, Bb, and Eb. Triplet markings (3) are placed over the first three notes of each phrase.

Prayer of 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**

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

P: You are people who have seen a great light! You are people who have received the ultimate gift in the Son of God — the Light of the World. Be bearers of the light, going with the blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, this holy Day and always. Amen.

C: Amen!

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

#112

In verse 2, you may choose to sing ‘Let all their songs employ’ in place of ‘let men their songs employ.’

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - iour reigns: Let men their
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness,

And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

And heaven and na - ture sing,
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy,
 And won - ders of His love,

And
 Re -
 And

sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love. A - MEN.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of His love,

POSTLUDE

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

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 Sterba & Maria Altmayer
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Carolyn Van Til

News in the Pews

Merry Christmas! Welcome to the manger, which cradles the very Word made flesh. Hallelujah! Christ is born!

Thank you to our readers, our live-streamer, Communion Elders, Deacons, volunteers behind the scenes, our staff, and you for attending or joining us through the live-stream! Thanks too to Ben Westphal our Music Director, and Office Administrator Laura Olson for the extra work they put in for Advent, for last night's and today's service, and communicating the bulletin and links!

About Communion: If you picked up a pre-filled Communion cup and wafer, you're ready to partake at the Pastor's prompting. We suggest you start to peel back the lid to get to the wafer before his prompting! If you did not pick one up, and you are with us on-line, we ask you to please have some bread, roll or some food meaningful you (for the bread / body to be consecrated during the service) and likewise juice, water or other beverage (for the wine / blood of Christ) and likewise, partake when the minister prompts us. Thank you!

There has been a delay in receiving the 2023 offering envelopes but they should be ready to be picked up very soon! They will be downstairs in the Memorial Room. 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 Sunday School mission project of baby-and-infant-stuff collection continues through the month and includes January 1st, 2023. Chapel and classes resume at 9 AM Sunday, January 8th.

Thank you to all who donated towards, and are going to help serve this coming Saturday, for the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest!

Completing our Night Ministry collection for cookies, cocoa mix in cans, winter hats, gloves, and scarves is going on in the Gym, and our “assembly line” and filling boxes at tables is on Sunday, January 8th!

FunDrive Soft Goods Collection in January! Start cleaning for our Winter FUNDrive Soft Goods collection. 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!

The Church Office will be closed Monday, December 26, and also through Wednesday the 28th. Pastor Lanford is on vacation those three days, as Laura will be on Tuesday and Wednesday. Both will be back in for sure (weather permitting!) Thursday.

Today is the last day to make a contribution to the UCC's Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund. Thank you to everyone who has given, or contributes today.

Our People

HOSPITALIZED: Following surgery on his left femur, Ron Schuhrke is now at Balmoral Care Center, 1101 Pembridge Drive, Lake Forest, IL 60045. Ursula Dworak is home after suffering a fractured pelvis last weekend. Please remember them in your prayers.

Our sympathies to the Hervig and Svenson families on the December 15th death of Wendy Svenson's brother Rick Hervig, 64, who was laid to rest in our cemetery last Tuesday.

Thanks to Laura Olson and Carol Iannotti who once again served God and the community in need by receiving and distributing Christmas dinners from the local Jewel to disadvantaged persons and families through School District 69, UCAN (Uhlich Children's Advantage Network), and those who come to our church door looking for assistance. It's a big, intense job, and thanks for all the work behind it!!

Thanks to Ben Westphal for his creativity which shaped our Christmas Day worship format and content ideas this Christmas morn! Thanks to Jessica Schneider for blessing us with her singing today!

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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.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

December 25, 2022

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10

Voice One: Radiant Child, On this Christmas day, we pray for peace to fill us,
as the waters renew a dry and desolate landscape

Voice Two: How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace!

Voice One: Radiant Child, on this Christmas day, we pray for hope to guide us forward,
making a way where the path is rocky.

Voice Two: All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God!

Voice One: Radiant Child, on this Christmas Day, we pray for joy to uplift us,
carrying us on the swift currents of laughter and community.

Voice Two: Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices; together they shout for joy!

Voice One: Radiant Child, on this Christmas Day, we pray for love to surround us,
as the comforting and loving embrace of a trusted friend.

Voice Two: For the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

Voice One: Peace, Hope, Joy and Love!
May they fill, guide, uplift, and surround us now and always.
Amen!

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger

who announces peace,

who brings good news,

who announces salvation,

who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;

and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"?

Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world,

he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."