



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,**

**April 30, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

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**Fourth Sunday of  
Easter**



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

8013 LARAMIE AVE - SKOKIE, IL - 60077



# 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&url=https://www.paypal.com/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**

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie  
Order of Worship for  
Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 10:00am  
Third Sunday of Easter**

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

**PRELUDE**                      "Psalm 23"                      by MacMillan

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**    Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

**CALL TO WORSHIP** We begin our worship today in song!

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

SSB #32 (both verses)

*Refrain*

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;

blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;

send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our fac - es dis -

dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,  
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry.

set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

*Refrain*

Shine on me, shine on me, shine on me.

Text: Graham Kendrick

Music: SHIN!, JESUS, SHIN!, Graham Kendrick

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

- P: We sang “so our faces display Your likeness,” but we are not that sanctified yet! We are far from such holiness and agape love.
- C: We sang “May our lives tell Your story,” and despite our best efforts and successes, we know we still grieve God’s Holy Spirit with sins to confess.**
- P: Let us, then, so confess them, and know the mercy of God. First let us read it to ourselves, so we know what we are praying, and then we’ll pray it together aloud.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- A: Most gracious and loving God, before the font and waters of baptism we are caught up short. We are reminded of covenants we have made, with You and with others, that we have broken, neglected, or otherwise been unfaithful to. Especially wounding to You, as well as to us, are the times we have freed ourselves of our promises to You. Have we always fulfilled the vows we’ve made at baptisms? Have we always kept the promises we made when we confirmed our faith, when we joined a church, when we engaged You in prayer? You know the answer is no, and so do we. This we confess and for it we ask Your forgiveness. We ask Your Spirit to move in us and change us, more and more, into Your likeness as the lyrics go. For it is in**

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**the name, and for the sake of, Christ Jesus we pray.  
Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *First Peter 2: 9,10*

P: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

There it is: In Jesus, God has shown us all mercy, at profound sacrifice, pain and cost, and affirmed God’s abounding love for us. In Christ we are now free to live as children of God’s light, which fulfills our own baptisms every day. In claiming this gospel of forgiveness and new life, let the congregation together say . . .

**A: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE

“We are an Offering”

SSB #11

We lift our voi - ces,\_\_\_\_\_ we lift our hands,\_\_\_\_\_ we lift our

lives\_\_\_\_\_ up to You, we are an of - fer - ing;\_\_\_\_\_ Lord, use our

voi - ces,\_\_\_\_\_ Lord, use our hands,\_\_\_\_\_ Lord, use our

lives,\_\_\_\_\_ they are Yours, we are an of - fer - ing.\_\_\_\_\_

All that we have,\_\_\_\_\_ all that we are,\_\_\_\_\_

all that we hope to be we give to You, we

give to You.\_\_\_\_\_ We lift our

voi - ces,\_\_\_\_\_ we lift our hands,\_\_\_\_\_ we lift our

lives\_\_\_\_\_ up to You, we are an of - fer - ing,\_\_\_\_\_ we are an of - fer - ing.\_\_\_\_\_

*The congregation may be seated*

## **WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Barb Todd

The Psalter:

Psalm 23

Gospel:

John 10:1-10

## **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

## **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

*Baptized today is Fredrik William Carnate Svenson, born August 22, 2022. His parents are Christine and Peter Svenson. The sponsors/Godparents are Daniel Roland Carnate, Krystal Kate Ferraren, Jeff Gordon, Nicole Silva, Zaidan Siddiqui and Meryl Ledda. The congregation is participating in this covenant and sacrament, so please participate aloud as indicated below.*

## **WELCOME**

**P:** They were bringing children to Jesus that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them,

**C:** **‘Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall never enter it.’**

**P:** And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying His hands upon them.



**ADDRESS**

P: (the address ends with the words . . . ) Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**C: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's Body.**

**QUESTIONS TO THE PARENTS AND SPONSORS****Congregational Covenant**

P: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

**C: We promise our love, support, and care.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

P: Let us unite with the Church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the Triune God. Do you believe in God?

**C: I believe in God.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

**PRAYER OF BAPTISM AND OVER THE WATER****THE BAPTISM AND BLESSING****INTRODUCTION TO THE CONGREGATION****THE PRONOUNCEMENT**

P: We have all entered into a holy covenant this day. May God grant us the grace to keep it. Go in the peace of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*Will those who are able please rise to sing*

**HYMN:** "Child of Blessing, Child

1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir-it's sign;  
 2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre-a-tion, loved in-deed!  
 3 Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came.  
 4 Child of God your lov-ing Par-ent, learn to know whose child you are.

With this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.  
 Fresh from God, re-fresh our spir-its, in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.  
 Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.  
 Grow to laugh and sing and wor-ship, trust and love God more than all.

**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**

**HOMILY**

“The Gate, the Shepherd, Baptism and the Sheep”

**HYMN**                    “We Enter Your Church”

*Please sing to the tune of ‘Away in a Manger’*

**We enter Your Church, Lord, through welcoming doors.**

**We enter it, too, where You claim us as Yours.**

**It’s here at the font that You offer a sign:**

**You tell us, “My children, you’re baptized! You’re mine!”**

**O God, You have called us, inviting us in;**

**You’ve made us Your household and freed us from sin.**

**From youngest to oldest, we find in this place**

**Your waters of welcome, Your family, Your grace.**

**We’ve heard here Your welcome and also Your call;**

**Your Spirit inspires us to share Christ with all.**

**The life we receive here is life we can share;**

**We’ll carry Your message of love everywhere.**

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**CHARGE**

P: Go forth in joy, you beloved of the Lord.  
 Make disciples, teach the faith, and above all,  
 Delight in the Lord who is with you always,  
 Even to the end of the age.

**BENEDICTION**

P: May God, the Giver and Sustainer of life, grant this child wholesome growth in body, mind and spirit.

**C: May the Lord Jesus, that great lover of children, help his parents nurture and protect him, and enjoy him and his brothers with thanksgiving.**

P: May the Holy Spirit open him to God's Word and help his and his brothers' childlike faith grow into a mature, lifelong commitment to Him by whose grace we all may claim to be children of God. Amen.

**POSTLUDE**      "With Heart and Voice"      by Rainey

*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	Maria Altmayer
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Annie Noorts

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# News in the Pews

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With the psalmist we proclaim, “You prepare a table before me ... my cup overflows” (Psalm 23:5, NRSV). Welcome to worship as we praise and thank the Lord our Shepherd.

**A special welcome to the family and friends of this morning’s baptizee Fredrik**, and his parents Christine and Peter Svenson and brothers Felix Roy and Arthur Daniel!

**Everyone is invited downstairs after worship to enjoy a special Coffee Hour hosted by the family!**

**COMING UP MAY 6th is the Spring Craft Fair & Bake Sale!** It is from 10 AM to 3 PM. Ask Beth Lanford if you have any questions. You can also contact Wendy Svenson with questions if you have her contact info.

**WE NEED A FEW GOOD MEN** to help out at the Craft Fair, on the day of the sale in the morning from 7:30-9:30 and at 3:00PM.

**BAKED GOODS NEEDED!** Please volunteer to bake some goodies for the Craft Show. Talk to Barb T with questions.

**Thank you to everyone who donated funds to yesterday’s meal served at the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest**, and to those who helped serve yesterday from 11:00 to 2:30 PM! Our next turn to serve, which will include shopping for and dropping off the groceries for the meal, is Saturday, July 29th.

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**It's Misericordia days and our members the Riley family can sure use your help with donations.** Please donate under Anna's link: [https://secure.frontstream.com/misericordia-candy-days-2023/participant/AnnaRiley?fbclid=IwAR1UY8iEKM4KwQHUKQpocdeYfhe1opAfEvhhk\\_EvTI2fKyqtZj-tljeE7FQ](https://secure.frontstream.com/misericordia-candy-days-2023/participant/AnnaRiley?fbclid=IwAR1UY8iEKM4KwQHUKQpocdeYfhe1opAfEvhhk_EvTI2fKyqtZj-tljeE7FQ) The family hopes one day to find a place with them for their son Ricky, and donations help ensure that so please give if you can, and thank you!

**The UNDY 500 is BACK for all of May-** new colored underwear in all sizes including plus sizes needed for The Night Ministry to distribute to Chicago's most needy. Collection box will be in the Sanctuary. More details in our [May Announcer](#).

**There is a Memorial Service for Pastor's friend and important,** former Youth Group co-worker Deems Jensen at 11:30 AM at St. Nicolai U.C.C. He is going to make every effort to attend, and then will return for a late arrival at Coffee Hour.

**Next Sunday is St. Peter's U.C.C.'s anniversary Sunday** when we celebrate turning 156 years old!

**On Wednesday, May 10th from 4 to 6 PM, A Just Harvest is celebrating 40 years of ministry and mission at its annual meeting and open house event.** Registration is required. Their newsletter states, "Our May 10th Happy Hour and Open House is an inaugural event in a series of spaces we will co-create with the community to commemorate our 40th Anniversary over the next year." It is called the Annual Meeting and Roundtable Offering and will feature the annual meeting and dialogue, and more! This is a good way to strengthen our ties with this important mission partner of St. Peter's.

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# Our People

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**BUNCO PRIZES NEEDED!** Our Bunco fundraiser will be May 20<sup>th</sup> and we need lots and lots of brand new prizes to make it a big success!! You can buy something big or something small, we need it all. Talk with Carol Iannotti if you have questions, and prizes can be left in the church office. Thank you!

**Village Inn Fundraiser: Our next Village Inn Fundraiser Sunday is May 21st. This will be the LAST fundraiser day until September so lets make this a good one!**

**Birthdays this week belong to** David Rees, H. Dayle Zelenka, Dale Todd, Dianna Pappadakis-Haun, Bill Karol, Molly Uchtman, Ken Paige and Laura (Brzozowski) Medaglia. No anniversaries this week that we're aware of! May God draw all of you close on your birthdays.

**This week, Pastor Richard's schedule** includes a meeting with the Skokie Ethics Commission Wednesday evening, and a Thursday morning meeting of CMA Cluster #1 at Advocate Lutheran General. The Spring meeting of our Chicago Metropolitan Association is also this Saturday, May 6th.

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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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**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!

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UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## MISSION MOMENTS

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**April 30, 2023**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Psalm 23**

**Powerful Witness**

**Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries  
Sunday**

You are invited to pray deliberately through the 23rd Psalm, perhaps taking one line per day. How is new meaning revealed to you as you make your way slowly through this familiar psalm?

God is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Consider what it would be like to not “want.” Pray for all those who are lacking.

God makes me lie down in green pastures,

Touch a piece of earth with your feet, hands, or entire body. How does being in literal touch with creation help you feel closer to the Divine?

and leads me beside still waters;

Remember times that God has brought you through rough waters.

Give thanks.

God restores my soul, and leads me in right paths

Pray by walking. With each step, rejoice in God’s renewing presence.

for the sake of God's name.

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Pray using all the names of the Divine you can think of. Are there names that make you uncomfortable? Why? Which names are most meaningful to you?

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

Pray for all those who have no one to pray for them. Ask God to help your prayers become acts of mercy and justice.

I fear no evil; for you are with me;

Remember times when you have felt afraid. What gave you courage?

your rod and your staff--they comfort me.

What are the tools you use in work or hobbies? Notice their shape and ask God to bless them and their use.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

As you eat, give special thanks for the land and the hands that produced your meals.

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Anoint yourself. Place a small amount of lotion or oil on your head or hand, giving thanks to God for the gift of your body.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

Give thanks for those who have shown you God's goodness and mercy.

and I shall dwell in the house of God my whole life long.

Imagine the house of God. Can you draw it, or describe it in writing?

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**Psalm 23**

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil; for Thou art with me;

Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**John 10:1-10**

Jesus said,

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him

because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."