



Welcome

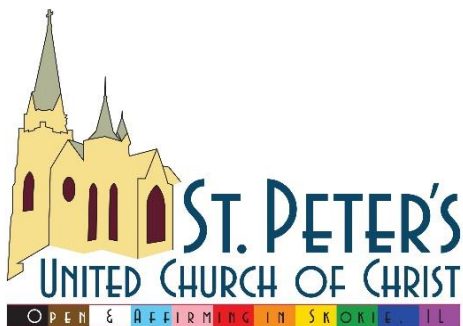
ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
November 5,
2023**

10:00 AM

**Twenty-third
Sunday after
Pentecost**

Communion Sunday





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&st=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 5, 2023 at 10:00am
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE "For the Beauty of the Earth" arr. Rice

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP Led by: Carolyn Van Til

L: Sisters and brothers, as we gather in the welcome of
God's love,
As we gather in the joy of our unity in Christ,
As we gather in the power of the Spirit,
Let us listen for the voice of God!

**C: Let us worship our God, who has spoken and still
speaks to those who attend to the roar or the
whisper of the Holy One. Amen!**

RESPONSE

"Lift up your Heads"

SSB #9 (v. 1)



- 1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo - rious Rul - er waits!
- 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, set a - part
- 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a - bid!
- 4 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin;



The Sov - ereign One is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 From earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 Let me your in - ner pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.
 Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.



Georg Weissel, a Lutheran pastor, served a church in Königsberg, East Prussia. He wrote some twenty hymns, most of them for the great festivals of the church year. This hymn was written for Advent.

Tune: TRURO L.M.
 Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: Let there be no pretense among us as we address our thoughts to God.

We may fool one another, but God knows us as we really are. All that we try to hide from ourselves comes to light before the One who searches our hearts and minds. Please join me in the spirit and words of prayer; let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Gracious God, help us to be honest with You, with ourselves, and with one another. We have searched for life amid temporary distractions. We have sought excitement in places that turned out to be desert wastelands.

C: We have burdened others with our mistakes. We have sought honors and made comparisons to look better than those around us.

L: We have devoted little time to thanking and praising You, the Source of all things.

C: Open us now, O God, to the Word we need from You.

A: In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *First Peter 3:18*

L: Peter wrote, “For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.” It is not our deserving nor our creation, but the forgiveness and new life from God through Christ is a gift; it is grace. Grace extended to all of us, and grace then meant to be within us, changing us, moving us to share and be bold for justice and peace as God would have us be.

In the name of Jesus Christ, based on the Word we heard, I declare to you that our sins are forgiven! And let the rejoicing congregation reply . . .

A: Thanks be to God!

HYMN

"Lift Up Your Heads"

SSB #9 (vv. 2-4)



- 1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo - rious Rul - er waits!
- 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, set a - part
- 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a - bide!
- 4 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin;



The Sov - ereign One is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 From earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 Let me your in - ner pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.
 Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.



Georg Weissel, a Lutheran pastor, served a church in Königsberg, East Prussia. He wrote some twenty hymns, most of them for the great festivals of the church year. This hymn was written for Advent.

Tune: TRURO L.M.
 Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

The congregation may be seated

A CALL TO OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Joshua 3:7-17

Epistle:

I Thessalonians 2:9-13

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Simple Gifts”

arr. Hopkins

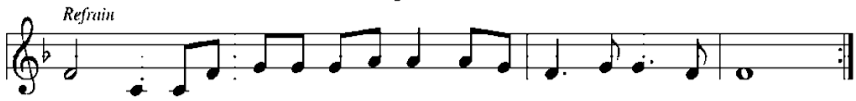
Will those who are able please stand up

GOSPEL

Matthew 23:1-12

RESPONSE**“Thy Word”**

SSB #33 (v. 1)



Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.



1 When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right be-



side me, and noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near.



Please be near me to the end.

Refrain

2 I will not for-get your love for me, and yet my heart for-ev-er is



wan-der-ing. Je-sus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and



I will love you to the end.

Refrain

Text: Psalm 119:105. Amy Grant. b. 1960

Music: THY WORD, Michael W. Smith. b. 1957

Text and music © 1984 Word Music, Inc. (ASCAP) and Meadowgreen Music Co./ Bug and Bear Music (ASCAP), admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

The congregation may be seated

PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS

Rev. Wayne MacPherson

HOMILY "On Humility"

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

RESPOND

153

Eat of This Bread

The musical score is for the hymn "Eat of This Bread" (number 153). It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked as ♩=65. The score consists of four staves of music. Each staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the notes. 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." The chords used are E-flat major, A-flat major, D-flat major, G major, C major, F major, F major 7, B-flat major, and B-flat major.

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.

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**

Will those who are able please rise to sing

HYMN “Lord, You Teach Us To Be Humble”

Sing to the tune "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Lord, you teach us to be humble in the things we do and say

So that others will not stumble or—discouraged — turn away.

For a faith that's lived for glory — full of bragging, full of show —

Cannot tell the gospel story that your people long to know.

How do other people greet us as we journey through our days?

Do we hope that they will meet us with a word of thanks or praise?

Do we seek congratulations for the kind of life we lead?

Do we want their admiration for the things that we believe?

May we never burden others with a faith that's hard to bear.

Make us kind to one another; make us humble in our prayer.

As we give up seats of honor, may we give you glory, too.

Lord, you teach us to be humble; may we humbly follow you.

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CHARGE & BENEDICTION

P: Our hunger and thirst are being satisfied.
Our fainting souls have found refreshment here.

**C: Surely God has been with us and helped us.
Our cries have been heard in this place.**

P: God sends us out, purified, forgiven, and equipped.
We can be sure that God is with us every day.

**C: We can be confident that God will teach us.
Day by day we learn as we serve.**

P: We commit ourselves anew to living God's word.
We ask God to multiply our efforts.

**C: God will provide a way for us through life's deserts.
God will go with us to make life fruitful!**

P: Amen.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Nettleton"

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 | Jenn Schneider |
| NURSERY ATTENDANT | Heidi Tarzian |

News in the Pews

Thank you to all those who served in the ministries of the church this morning – in education, worship, music, administration, communication, and on Boards!

Welcome to our Guest Preacher this morning on a return visit, the Rev. Wayne MacPherson! He and Pastor Richard have known each other since before Wayne was ordained and before Richard came to St. Peter's. A member of First Congregational Church, UCC, Evanston, he has served churches in Chicago, including a recent Interim position at Epiphany UCC, and for many years was the Office Manager of the Chicago Metropolitan Association. Those many duties included keeping in touch with local church pastors over phone, emails and in person.

About Communion: We invite all believers, regardless of denominational background, to join in the Lord's Supper. We do ask our St. Peter's young ones to complete a Communicants Class first (6th grade). The servers will bring the elements to you in the pews. Please hold your bread until all are served; we will partake together at the Pastor's prompting as a sign of Christian unity, likewise with the cup. The innermost circle of cups in the wine tray holds grape juice and the outer circle is wine. Please note: we now offer Gluten-free wafers which are in a separate cup as they cannot touch the other wafers. The Board of Elders would like to ask that attendees on Communion Sundays please dispose of the plastic single-serve communion cups and lids as they leave the sanctuary. The Elders are no longer counting the empty cups after the service,

and trash receptacles are provided by both exit doors. Thank you!

Thank you to Wendy Svenson, Beth Lanford, and all vendors and volunteers from St. Peter's who helped make the Holiday Craft Fair yesterday a good event for all involved! Helping the vendors bring in, and take out, their bins of wares is always a welcoming service provided by some of us. We thank you!

The Board of Elders meets after worship today.

Holiday Wreath orders are due November 10th! Find a form in your bulletin or the Nov. Announcer. The pickup will be Saturday Nov. 25th 1-4PM, or after worship the next day.

It is time to donate to the Holiday Meals program at the Jewel at Village Crossing Shopping Center in Niles. Through this wonderful program started by Carol Iannotti we are able to provide a full holiday dinner for 4-6 people for Thanksgiving and 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!!

Pastor Richard returns to work on Wednesday, November 8th.

There will be a Zoom meeting at 7 PM of the members of the Imagining and Investing in our Future Committee on Wednesday, November 8th.

The Board for Christian Education meets next Sunday, the 12th, after worship.

The Micah 6:8 Committee meets over Zoom at 6:30 on Sunday the 12th.

Our People

Happy birthday / anniversary! Having a birthday this week are Anna Riley, Bridgette Sterba, Peter Svenson and Ann Herren. Jenn and Rich Schneider celebrate their wedding anniversary, too! May God be with them all in their celebrations.

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According to the schedule, barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Rich Schneider, and the Nursery attendant will be Carolyn Van Til.

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!! Are supplies are rapidly dwindling, we need more! Donations accepted during office hours or on Sundays; leave it on the shelves by the offices and thank you so much!

New Wifi Name! Due to technical difficulties, please use ATTUNITEDCHURCH1 to logon, the password has not changed.

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!



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

November 5, 2023

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 23:1-12

Partners in Service

Long before he was Pope, a priest called Francis developed a prayer he called the five-finger prayer. On this All Saints Day, it's a good way to call to mind those saints in our lives and in the world who have led the way in the faith.

Hold your hands palm down in front of you, and look at your fingers one by one, beginning with your thumb, which is the closest to your heart.

Thumb: Pray for those closest to you. Pray for those in your chosen family, or for your close friends.

Pointer finger: Pray for those saints who have pointed you in the right direction. Pray for older relatives, wise teachers, good employers, and thoughtful mentors.

Middle finger: This finger stands tall. Pray for the saints in leadership in your community and the world. Pray for those in business, government, and church leadership whose decisions affect so many.

Ring finger: This finger is the weakest of all the fingers. Pray for those on the margins, pray for the oppressed or the downtrodden. Pray for the ill and the dying. Pray for the addicted and the imprisoned.

Pinky finger: This finger is the smallest. This is where you put your prayers for yourself.

In today's scripture story, Jesus teaches the crowds and disciples about servant leadership. He showed them that when we are followers of Christ, our words and actions need to be consistent. As we pray this prayer, we can get clearer about who are the ordinary, everyday saints in our lives and the world. We can better understand who those are who walk their walk and talk their talk, those saints who have something to teach us here and now.

Joshua 3:7-17

The Lord said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses. You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, 'When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'"

Joshua then said to the Israelites, "Draw near and hear the words of the Lord your God."

Joshua said, "By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out from before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites: the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is going to pass before you into the Jordan. So now select twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap."

When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people.

Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing toward the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho. While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you

believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

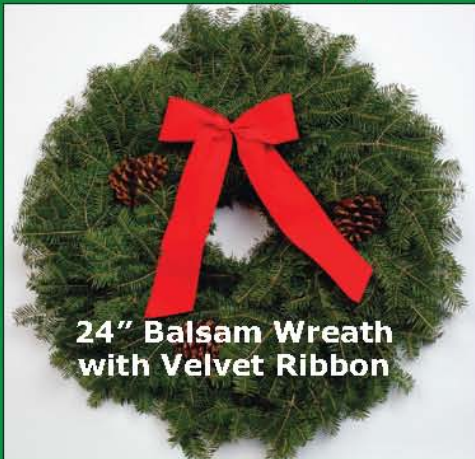
We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

Matthew 23:1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi.

“But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations

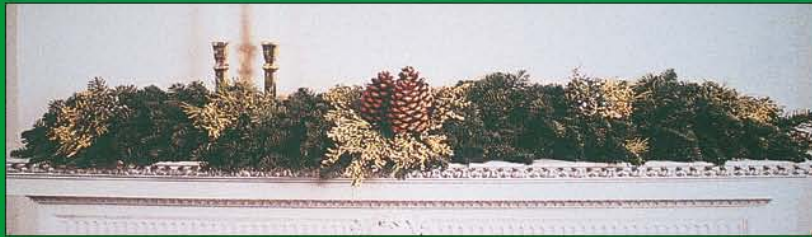


**24" Balsam Wreath
with Velvet Ribbon**

Single Face Balsam Outdoor
Wreath 24", 30", 40"
Double Face Balsam 36"



Noble Fir Mixed Wreath 20"
Indoor/Outdoor



4' Mantelpiece/Centerpiece

Place your order by Friday November 10th.

(Contact Rich Schneider or call 847.673.8166)

**Pickup will be on Saturday Nov 25th from 1 - 2 pm
or at St. Peter's after worship on Sunday Nov 26th.**

| | |
|--|----------|
| 24" Single Face Balsam | \$17.00 |
| Cemetery Stand | included |
| 30" Single Face Balsam | \$29.00 |
| 36" Double Face Balsam | \$52.00 |
| 40" Single Face Balsam | \$45.00 |
| 4' Noble Mix Mantlepice / Centerpiece | \$45.00 |
| 12" Candle Ring Wreath (No Candle) | \$21.00 |
| 12" Holiday Yule Log | \$21.00 |
| 32" Evergreen Planter | \$31.00 |
| 42" Evergreen Planter | \$51.00 |
| Fire Starter Basket | \$21.00 |
| Balsam Door Swag | \$15.00 |
| 20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath | \$25.00 |
| 24" Boxed Decorator Wreath | \$41.00 |
| 25' Balsam Garland | \$32.00 |



**32" Evergreen Planter
42"+ Evergreen Planter**



**12" Candle Ring Wreath
WITHOUT Candle**



**24" Boxed
Decorator Wreath**



Holiday Yule Log 12"



25' Balsam Fir Garland



Firestarter Basket



Balsam Swag

CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND MORE!

We are taking orders for pine Christmas wreaths and decorations from Northern Wisconsin to adorn your home or to be placed at a cemetery.

The standard 24 inch diameter wreath, with red velvet bow and pine cones is \$17.00.

Cemetery stands are included this year.

Proceeds from this fundraiser help to decorate the church for Christmas with the remainder going to the General Operating Fund.

We will make arrangements for placing wreaths on the St. Peter's UCC Cemetery, if you desire.

All orders **must be placed by Friday Nov 10th.**

Pickup will be on Saturday Nov 25th from 1 - 2 pm or at St. Peter's after worship on Sunday Nov 26th.

To place an order, please:

- **fill in the form and place in collection plate with payment.**
- **fill in the form and return with payment** by mailing it to St Peter's.
- or, **email your order form to office@stpeteruccskokie.org** and send payment separately via mail, text the amount, or use PayPal. For information on how to use any of these methods, please see the weekly bulletin.

Please make checks payable to:
St. Peter's UCC.

| Name | | |
|---|--------------------------------|----------|
| Address | | |
| I will pick up my order up at church | | |
| Please place on cemetery for: | | |
| | | |
| Item Description | Price | Quantity |
| 24" Single Face Balsam Wreath w/ Velvet Ribbon for Home or Cemetery | \$17.00 | |
| Cemetery Stands | included w/ cemetery placement | |
| 30" Single Face Balsam | \$29.00 | |
| 36" Double Face Balsam | \$52.00 | |
| 40" Single Face Balsam | \$45.00 | |
| 4' Noble Mix Mantlepiece / Centerpiece | \$45.00 | |
| 12" Candle Ring Wreath (No Candle) | \$21.00 | |
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