

# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR  
**Sunday,**  
**June 2, 2024**  
**10:00 AM**

---

**Second Sunday**  
**after Pentecost**





# 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-cmd=showitem&item=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, June 2, 2024 at 10:00am**  
**Second Sunday after Pentecost**

---

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

**PRELUDE** Selected

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Beth Lanford

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: O God, You were not made for a day set aside,  
But the day of rest was made for You.

**C: We choose to gather on this our holy day  
To worship, to pray, to share with one another.**

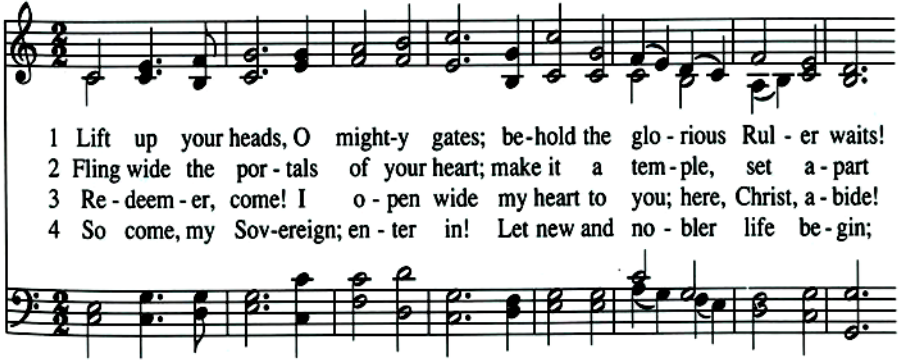
P: Jesus asked, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good  
or to do harm, to save life or to kill?"

**C: We choose compassion and justice and healing. On  
our day of rest and worship we choose life. Let us  
worship God!**


## HYMN

## "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 - 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

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

**P:** God has always been there for us, loving us and calling us to be all that we can be. Let us tell God all about ourselves, not leaving anything out in our prayer of confession to the Holy One.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**A:** **O Thou, whose very name is Love, we mean to do well, but our intentions are soon discarded. We try to be faithful, but we are diverted by so many things.**

**P:** We do not wish to harm anyone, but, without thinking, we sometimes hurt those we love the most. We sympathize with those who suffer more than we act with them.

**C:** **We refuse to help the help of others because we are hard pressed to admit our needs. We, too, can only say with the man who came to you, 'Lord Jesus, I am not worthy that You should enter my house; only say the word and I shall be healed!'**

**A:** **Forgive us these, and any and all other ways we have grieved Your Holy Spirit! Forgive us not only for what we failed to do, but also for what we have done that is contrary to Your will. Create in us new hearts, after Yours; for it is in the name of Jesus Christ we humbly pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *Isaiah 1:18*

P: “Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”

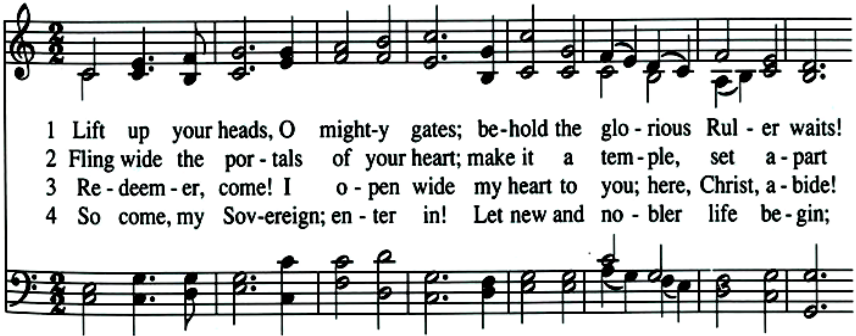
Who has the power to do that? Our God, whom we know in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and was raised that we might join in the life of God here on earth, and later in eternity. Let us thank God for God’s forgiving grace by the way we live and treat each other the rest of our lives! And please join me in acclamation, saying . . .

**A: Alleluia! Praise be to God! Amen!**

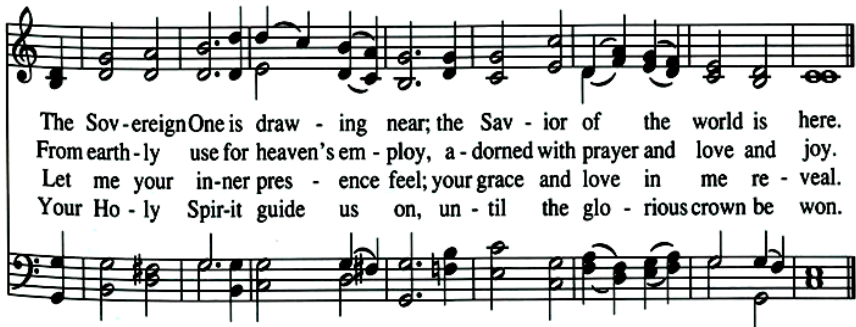
## HYMN

## "Lift Up Your Heads"

SSB #9 (vv. 2-4)



1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo-ri-ous 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-ri-ous 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*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Annie Noorts

Old Testament:

Psalm 81:1-13

Epistle:

2nd Corinthians 4:5-12

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

"Let All the People Praise Thee"

by Natalie Sleeth

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**THE GOSPEL**

Mark 2:23-3:6

## 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.



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.

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 AND SILENT PRAYERS

### OFFERTORY

*If you donate electronically, feel free to place a yellow "Electronic Giving" card into the plate as it comes around so you can enjoy participating in the physical act of giving.*

*Will those who are able please stand up*

### DOXOLOGY

Tune #551

**A: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

**Praise God all creatures here below!**

**Praise God above, you heavenly host;**

**Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated*

**HOMILY** "Nevertheless: Jesus"

## 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**

**Prayer of Consecration**

**RESPOND**  
**153**      **Eat of This Bread**

The musical score is written in G minor, 4/4 time, with a tempo of quarter note = 65. It consists of four staves of music. 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 are: Eb, Ab, Ddim, Gm, Cm, Fm, Fm7, Bbsus, Bb, and Eb.

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 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 stand up*

**HYMN** "We Do Not Proclaim Ourselves"

*Sing to the tune of "Watchman, Tell Us Of The Night," #91*

**We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim that  
Christ is Lord.**

**Hear what the Apostle tells: Hear the truth and share  
the word!**

**Let the light of love now shine; in the darkness make  
it bright!**

**Glory in this light divine! Glory in the face of Christ!**

**We cry: "How much can we bear?" — yet we won't be  
crushed by sin.**

**We're perplexed yet won't despair! Christ is Lord and  
love will win!**

**We're worn down and we're oppressed, yet, O God,  
you're always near.**

**Given up in Jesus' death, we are raised to serve you  
here.**

**When we're facing troubles, Lord, When we wonder  
how to cope,**

**May we learn this all the more: In Christ's death, you  
give us hope.**

**Others' actions can't destroy All the love and life you  
bring.**

**We choose to be filled with joy; Now in Christ, our  
spirits sing.**

**We have treasure in clay jars — treasure no one can remove.**

**For your gift of life is ours; we choose to forgive and love.**

**Lord, your Holy Spirit dwells In each one who shares your life.**

**We do not proclaim ourselves; We proclaim our hope in Christ.**

*Text: Copyright © 2018 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used by personal permission.*

**CHARGE** *from Matthew 22*

P: A lawyer asked Jesus, “Teacher, which commandment is the greatest?”

**C: He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment.”**

P: “And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

**BENEDICTION**

P: Go, as the friends of Christ who have feasted at this heavenly banquet. May the blessing of God, who created the Table, Christ who is its host, and the Spirit, who binds all together, be yours in these days.  
Amen.

**C: Amen!**

**POSTLUDE**            Selected

*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	Jen Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Peter Svenson
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Carolyn Van Til

---

# What Does LGBTQIA+ Mean?

Understand Why the Acronym Is Used and What It Stands For

By

Kendra Cherry, MEd

Updated on June 02, 2023

Reviewed by

Aron Janssen, MD

LGBTQIA+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or sometimes questioning), intersex, asexual, and others. The "plus" represents other sexual identities, including pansexual and Two-Spirit. The first four letters of the acronym have been used since the 1990s, but in recent years there has been an increased awareness of the need to be inclusive of other sexual identities to offer better representation.

The acronym is used to represent a diverse range of sexualities and gender-identities, referring to anyone who is transgender and/or same/similar gender attracted.

## What Does Each Letter Mean?

- **L (Lesbian):** A lesbian is a woman/woman-aligned person who is attracted to only people of the same/similar gender.
- **G (Gay):** Gay is usually a term used to refer to men/men-aligned individuals who are only attracted to people of the same/similar gender. However, lesbians can also be referred to as gay. The use of the term gay became more popular during the 1970s. Today, bisexual and pansexual people sometimes use gay to casually refer to themselves when they talk about their similar gender attraction.
- **B (Bisexual):** Bisexual indicates an attraction to all genders. The recognition of bisexual individuals is important, since there have been periods when people who identify as bi have been misunderstood as being gay. Bisexuality has included transgender, binary and nonbinary individuals since the release of the "Bisexual Manifesto" in 1990.
- **T (Transgender):** Transgender is a term that indicates that a person's gender identity is different from the gender associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.
- **Q (Queer or Questioning):** Though queer may be used by people as a specific identity, it is often considered an umbrella term for anyone who is non-cisgender or heterosexual. But it is also a slur. It should not be placed on all members of the community, and should only be used by cisgender and heterosexual individuals when referring to a person who explicitly identifies with it. Questioning refers to people who may be unsure of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
- **Intersex:** A term to describe individuals who are born with variations of sex characteristics that do not fit with binary definitions of male or female bodies.
- **Asexual:** Sometimes shorted to "ace," this term refers to someone who has little or no sexual attraction; they may, however, experience romantic attraction.
- **+ (Plus):** The 'plus' is used to signify all of the gender identities and sexual orientations that are not specifically covered by the other five initials. An example is Two-Spirit, a pan-Indigenous American identity.

## LGBTQIA+ Acronym Variations

Other acronym variations that are sometimes used include LGBTIQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer) and LGBTQQIP2SAA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, two-spirit (2S), androgynous, and asexual).

# LGBTQIA+ Resources

If you are interested in learning about LGBTQIA+ issues, there are a number of resources available that can help.

- [The Trevor Project](#)
- [Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network \(GLSEN\)](#)
- [National Center for Transgender Equality \(NCTE\)](#)

The goal of using more inclusive terms like LGBTQIA+ is to improve visibility, recognition, and acceptance. It is important to remember that LGBTQIA+ people continue to face discrimination. Transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals, in particular, are frequently the target of social and economic marginalization as well as harassment and violence.

Terms and definitions are always evolving. When it comes to something as personal as sexuality and gender identity, these terms and definitions can mean different things to different people. While working to understand and use terms such as LGBTQIA+ can help increase the visibility of people who have faced marginalization and discrimination, it is important to remember that the most important labels or definitions are the ones that people give to themselves.

If you are seeking support for issues with coming out, relationships, bullying, self-harm, and more, contact the [LGBT National Hotline](#) at **1-888-843-4564** for one-to-one peer support.

For more mental health resources, see our [National Helpline Database](#).

Verywell Mind uses only high-quality sources, including peer-reviewed studies, to support the facts within our articles. Read our [editorial process](#) to learn more about how we fact-check and keep our content accurate, reliable, and trustworthy.

1. Intersex Society of North America. [What Is Intersex?](#)
2. Gold M. [The ABCs of L.G.B.T.Q.I.A.+](#). *The New York Times*.
3. GLAAD. [Media reference guide](#).
4. Clayton JA, Tannenbaum C. [Reporting sex, gender, or both in clinical research?](#) *JAMA*. 2016;316(18):1863–1864. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.16405
5. Hadland SE, Yehia BR, Makadon HJ. [Caring for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth in inclusive and affirmative environments](#). *Pediatr Clin North Am*. 2016;63(6):955-969. doi:10.1016/j.pcl.2016.07.001
6. Higa D, Hoppe MJ, Lindhorst T, et al. [Negative and positive factors associated with the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning \(LGBTQ\) youth](#). *Youth Soc*. 2014;46(5):663-687. doi:10.1177/0044118X12449630
7. GLAAD. [Where are we on TV report - 2019](#).
8. OECD. [The LGBT challenge: How to better include sexual and gender minorities?](#) *Society at a Glance 2019: OECD Social Indicators*, OECD Publishing, Paris. 2019. doi:10.1787/c64c3d3f-en
9. Stotzer RL. [Data sources hinder our understanding of transgender murders](#). *Am J Public Health*. 2017;107(9):1362-1363. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2017.303973

Please join us for a

# *Retirement Dinner*

honoring

Rev. Richard and Mrs. Beth Lanford

*Sunday, June 30th at 5pm*

RSVP via Evite email sent out on 5/23,

OR use this link or scan the code:

<http://evite.me/Lanford-Retirement-Dinner>



*There is no charge for this banquet but "free will" donations will be gladly accepted to help cover costs.*

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED,  
thank you! No need to do it again!

**RSVPs DUE BY JUNE 15th**

See Evite or Church Website for more info.



# *Share your memories ...*

We are asking all of you to submit a short video with a wish, a memory, a word of advice - whatever you feel like sharing to honor Pastor Richard and Beth.

Click this link or scan the code and follow the directions - its very easy, we promise!

<https://share.vidday.com/e/r-9e8xdn>



**Scan me! Pastor's Video**

**VIDEO SUBMISSIONS ARE  
DUE BY JUNE 23rd**

---

# News in the Pews

---

**We gather to “sing aloud to God our strength; [to] shout for joy to the God of Jacob” (Psalm 81:1, NRSV). Welcome to worship.**

**The Good Goodbye Committee will meet after worship.** Please plan to stay if you’d like to be involved, all are welcome!

**Thanks to all the volunteers** who served in the various ministries of the church this morning – ministries of worship, administration and hospitality!

**Next Sunday we will be celebrating the baptism** of Britta Christianson’s baby girl Sky!

**Today, Evanston is having its first Interfaith Family Pride Fest at Raymond Park** (1445 Hinman Avenue). It goes from 2 to 5 PM and features the Artemis Singers, the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus, and Youth Showcase and Actors Gymnasium. Our Church is not taking part but is letting people know about it!

**THANKS to everyone who remembered to donate to St. Peter’s 2024 UNDY 500 collection** of underwear for the clients of the Night Ministry! Thanks to Maria Altmayer

---

---

for heading it up as a member of the Micah 6:8 Committee.

**June PRIDE Events!!!** We'll be participating in the Niles Pride Walk on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 11AM at Kirk Lane Park and our Ben will be a speaker! Also, we'll be participating in Skokie Pride (we have a booth) on June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1-4PM at Oakton Park. We'd love volunteers for Skokie Pride to help meet the community, even 1-hour slots would be so helpful!

**St. Peter's UCC Gear** – We'd like to encourage you to get some St. Peter's UCC wear to help folks identify you as you attend some or all of these events (or other things) this summer and beyond. Check it out here: <https://stpeters.qbstores.com/home> and get yourself some St. Peter's UCC gear!!

**One Last Goodbye- June 30<sup>th</sup> at 5PM.** Invitations went out last week for this event. If you've not received one, please let Annie Noorts or Jenn Schneider know. This event is our chance to say a final "good goodbye" to both Pastor Richard and Beth. We'll break bread, give gifts, and share memories together. There is no charge for this banquet but "free will" donations will be gladly accepted to help cover costs. See insert for more details.

---

---

# Our People

---

**Jane Abramchik remains at the McGaw Care Center / Frank Murdough Pavilion, 3200 Grant Street, Room 333, Evanston, IL, 60201. Dorene Schurman remains in hospice care in Ohio. Please keep them in your prayers.**

**Having birthdays or anniversaries this week are** Barbara Todd, Ben Rees, Katy (Schuhrke) Aguayo, former baptizees Colin Medaglia and Baggio Salvatierra; Dayle and Gena Zelenka have an anniversary on the 6th! We wish God's blessings on all of them!

**According to the schedule,** next Sunday's lector will be Barb Todd; Rita McMahon will attend the Nursery.

*Our Call to Worship, Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession are reprinted by permission of the publisher from Touch Holiness, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright 1990 by The Pilgrim Press; copyright 2012 Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.*

---

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

---

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

---

---

# Regular Reminders!

---

**About Communion:** All Christians and seekers after God are invited in to partake of the Lord's Supper here regardless of denominational background. We practice open Communion. We do, however, ask our own St. Peter's U.C.C. young folk to first go through the Communicants Class (6th grade). We are celebrating the Lord's Supper and its distribution like we did before COVID hit and changed everything. The servers will bring the bread to you in the pews (there are gluten free wafers in protective plastic) and we will partake at the Pastor's prompting. Then the servers will bring the fruit of the vine; grape juice is in one half of the tray; wine is in the other designated half. Again we partake at the Pastor's prompting, and the cups go into the cup racks connected to the pews.

**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.

**Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts!** Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" in your podcatcher's search engine and you'll find us!

**Pantry Donations** – while we still have a lot left from our Jewel Foods donation, we can always use more donations! They can be left on the shelves near the staircase by the office doors on Laramie Ave.

---



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## MISSION MOMENTS

---

**June 2, 2024**

**Second Sunday after Pentecost**

**“Stretch Out Your Hand”**

**Mark 2:23-3:6**

Today’s passage from Mark contains two short stories about how the presence of Jesus reveals the reign of God in ordinary things. The first story concerns feeding people on the day of rest, which violates the strict laws of the religious leaders of the time. The second begins on the same day, with Jesus going to the place of worship, again.

You might skip quickly over the again that starts the story in order to get to the main action of the story when a man with a “withered hand” is healed by Jesus, another act on the sabbath day that draws the ire of the authorities.

But let’s pause here, on the again. The again tells us that this is not the first time that Jesus and the people with him have gathered here, at the place of worship. Is it the first time that they saw the

---

---

man with the withered hand? We don't know. In fact, we don't know very much about the man, except for that one descriptor.

Perhaps the man had been "withered" since birth, and had taken up residence in the temple, impoverished and hoping to beg or borrow enough money for his sacrificial offering. Maybe the man was a busy and wealthy landowner with a recent injury who had just popped into the temple to see what all the fuss about this new teacher was about. Maybe he himself was one of Jesus' followers, and his hand was only the object of attention for the first time that day.

But, poor or prosperous, connected or lonely, we know that he did not ask for healing. Again, we don't know why. Maybe he had been coming to the temple every day for years hoping for healing that never came until he just gave up. Maybe he did not ask for healing because he felt he did not need it. Or maybe he did not ask, because he hadn't yet worked up the courage. But whatever his reason, Jesus offered healing anyway.

Here you are, dear reader, in worship on a Sabbath day. Maybe you have come from a long habit, as you have week after week, almost giving up hope for healing. Maybe you feel that your life is just fine without Jesus' healing touch, but you popped in for some other reason. Maybe you haven't been able to articulate, even to yourself, what you need today, let alone say it aloud. Whatever the reason, Jesus extends his hand to you now and offers you healing. You don't even have to ask. The living Christ knows what you need and offers it to you without question, conversation or negotiation. May you receive the healing that Christ extends!

---

**Psalm 81:1-13**

Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob.  
Raise a song, sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp.  
Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our festal day.  
For it is a statute for Israel, an ordinance of the God of Jacob.  
He made it a decree in Joseph, when he went out over the land of Egypt.

I hear a voice I had not known:

"I relieved your shoulder of the burden;  
your hands were freed from the basket.  
In distress you called, and I rescued you;  
I answered you in the secret place of thunder;  
I tested you at the waters of Meribah. *Selah*

Hear, O my people, while I admonish you;

O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

There shall be no strange god among you;  
you shall not bow down to a foreign god.

I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.

"But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me.

So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,  
to follow their own counsels.

O that my people would listen to me,  
that Israel would walk in my ways!



## **2 Corinthians 4:5-12**

Paul wrote, "For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you."

## **Mark 2:23-3:6**

One sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions." Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that

they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.