



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
September 24,
2023
10:00 AM**

**Seventeenth
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=1&from=seller=&to=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, September 24, 2023 at 10:00am
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE “Prelude in Bb Major” Sorensen

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Beth Lanford

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Like a whisper that lures us to safety,

C: Strong as a shout that bids us to come,

P: Gentle as a prayer that eases our worry,

C: Like a clear bell that rings out our name,

P: Your Word comes to us, Loving God.

**C: It calls us, comforts us and urges us to depart from
evil and do good, to seek peace and pursue it.**

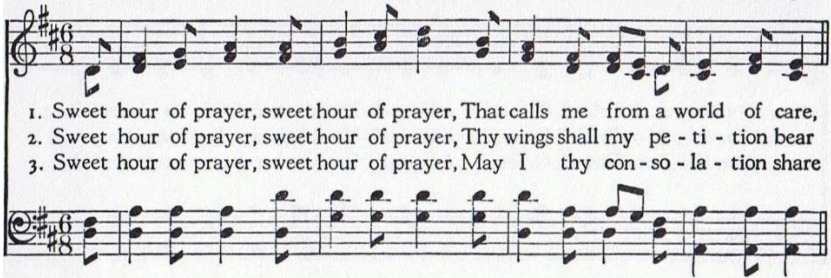
P: Speaking God, open our hearts to hear you

C: And free our voices to praise you! Amen.

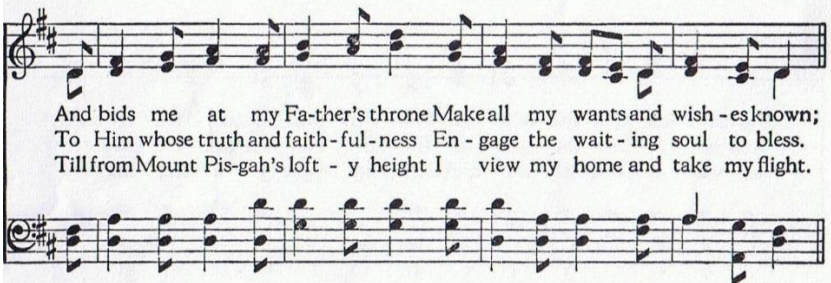
RESPONSE

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

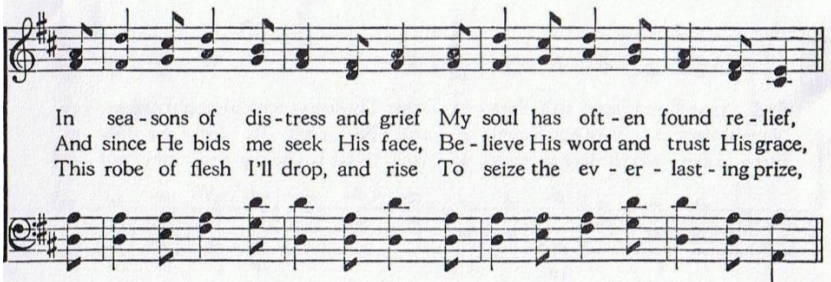
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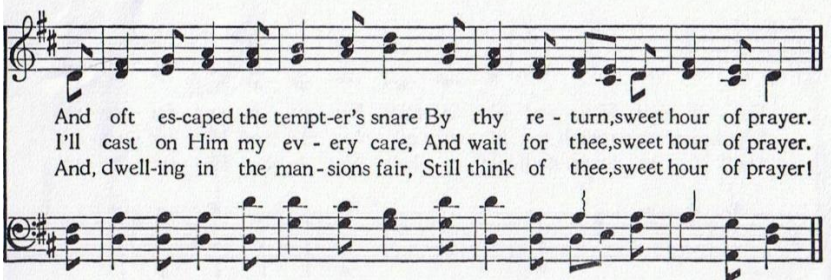
1. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, That calls me from a world of care,
 2. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, Thy wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear
 3. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, May I thy con - so - la - tion share



And bids me at my Fa-ther's throne Make all my wants and wish - es known;
 To Him whose truth and faith - ful - ness En - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.
 Till from Mount Pis-gah's loft - y height I view my home and take my flight.



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief My soul has oft - en found re - lief,
 And since He bids me seek His face, Be - lieve His word and trust His grace,
 This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise To seize the ev - er - last - ing prize,



And oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare By thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.
 I'll cast on Him my ev - ery care, And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.
 And, dwell - ing in the man - sions fair, Still think of thee, sweet hour of prayer!

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: “The world of care” still speaks to us, reminding us of our want and need to admit to God the ways we think we have disappointed God, and ourselves. We care about falling short with the God of love, so a prayer of confession is fitting before you and I go further into our worship and praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: We confess that we know all too well, God, how we mess up in dealing with people who stress us out. Who make our lives harder, who may have some power over us, and who delight in getting our goat. We were going to be patient, but we were not. We were going to be respectful, but we did not succeed. We were going to keep an open mind to their ideas or feelings, but it became impossible for us. We were not going to raise our voices, but raise them we did. God, we are trying! Help us, and forgive us the times our messing up crossed the line into sinful words, attitudes, and maybe even deeds. Heal us, we pray, and bring mercy and transformation to us in Jesus’ name. Amen.

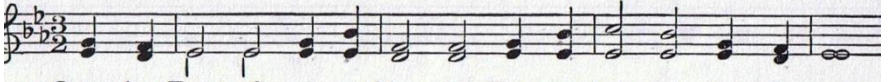
ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Psalm 145:8-9*

P: “The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.”
God’s compassion does not stop when we are not slow to anger; we are us and God is God. Thank God! We know God’s forgiveness especially in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, including ours.

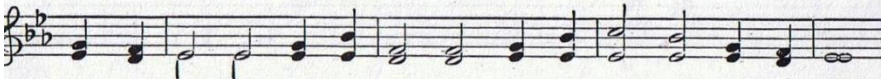
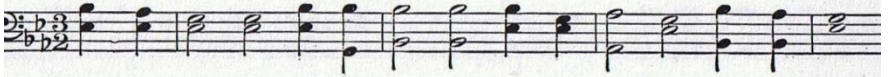
In claiming this gospel of God's love for us, let the church join me in saying . . .

A: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

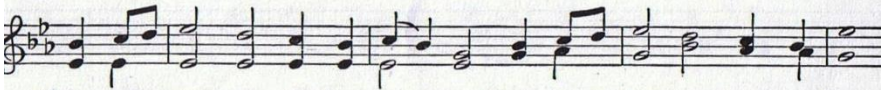
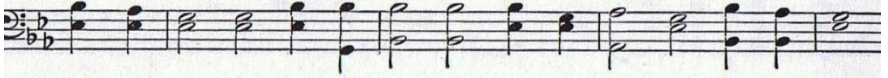
HYMN "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #476



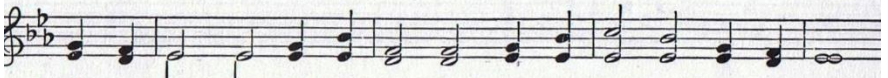
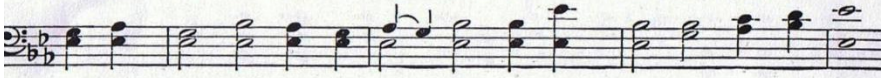
1. Come, thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
2. Here I raise my Eb-en - e - zer; Hith - er by Thy help I'm come;
3. O to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!



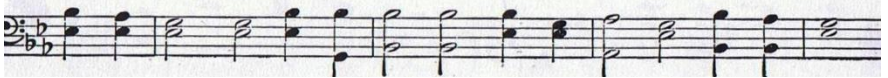
Streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing Call for songs of loud - est praise:
And I hope, by Thy good pleas - ure, Safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, Bind my wan - dering heart to Thee.



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, Wan - dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, Mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed with pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart; O take and seal it, Seal it from Thy courts a - bove.



The congregation may be seated

A CALL TO OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Judy Paige

Old Testament:

2nd Samuel 12:1-7a

Epistle:

Romans 12:3-21

Galatians 6:1-10

MUSICAL MEDITATION “Reflection”

L. Smith

Will those who are able please stand up

GOSPEL

John 10:31-39

RESPONSE

“He’s My Source”

SSB #17

He's my source _____ of light _____ that
 shines in my dark - ness. He's my source of liv - ing
 wa - ter that I need ev - 'ry day. He's my
 sword and my shield, _____ the fair - est of ten
 thou - sand. He's the bright morn - ing Star, _____ the
 soon com - ing King, the ris - en Lord. _____

The congregation may be seated

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS
THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen**

SERMON “Dealing with Difficult People”

Will those who are able please rise to sing

HYMN "Lead On, O King Eternal"

#299

With spirit

1. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, We fol - low, not with fears;

Hence-*forth* in fields of con - quest Thy tents shall be our home.
 And ho - li - ness shall whis - per The sweet A - men of peace;
 For glad - ness breaks like morn - ing Wher - e'er Thy face ap - pears;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion Thy grace has made us strong,
 For not with swords, loud clash - ing, Nor roll of stir - ring drums;
 Thy cross is lift - ed o'er us; We jour - ney in its light;

And now, O King e - ter - nal, We lift our bat - tle song.
 But deeds of love and mer - cy The heaven - ly king - dom comes.
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; Lead on, O God of might! A-MEN.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

- P: “Do not fear what may happen tomorrow.
 The same loving Father who cares for you today
 Will care for you tomorrow, and every day.
 Either He will shield you from suffering, or
 He will give you the strength to bear it.
- C: Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and
 imaginings.”
- A: Amen! *-From St. Francis de Sales*

POSTLUDE

“Nettleton”

arr. Metzinger

The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Carolyn Van Til

News in the Pews

Family of Christ, grace and peace be with you as we gather to worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Thanks to our Rummage Sale co-chairs Annie Noorts & Beth Lanford, and everyone else who worked so hard to help make this weekend's Rummage and Bake Sale a success!

This includes all folks who donated rummage and baked baked-goods, those who lugged, sorted, priced, cashiered, helped at the doors, and especially everyone who bought something! Thank you all!

What's next? Anyone who wants to shop after worship this morning can shop. Further plans for distributing leftover rummage are still in the works as far as pick-up dates go,

The Fall Meeting of our Chicago Metropolitan Association is happening this coming Saturday, September 30th from 10 AM to 1 PM at our Cluster 1's Northfield Community Church. Let Pastor know of your interest.

St. Peter's UCC Skokie & Evanston Pride present 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche - Saturday, Oct 28th at 5pm in the Memorial Room followed by Q&A with the actors and food! St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie and Evanston Pride have partnered to present 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche, brought to you by Mosaic Players, a traveling theatre troupe whose work embraces social justice, human rights, and equality.

Enter our basement on this fall afternoon and you will find members of the Susan B. Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein, a coterie of egg-headed widows gathering to eat quiche and kvetch in this absurdly adorable and unapologetic declaration of lesbi-independence. This show is interactive ... guests are invited to dress in 50's garb and put on a "Hello, my name is" nametag when they arrive! After the performance, there will be a Q&A with the cast and a light meal of quiche and desserts for the audience. Come join us for an evening of fun, food, and the fabulous '50s like you've never seen them before! Tickets are \$15 and must be purchased ahead of time. This QR code will take you to the place to purchase them!



We shop groceries for, and serve at, the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest this month! Our turn is September 30th, from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Please, we'll need 5 servers to help serve the meal. If you're interested or have questions, please see or email Chad today at chadwood.mccoy@gmail.com!

Next Sunday is World Communion Sunday. The sermon will be about fear.

DID YOU KNOW that the United Church of Christ has a new President and General Minister? The Rev. John Dorhauer served, and elected at General Synod over the summer is Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson! She previously served as Associate General Minister and Co-Executive of Global Ministries, Wider Church Ministries and Operations.

Our People

Happy birthday / anniversary! Having a birthday or celebrating an anniversary this week are Mandy Steegmueller, Beth Sterba, Ron Schuhrke's granddaughter Maya Martinek; the 29th of this month is the anniversary of Kathy (Blinn) and Jeffery Issel, and Angela (Washek) and Harrison Kuras. We wish God's blessings on them all this week!

According to the schedule, barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be David Iannotti. The Nursery attendant will be Rita McMahon.

COMING UP: On Thursday, October 5th, the ad hoc Open and Affirming Support Committee meets at church at 6:30 PM. On Saturday, October 7th, there will be a Church Clean-up Day, from 10 AM to 1 PM; come when you can and leave when you have to. We're thinking of focusing on the Memorial Room for this day. On Sunday, October 8th (in 2 weeks), the Micah 6:8 Committee is hosting a soup-n-study event: we'll break bread, view the recording of Rev. John Dorhauer's speech about the dangers of Christian nationalism to the church and the country, and discuss it with each other. This event is open to all; it starts at 5 and ends at 7 PM.

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! 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 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.

Please remember that we can always use food contributions for the Mini-Pantry!

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!



MISSION MOMENTS

September 24, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15

Tensions in the Wilderness

American Indian Ministry Sunday

United Samoan Ministries Stewardship Sunday

Today, receive a letter of wisdom and compassion from The Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ and The Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ. The letter, written earlier this year and excerpted here, is an invitation and a challenge to churches to care for their pastors in a radical way. How can your setting respond to these powerful words?

“...We are aware that there is a particular burden, often unseen by many, that you who serve in authorized ministry carry because of the inherently relational nature of ministry. We see you, and we hear your weariness and often discouragement. We also love you and hold you in our prayers.

As such we are aware that there is a need to tend to the particular needs of you who serve as our authorized ministers so that your

spirits may be renewed and so that the long-term health of God's mission manifest in the many expressions of the church may be strengthened. The collective care of all our Conferences and indeed the church in every setting compels us to offer a word of encouragement regarding the need for care in ways that give space for rest and rejuvenation; clarity and the renewal of one's calling.

While we recognize that resources vary widely throughout the settings of our shared life, there are several suggestions we would offer for consideration by local congregations and other settings of ministry.

- First, we urge you to intentionally pray for your leaders and the renewal they may need.
- Second, we encourage you to give permission and blessing for two consecutive weeks away for renewal leave, not counted as vacation time. This time alone will not be enough to process all that has happened or continues to happen in the life of the church, but it will offer space for a new ground to be cultivated to engage in ongoing practices of self-care, necessary for sustained and life-giving ministry.
- Third, we encourage you to trust that your setting of ministry will not be diminished by this time away but rather strengthened by it.

...Grief and loss are inherent in this season. Some of us even feel shame, which is a burden that we need not carry. We are hopeful that this time away helps you reconnect deeply with your call and with God, who loves you.”

David has sinned against God by taking Bathsheba away from her husband Uriah for himself, and then arranging for him to be killed on the battlefield. Nathan the prophet does not let this go in silence.

2 Samuel 12:1-7

But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord, and the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him.

Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"

Romans 12:3-21

Paul wrote, "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same

function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;

love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty,

but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil,

but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God;

for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Galatians 6:1-10

My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves.

All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads.

Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

John 10:31-39

The Jews took up stones again to stone Jesus. He replied, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you going to stone me?" The Jews answered, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you, but for blasphemy, because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God." Jesus answered, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'? If those to whom the word of God came were called 'gods'—and the scripture cannot be annulled— can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, 'I am God's Son'? If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. But if I do

them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

Then they tried to arrest him again, but he escaped from their hands.