

A large, colorful stained glass window in a church. The central panel depicts the Transfiguration of Christ, with Jesus standing on a rocky outcrop, wearing a red robe and a white garment, surrounded by a landscape with sheep and a bright light. The window is framed by intricate geometric and floral patterns in shades of yellow, green, and blue. Below the main scene, a smaller panel contains the text "IN MEMORY OF NICHOLAS & ELIZABETH MEYER".

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
February 19,
2023
10:00 AM**

**Transfiguration
Sunday**



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL



Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. Following COVID safety protocols

Livestream on YouTube. Live at 10am then available on our channel



"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast. On Soundcloud, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



Ways to Give

Text Your Gift. 844-997-2346 Super easy after a first-time setup

PayPal. [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&from=paypal-merchant-directory) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peter's

Check or Cash. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

Vanco GivePlus App. Contact the church office to set up regular giving



Open Communion

All Christians and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who **loves everyone**, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we invite all people to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): revlanford@gmail.com

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

Ben Westphal (Music Director): bcwestphal@gmail.com

Facebook/Instagram/YouTube: [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

Website: www.stpeteruccskokie.org

Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!



8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166

St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, February 19, 2023 at 10:00am
Transfiguration Sunday

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

PRELUDE "Tis Good, Lord To Be Here" Traditional

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

Those who are able please stand

CALL TO WORSHIP *from Isaiah 40*

P: Isaiah said to his people, "Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

C: Lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

P: See, Yahweh God comes with might, and God's arm rules for him;

C: God's reward is with him, and God's recompense before him.

P: God will feed his flock like a shepherd; God will gather the lambs in God's arms,

C: And carry them in the divine bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep." Let us worship the Lord our God!!

RESPONSE "Sing Hallelujah to the Lord"

SSB #1

Descant

Sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord.

Unison

Sing hal-le - lu - jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le -

Sing hal-le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -

lu - jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le - lu - jah, sing hal-le -

jah; sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord.

lu - jah. Sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- P: There are times, O God, where we get so accustomed to the human Jesus as Your essential representation that we forget the majesty and power of who You are. We neglect to dwell on how far flung throughout the universe Your Creation is, which means You are far greater than our humble imaginations.
- C: On Transfiguration Sunday, three of Jesus' disciples got to see his true divinity and that image never left them. We confess that our faith gets weaker without a similar spiritual mountain-top experience, and our faith ought not be so dependent on things like that. But we do need reminding, so we do not domesticate You nor make You into our own image.**
- P: We also admit our fallenness when it comes to interest in and understanding of powerful, needful reconciliations. We're grateful when we've been part of some; we confess much more needs to be done, and as Your Church we know we have kept quiet when silence was wrong.
- C: Forgive us, teach us, renew us in Your service! In the name of Jesus who reconciled us to You we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *2nd Thessalonians 2:16-17*

- P: "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us

eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.”

Through grace we sinners are given eternal comfort and good hope! This can only be as our sins are forgiven by God’s grace in Christ, and as God calls us to be strengthened in hope and love as we minister to all, especially the least of these. Not by our deserving, but by who God is, we are redeemed for a free, purposeful life! In laying hold of this gospel, let the congregation say . . .

A: Alleluia! Amen.

HYMN “One Day Jesus Climbed a Mountain”

Sing to the tune “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly.”

One day Jesus climbed a mountain to a place of prayer and rest.

Peter, James and John went with him to that lonely wilderness.

In a moment so amazing, Jesus shone with brightness blazing, wrapped in glory, heaven-blessed.

Words could not contain the wonder of that most amazing sight.

Jesus' face was bright with splendor and his clothes were dazzling white.

There appeared two others with him; Moses and Elijah met him on that lonely mountain height.

Jesus talked there with the prophet and the bearer of the Law.

When his three disciples saw it, they were filled with joy and awe.

Peter told him, "Let us stay here. We can worship God and pray here." Then a cloud came over all.

From that cloud a voice was saying, "This is my beloved son."

And the voice said, "Listen to him!" — to God's faithful chosen one.

While their plans were filled with glory, Christ was living out the story of his prayer, "Thy will be done."

Jesus took them down the mountain to a world of pain and loss.

For he knew what lay before him; he must journey to the cross.

In his serving, in his healing, God was there, by grace revealing wondrous love comes at a cost.

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The congregation may be seated

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Peter Svenson
Genesis 1:27-31; 45:1-15

Epistle:

Ephesians 2:8-22

CHORAL ANTHEM “Shine, Jesus, Shine” arr. Hayes

Will the congregation please rise

GOSPEL

Matthew 17: 1-9

***RESPONSE**

“Alleluia!”

#495

The congregation may now take their seats

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

SERMON “Exploring Reconciliation: Who and When?”

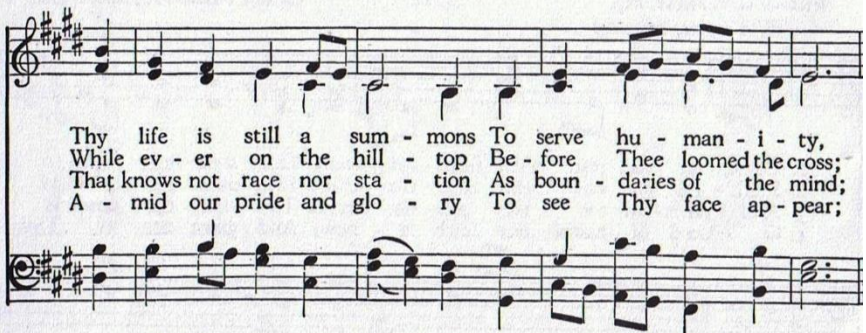
Will the congregation please rise and sing

HYMN "O Young and Fearless Prophet"

#391



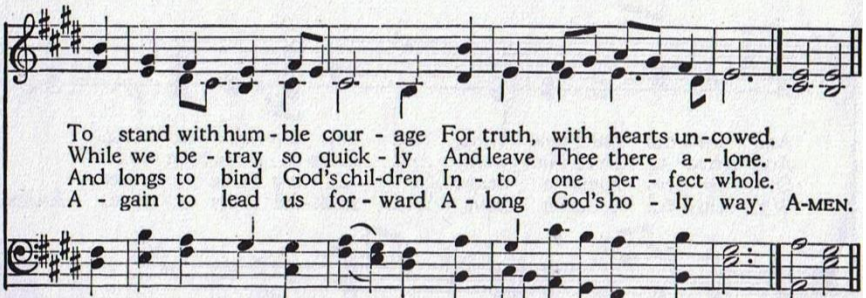
1. O young and fear-less Proph-et Of an-cient Gal-i-lee;
 2. We mar-vel at the pur-pose That held Thee to Thy course
 3. Cre-ate in us the splen-dor That dawns when hearts are kind,
 4. O young and fear-less Proph-et, We need Thy pres-ence here,



Thy life is still a sum-mons To serve hu-man-i-ty,
 While ev-er on the hill-top Be-fore Thee loomed the cross;
 That knows not race nor sta-tion As boun-daries of the mind;
 A-mid our pride and glo-ry To see Thy face ap-pear;



To make our thoughts and ac-tions Less prone to please the crowd,
 Thy stead-fast face set for-ward Where love and du-ty shone,
 That learns to val-ue beau-ty, In heart, or brain, or soul,
 Once more to hear Thy chal-lenge A-bove our noi-sy day,



To stand with hum-ble cour-age For truth, with hearts un-cowed,
 While we be-tray so quick-ly And leave Thee there a-lone.
 And longs to bind God's chil-dren In-to one per-fect whole,
 A-gain to lead us for-ward A-long God's ho-ly way. A-MEN.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

P: We will one day have a front-row seat from which to behold Christ's glory. For now, we live in the "already not yet," with God's kingdom breaking forth, though not fully in view. Go this week to be agents of that reconciling realm, living in the hope and power of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

C: Amen!

POSTLUDE "Up on the Mountain" K arr. Harrison

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	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

A for the Veterans

Move-in Essentials Collection

GIVE A GIFT TO VETERANS EXITING HOMELESSNESS

Personal Hygiene:

Bath Soap ★ Hand Soap
Toothbrush ★ Toothpaste
Deodorant
Shaving Cream
Hairbrush ★ Comb
Nail Clippers

Kitchen & Cleaning:

Dishwashing Liquid
Paper Towels ★ Windex
Kitchen Trash Can
Garbage Bags ★ Dish Cloth
Mop & Bucket ★ Sponge
Broom & Dustpan

Bathroom:

Toilet Brush ★ Plunger
Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Bath Towels ★ Wash Cloth
Shower Curtain
Toilet Paper

Miscellaneous:

Flashlight ★ Light Bulbs
Sandwich Bags
Laundry Detergent
Hamper ★ Laundry Basket
Aluminum Foil
Pot Holders

VISIT STPETERUCCSKOKIE.ORG FOR MORE INFO

Feb 11th 9-12_{pm}

Feb 12th 12-3_{pm}

St Peter's UCC

8013 Laramie

Open to All!

News in the Pews

Welcome to worship. May God's Word help us each see something or someone in a new way today.

Join us for Coffee Hour after worship! Thank you to Barbara Todd and Beth Sterba for hosting. There will be a manned coffee hour on the first and third Sundays of the month, and folks are encouraged to sign up to host the alternating Sundays.

Today is our Village Inn FUNdraiser! Order anything at The Village Inn today for dine-in, carryout and delivery, mention St. Peter's UCC fundraiser to your server and the church will get 20% of whatever you spend. Accumulated over many orders, that can help out our ministries!

A Heart <3 for the Veterans Collection will end on February 26th so get those items in! Veterans transitioning from homelessness to homes need your help! A gift of a housewares item (detailed list available on our website and in the Announcer) can help a Vet get settled in their new home. Donations can be brought in during office hours or on Sundays. Thank you so much!

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) coming to St. Peter's UCC - Do You Have A Loved One Living With Mental Illness? The NAMI Family-To-Family Education Program is a FREE 8-week course for families and close friends of adults with mental illness. It begins March 4th through April 29th

from 10AM to Noon here at St. Peter's UCC. This course is taught by trained teachers who are also family members and know what it is like to have a loved one living with mental illness, such as major depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, and other disorders. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Please call 847-716-2252, click "Register" or Email: admin@namiccns.org

Articles for the March Announcer are due tomorrow in Laura's office!

Ash Wednesday is this coming Wednesday, February 22nd. There will be a service at 11:30 AM and another at 7 PM with Communion. There will be the optional imposition of ashes during the Prayer of Confession at both services.

The Lenten Soup n- Bible Study will begin Wednesday evening, March 1st We'll meet in person, with the previous Soup-n-Study format of gathering and eating from 6:30 to 7:00 PM, then going over our chapter from 7 to 8 PM. If there is substantial resistance to meeting in person or rotating "soup responsibilities," we will adjust! The study will be of the first part of the Gospel according to John (Chapters 1 through 5:18). The Booklet has 10 studies, but we will stop after 5 to stay within Lenten parameters (ending Wednesday, March 29th). The booklet is only available to download at a cost of less than \$6 each. We can print some hard copies for people who do not or cannot download material. Please let Pastor know if you are interested and let him know if you can receive and make use of a downloadable study booklet! It is found through a search for Listen Up! Bible Studies on the ucc.org website.

Our People

Your Church Council meets after worship this morning.

The Board of Christian Education meets after worship next Sunday, the 26th.

Birthdays this week belong to Lois Jarmuth, baptizee Autumn Fink, Richard Schaller, Hunter Medaglia and Lois Jarmuth. No anniversaries that our newsletter knows about. God bless them on their birthdays!

Are you on our email list? Get weekly updates, our monthly Announcer and weekly electronic bulletins and more by signing up. Give us your email address on the attendance register, or email us at office@stpeteruccskokie.org!

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.

Donations always needed for our food pantry. There's a list of items on the shelves outside the offices if you aren't sure what to buy. Items can be left on those same shelves under the stairs by the offices.

Pastor's Podcast is now on all the Podcast platforms- iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! You can also get it via the church's webpage link. Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

February 19, 2023

Transfiguration Sunday

Matthew 17:1-9

Dazzling Reign

Bleach and ashes.

This week, we mark the beginning of the season of Lent on Wednesday, traditionally called Ash Wednesday. But before we get to Wednesday, we pause here on Sunday, and with the disciples climb the mountain where we see Jesus transfigured, his face and clothes dazzling, almost as if they've been bleached.

Bleach and ashes.

The ashes on Wednesday symbolize our mortality - they remind us that we come from God and to God we return. When the mark of ashes is placed on a forehead or hand, we are invited to step into Lent in a posture of repentance. But before we are reminded we are all human, we are reminded by Jesus that we are also all divine. Before we are invited into repentance, into a time of turning from sin, we are invited into a moment of grace so glorious it seems blinding.

Bleach and ashes.

It's no accident that we always acknowledge the Transfiguration, just days before we step into Lent. It's because we need both. We need the blinding light of the divine as much as we need to remember that we are ultimately made of the same dirt as the rest of creation. We are star stuff and we are earthy stuff and both are vital to our experience as humans.

Bleach and ashes.

As you begin the long Lenten journey this week, you are invited up the mountain to raise your arms in wonder to the Light. In a few days you will be invited to the valley as, with your bare hands, you scoop the dirt from the ground. Carry both the light and the dirt with you. You will need them both. Remember both.

Bleach and ashes.

“Faith and Science.” www.opentogod.org/science.

Genesis 1:27-31

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer.

He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."

Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Ephesians 2:8-22

Paul wrote, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that

no one may boast. For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands — remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

MATTHEW 17:1-9

"Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was

transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."