



# Welcome



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,**

**July 16, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

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**Seventh Sunday  
After Pentecost**



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL



# 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/display?hosted_curl=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)

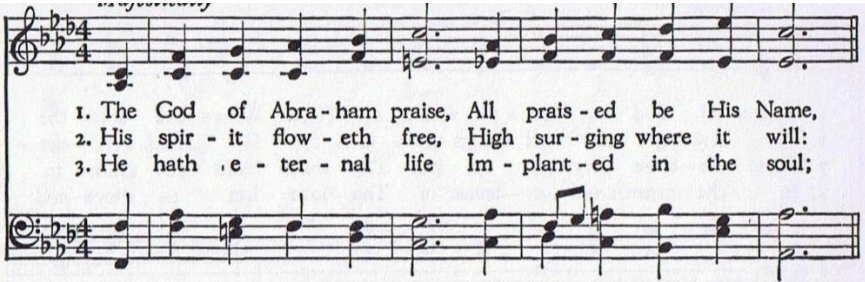
**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

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

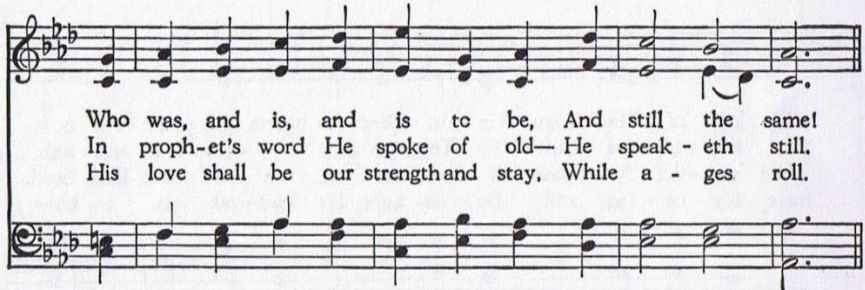


**8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166**



**RESPONSE** "The God of Abraham Praise" #61 (v.1)


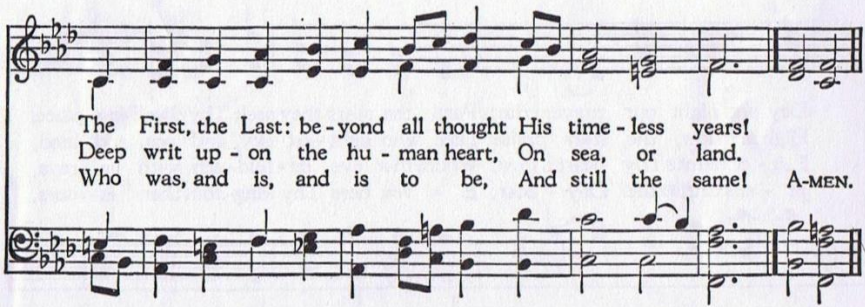
1. The God of Abra - ham praise, All prais - ed be His Name,  
 2. His spir - it flow - eth free, High sur - ging where it will;  
 3. He hath e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;



Who was, and is, and is to be, And still the same!  
 In proph-et's word He spoke of old— He speak - eth still.  
 His love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.



The one e - ter - nal God, Ere aught that now ap - pears;  
 Es - tab - lished is His law, And change-less it shall stand,  
 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be His Name,



The First, the Last: be - yond all thought His time - less years!  
 Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.  
 Who was, and is, and is to be, And still the same! A-MEN.

**CALL TO CONFESSION** *First John 1:8,9*

**P:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C:** **But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Let us confess, then!**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**A:** It is an old prayer, Lord, but it is still true of us: we are an impatient people in so many ways! We are spiritually impatient; we forget that You act on Your timeline, not on ours. We are so accustomed to time-saving devices, we expect You to want to hurry things up, too. We lose our tempers; we struggle with doubt; we have high expectations and when they are not met when we want them to be, it is not always easy for us to remember that maybe the error is in our expectations time-frame, and not You.

**Restore to us the gifts of patience, serenity, peace and patience. Remind us that You are often playing the ‘long game’ and we are stuck in our moment in history. In the name of Jesus, who himself got impatient at a fig tree, but counseled patience as well, we pray. Amen.**

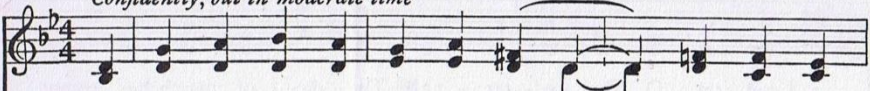
**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *2nd Peter 3:8,9*

L: “But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.”

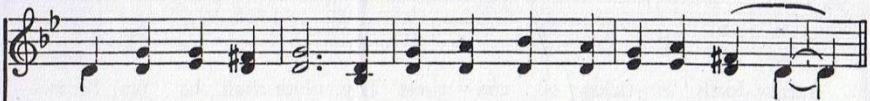
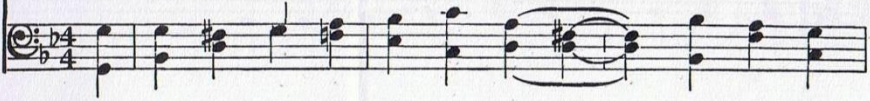
God is patient with those who have not yet come to the good news, since God wants all to be saved. This patience assumes the pardon we have already received in Jesus’ name, as God longs for others to ‘come in, too.’ Our sins are forgiven, in part because God is patient with us in our spiritual growth, but this is not a license to skate. Will the church please join me in an acclamation of the grace of God by saying . .

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

## HYMN "If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee" #300

*Conjunctly, and in moderate time*

1. If thou but suf - fer God to guide thee, And hope in  
 2. On - ly be still, and wait His lei - sure In cheer - ful  
 3. Sing, pray, and swerve not from His ways, . . . . But do thine



Him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what-e'er be - tide thee,  
 hope, with heart con - tent To take what - e'er thy Fa - ther's pleas - ure  
 own part faith - ful - ly; Trust His rich prom - is - es of grace, . .



And bear thee through the e - vil days; Who trusts in God's un -  
 And all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent; Nor doubt our in - most  
 So shall they be ful - filled in thee; God nev - er yet for -



chang - ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move.  
 wants are known To Him who chose us for His own.  
 sook at need The soul that trust - ed Him in - deed. A-MEN.



*The congregation may be seated*

## **WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

The Prophet:

Andre Gloeckner  
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-5a

Epistles:

First Corinthians 13:1-7  
First Timothy 1:12-17

### **MUSICAL MEDITATION** Selected

*Will those who are able please stand*

### **GOSPEL**

Luke 8: 4-15

### **DOXOLOGY**

(traditional, #551)

**Glory be to the Father,**

**And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost!**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end, Amen, amen.**

*The congregation may be seated*

## **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

## "Patience"

*Will those who are able please rise to sing*

## HYMN

## "Be Still, My Soul"

#87

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side; . . . Bear pa-tient-ly the  
 2. Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take . . . To guide the fu - ture  
 3. Be still, my soul: the hour is has-tening on . . . When we shall be for

cross of grief or pain; Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide; . .  
 as He has the past. Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake; .  
 ev - er with the Lord, When dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone, . .

In ev - ery change He faith - ful will re - main. Be still, my soul: thy  
 All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the  
 Sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored. Be still, my soul: when

best, thy heavenly Friend Through thorn-y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
 waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.  
 change and tears are past, All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last. A - MEN.

**CHARGE**

L: Act, with faith;

**C: Believe, with humility**

L: Love one another,

**C: And love those whom nobody loves.**

**BENEDICTION**

P: Deep peace of the running wave to you,  
 Deep peace of the flowing air to you,  
 Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,

**C: Deep peace of the shining stars to you,  
 Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.  
 May the road rise to meet you;**

L: May the wind be always at your back;  
 May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
 May the rains fall softly upon your fields.

**C: Until we meet again,**

L: May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

**C: Amen!**

**POSTLUDE**                      “Fugue in G Major”                      by Handel

*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**


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MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Maria Altmayer
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahan

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# News in the Pews

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**The psalmist proclaims that God's word is a lamp for our feet (Psalm 119:105). May you experience the light of God's guidance on your path today. Welcome.**

**Thank you to** Peggy Reins, Mark Loach, Peter Svenson, and everyone else who pitched-in last Sunday (and this Sunday? We hope not!) when Pastor Richard had to miss the service due to a positive COVID test that morning. What a team effort coming together to make sure worship goes on! Thanks much.

**Our AJH Kitchen day is in 2 weeks and we still need donations!** Also, we are being asked to raise the \$500 for groceries and to designate some of our people to shop for the groceries and deliver them to the Kitchen. This is in addition to needing 5 people or more to serve there from 11 AM to 2:30 PM on Saturday, July 29th. Pastor and Beth won't be there to help this month, so we'll need some newer volunteers! See Chad McCoy for more details.

**Your Church Council has once again postponed its meeting from after church today to after church next Sunday, July 23rd, in hopes Pastor Richard and Beth will be over their COVID hits and in good shape for the Council.**

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**Council reports will be due to Dropbox Wednesday July 19<sup>th</sup>.** Laura will NOT be in the office to help facilitate those reports to Dropbox, so contact Pastor to have him upload your report.

**The deadline for articles for the August Announcer is tomorrow, Monday July 17th!**

**VACATION:** Laura will be on vacation this week from the 17th through the 21st. Sharon Johnson has graciously agreed to be in the Office Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to Noon during this week.

**The Micah 6:8 Committee** meets via Zoom Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.

**RUMMAGE SORTING SCHEDULE:** We are fairly inundated with rummage donations! So, we please need to be inundated with a lot of helpers to sort the large number of things given to us! Sorting dates are Tuesday (10-Noon with Marlene and Judy); Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 PM (with Carolyn K. and Beth S.); and Friday the 21st, 10-Noon (with Beth L.).

**RUMMAGE PICK UP HELP NEEDED** – We are looking for a few people that would help move boxes from a home in Lincolnwood to the church on an upcoming weekend. This person has a huge donation for us, but we need help bringing it to the church. Contact Annie Noorts if you'd be willing to help and thank you!

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# Our People

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**Birthdays this week belong to** Sydney Kerbel and Heidi Tarzian's son A.J.; **anniversaries include** that of Lois Dennis' daughter Gail and her husband John Balling, and Ron Schuhrke's daughter Lisa and Eric Martinek. May God bless and be part of their celebrations!

**Huge thank you to everyone who's donated to our mini-pantry,** we are doing much better but please keep those donations coming!

**One way to boost our church's profile on Facebook is by liking or loving our church's posts when you see them on your feed.** The more 'hits' we get the more people will get the messages! Also visit our YouTube page and hit the thumbs-up on a service of ours. If you listen to the RedHeaded Preacher podcast, giving a good rating helps too! These things elevate our likelihood of being noticed by others online.

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

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## Regular Reminders!

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**We are always grateful for any and all offerings** to the church. No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

**Let us know you were here!** Please fill out the black pew pads when you arrive and pass them to the center aisle during the service. Thank you!

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

**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!

**Next Sunday's sermon** is on the theme of Generosity.

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**July 16, 2023**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

**A House Divided**

In their very conservative town of Colorado Springs, CO, Vista Grande UCC has long been visible as an LGBTQ+ ally, using their sign and flagpole “to proclaim that Black Lives Matter, immigrants deserve justice and queer people are uniquely made in the image of an expansively loving God.”\*

Rev. Mallory Everhart, Vista Grande’s pastor, believes that the church’s visible commitment to providing safe haven for all on the margins helped the wider community and city to trust the congregation in the wake of last November’s tragic shooting at Club Q on the eve of Trans Day of Remembrance. The shooter killed 5 people and injured 22, but Rev. Everhart adds that he “traumatized an entire community.”

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Everhart reflects, “On Nov. 20 and beyond, we were true to our reputation and rose up to hold space and provide care to a stunned and terrified community. In their book, *Emergent Strategy*, activist adrienne maree brown writes that community organizing ‘moves at the speed of trust.’ If I have any advice about crisis response, it’s this: make connections and build trust now. No matter your good intentions, you will not be a community partner in times of crisis if you don’t.”\*

In today’s reading, Jesus tells the parable of the sower, warning that not all seed that is planted falls on fertile ground. He is speaking as loudly to the church of the 21st century America as he did to his little community in 1st century Palestine. In a world with growing visible division and terror, your church community has the opportunity to sow seeds now that will grow and flourish or will wither and fall away when a crisis arrives. Today is the right day to ask where the seeds you are planting are growing in your congregation, in your community, and in all the world.

\*Quotations from: Larkman, C. (2023, January 13). UCC pastor: In the new year, resolve to listen, make connections, build trust. United Church of Christ. <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-pastor-in-the-new-year-resolve-to-listen-make-connections-build-trust/>

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**Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-51**

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?

Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.

So, the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous— therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watch post, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.

For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.

Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

Moreover, wealth is treacherous; the arrogant do not endure. They open their throats wide as Sheol; like Death they never have enough. They gather all nations for themselves, and collect all peoples as their own.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-7**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,

but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

### **1 Timothy 1:12-17**

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

### **Luke 8:4-15**

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to Jesus, he said in a parable:

"A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture.

Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it.

Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold."

As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant.

He said to the wondering disciples, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that 'looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand.' "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away.

As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.

But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

