



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,**

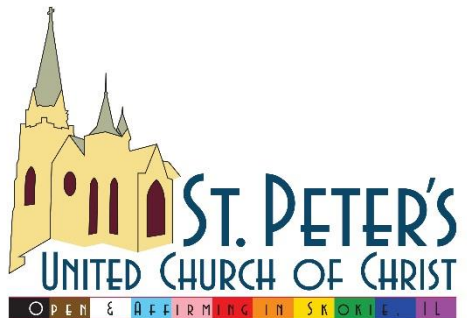
**October 8, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

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**Nineteenth Sunday**

**After Pentecost**



OPEN & AFFIRMING 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/?x=1&from=paypal-merchant-directory&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](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, October 8, 2023 at 10:00am

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

### PRELUDE “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

arr. Hayes

### THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

*Will those who are able please stand up*

### CALL TO WORSHIP *based on Revelation 1*

*We begin by singing the first 3 verses of SSB #9, “Lift Up Your Heads”!*

*We sing the first verse, Pastor sings the 2nd to the Congregation as an opening to open our hearts for the Call to Confession, and we sing verse 3 together as the Call to Confession!*

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.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**A: Forgive us, holy Lord, for the times we have not handled anger well. Maybe it was we who lost our temper; maybe we were justified and maybe we were not. Maybe someone showered their anger upon us, and we did not respond with that Biblical “soft answer that turns away wrath,” or we answered gracelessly. We have held grudges which ended up hurting us and only us. We have given in to the temptation to get down into the mud with others who start from there to assail us. We forget Jesus taught us to work on our love even for those who make our lives hard, and that love does not mean emotions as much as it means doing something good for someone.**

**We live in an angry era and it has seeped into us; we do our best, but we need mercy and we need Your help to improve! Send us another measure of Your Spirit, to change us more and more into the image of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *First John 2:1-2*


P: “My little children,” John wrote, “I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins; and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. In Jesus Christ resurrected, we are given a new quality of life, a transformed and transforming life, another reflection of the grace God has for us. In claiming the good news of new life and forgiveness, let the church join me in saying . . .

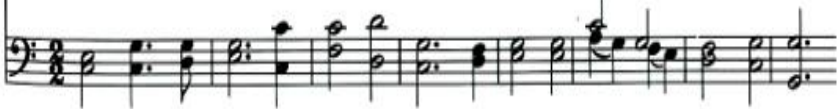
**A: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN****“Lift Up Your Heads”**

SSB #9 (v.4)



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




The Sov-ereign One is draw-ing near; the Sav-ior of the world is here.  
 From earth-ly use for heav-en'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.



*The congregation may be seated*

**A CALL TO OFFERING****PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Karen Christianson

Old Testament:

Proverbs 16:32; 17:14

Epistle:

Ephesians 4:25-32

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**MUSICAL MEDITATION** “Blessings” by Brickman

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**GOSPEL** Matthew 5:43-48

**RESPONSE** “Thy Word” SSB #33 *both verses*

*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 Anger”

*Will those who are able please rise to sing*

**HYMN**            “O God, May We Hold On to Love”

*Sing to the tune “Lord, Speak to Me that I may Speak” # 256*

**O God, may we hold on to love —  
and in the times when love is lost,  
send down your mercy like a flood  
and show us love is worth the cost.**

**When righteous anger fills our plate  
and harms us — body, mind and soul —  
may we forgive and so create  
a feast that makes the wounded whole.**

**May we let go of might-have-beens  
and leave regrets and choose to live.  
We give you all our pain and sins —  
for you will heal, and you forgive!**

**May we push back at all the fear  
that, like a storm, is raging round.  
May we work hard for justice here  
till walls of hate come tumbling down.**

**God, give us grace to set aside  
the things that hurt and tear apart,  
till we find love has opened wide  
a path to life, a whole new start.**

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**CHARGE & BENEDICTION** *From James 1:19; Ephesians 3:20*

P: “You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger,

**C: For your anger does not produce God’s righteousness.”**

P: “Now to the One who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,

**C: To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.**

**A: Amen!”**

**POSTLUDE**

“Canonbury”

arr. F. Havergal

*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	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

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# News in the Pews

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**Welcome to worship in the name of God, the maker of all; Jesus, the Savior; and the Holy Spirit, divine guide of our lives. Amen.**

**Our Board of Christian Education** meets after worship today!

**Many thanks to all who showed up to help at the All-Church Fall clean-up yesterday!** Some important work was done, and we could not have done it without you, and guidance from the Trustees.

**There will be a Soup-n-Study style gathering tonight**, starting at 5 PM and ending by 7 PM in the Memorial Room; hosted by your Micah 6:8 Committee, it is a light supper—vegetarian minestrone soup and lentil stew are on the menu—accompanied by good conversation. We will view and discuss a video recording of Rev. John Dorhauer’s April 2023 talk at Elmhurst College, “Christian Nationalism: A Threat to Both Democracy and Christianity.” If you haven’t done so already, please feel free to contact Pastor Lanford (revlanford@aol.com) or Peggy Reins (peggy.reins@gmail.com) for more information or to RSVP for the soup supper. Anyone interested is welcome to come; just an RSVP helps with food preparation and chair set-up.

**The Women’s Guild** meets this Wednesday at 11:30 this week!

**A week from tomorrow is the deadline for articles for the November newsletter.** Can you believe it!?

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**It is time once again to donate to the Holiday Meals program at the Jewel at Village Crossing Shopping Center in Niles.** This wonderful program started by Carol Iannotti provides a full holiday dinner for 4-6 people for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Laura facilitates this with District 69, UCAN and our neighborhood needy folks. All you have to do is donate at the register to their holiday meal program. While you're at it, shop there and support them, they've been doing this for many years and we are so grateful to be the only beneficiary!!

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

**Rummage Clean-up: folks needed to drop off boxes!** The boxes and items that are on and under the middle tables in the gym are ready to be hauled away. Sadly, there is no pickup service anymore, so we need people to come and take loads of goods to Goodwill and/or Salvation Army stores. You can get a load of donations anytime Laura is in the office, on Sunday after church or pick up items on Tuesday or Friday when we are finishing the packing up. Please help if you are able, every little bit hauled out makes a BIG difference. We need to clear the gym for our amazing Pet Blessing on October 22nd.

**Thank you to Rich Schneider** for installing a new toilet behind the memorial room this summer, it looks great, check it out!

**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



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to you by Mosaic Players. 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. The QR code will take you to the place to purchase them!

**Next Sunday the Church Council meets after worship.** If you are responsible for a report, please have it submitted to the Council Drop-box for Council / October as soon as you can this week. Thank you!

**The St. Peter's Pet Blessing is in two weeks!** It's at 3 o'clock in our Gym, starting with a brief reflection and prayer followed by the blessing of the animals. C.A.R.E. will be there to talk about, and show, animals available for adoption; there will be raffle baskets of prizes too! Also, we need 3-4 volunteers for the Pet Blessing on Oct. 22nd from 2:30-3:45, a greeter, raffle ticket seller, assist with individual blessing flow/photographer and treat dispenser. Please call Marcia (847) 845-1840 if you are available and all donations are gratefully accepted. This is sure to be a purr-fectly wonderful experience^\*^.

**There will be a New Members / Seekers class** after worship on Sunday, October 29th. There will also be a baptism in worship that day!

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*Our People*

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**Happy birthday / anniversary!** Having a birthday this week are Juanito Banoyo's son Gabriel Banoyo and Megan and Steve Caras' daughter Jillian; marking a wedding anniversary are Steve and Megan (Knowles) Caras and Laura (Brzozowski) and Paul Medaglia. God bless them all on their celebration days!

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**According to the schedule**, barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Annie Noorts. The Nursery attendant will be Kathy Zipperer.

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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! 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.

**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!

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**October 8, 2023**

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20**

**Wisdom for the Way**

**Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week**

On this Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week, we pause for a moment to give thanks for the work of the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministry (UCCDM). According to their website, “The UCCDM envisions a world in which all people are included in the fullness of life because they are created in the image of God. The mission of UCCDM is to support all settings of the United Church of Christ (UCC) including but not limited to Local Congregations, Associations, Conferences, camps, Historically Underrepresented Groups (HUGs), and national settings, as they seek to recognize and provide access to people with disabilities in all aspects of the church’s life and ministry.

This includes, but is not limited to, affirming and claiming as its own the commitments of the UCC to be a multiracial, multicultural, Open and Affirming, Just Peace, and Accessible to All ministry, recognizing that people with disabilities have a multitude of other identities, and that all justice movements are

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interconnected; encouraging all settings of the wider church to be physically, socially, and virtually accessible to and welcoming of people with disabilities; encouraging and providing guidance to UCC settings as they work to become Accessible to All (hereafter A2A), and supporting them as they sustain their commitment; participating in denominational and ecumenical conversations related to disabilities and working with the UCC national setting and community partners to promote disability justice through an intersectional framework”.

For many churches, one of the greatest barriers to full participation is their buildings. Many church buildings, erected before a time of greater understanding, are not built to be fully inclusive. With generations of time, attention, and money given to maintain church buildings, it can be hard to think of changing them, even if it means being more inclusive.

And yet, Exodus 20:4 says it clearly. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. That includes the buildings in which we work and worship.

Look around you now. Has this building become an idol, and object to appease and be worshiped rather than a sanctuary of welcome? How can your community join the UCCDM movement of full inclusivity?

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**Proverbs 16:32; 17:14**

One who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and one whose temper is controlled than one who captures a city.

The beginning of strife is like letting out water; so stop before the quarrel breaks out.

**Ephesians 4:25-32**

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

**Matthew 5:43-48**

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and



sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”