



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
November 27,  
2022**

**10:00 AM**

---

**First Sunday of  
Advent**





# 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=seller=&to=buyer=&source=paypal) 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](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, November 27, 2022 at 10:00am**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

---

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

**PRELUDE**

“Personat Hodie”

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Those who are able please stand*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *Isaiah 2:3-4*

**P:** Hear the invitation of the prophet Isaiah:  
Come, let us go up to God's holy mountain,  
that we may learn to walk in all God's ways,  
for God will judge between many nations, and  
shall decide for many peoples,

**WOMEN:** **And they shall beat their swords into  
plowshares, and their spears into pruning  
hooks.**

**MEN:** **Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore.**

**A:** **Let us come before God to learn the ways of  
peace.**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

**P:** In coming before God, it is well to recall that Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.” Let us pray together in confession of our having missed the mark.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**A:** **We confess to you, O God, that we have fallen asleep. We often go through the motions and live our daily lives without much thought outside of ourselves and our loved ones. Forgive us for our shortsightedness. Forgive us for not being awake to the wonders and signs that You are doing something new in our world, and in our lives. Help us to seek You in the face of others. Call us again into Your ways of love and justice, so that we might be fully awake, watching and waiting for Your return in our world and in our lives in a new way. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

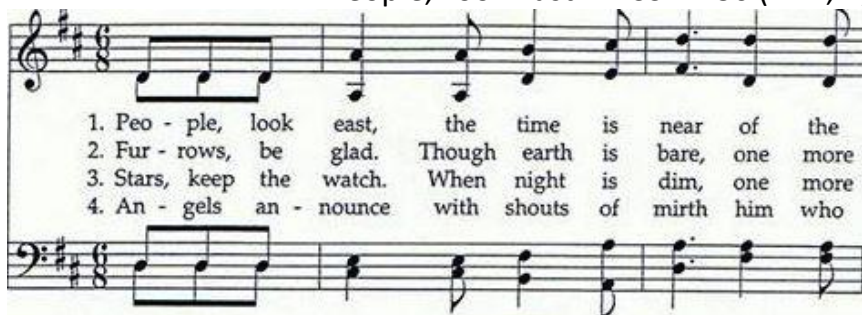
P: “The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah... I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts...they shall all know me... for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31: 31ff).

The days are surely coming! In Christ there is a new covenant of grace and indwelling Holy Spirit, forgiving us and transforming how we treat each other. That’s a miracle of mercy and power, do you agree?

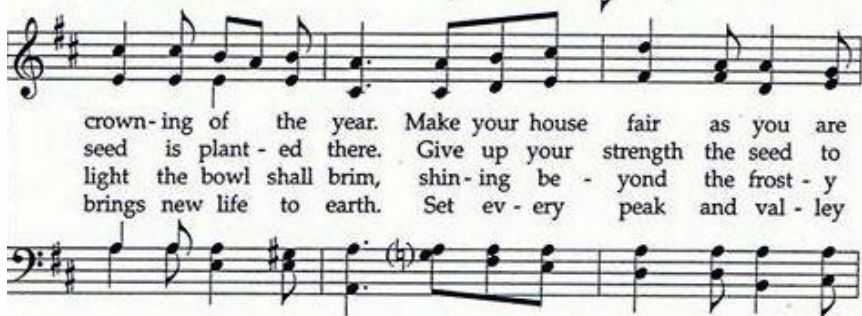
**A: Yes we do! Thanks be to God our Savior!**

## HYMN

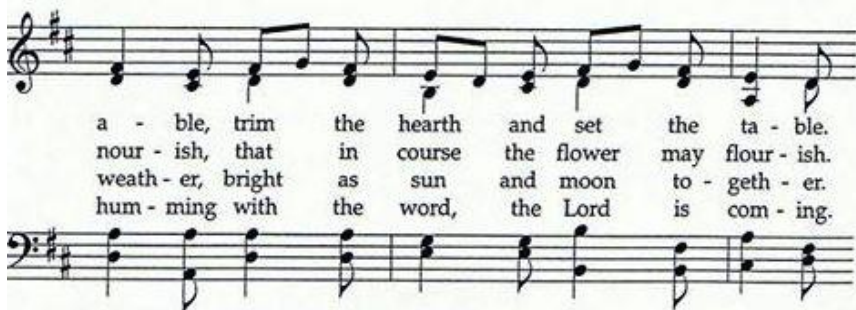
## "People, Look East" SSB # 36 (vv.1, 2)



1. Peo - ple, look east, the time is near of the  
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more  
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more  
 4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who



crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to  
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley



a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.  
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.



Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day:

Peo - ple, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east:



*The congregation may be seated*

## LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

*Lighting the Candle of Hope this morning and sharing some thoughts on what hope means to him is Rich Schneider.*

### RESPONSE: "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (v. 1)

Am Em/G F Dm

1. Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah:  
 2. Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:  
 3. Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:  
 4. Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:

3 E Am/E E Am E/B

let the light ban - ish dark - ness. He\_\_\_ shall bring sal -  
 let the light ban - ish dark - ness. He\_\_\_ shall feed the  
 let the light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift\_\_\_ your heads and  
 let the light ban - ish dark - ness. He\_\_\_ is com - ing,

6 Am/C Dm Dm/F Dm

va - tion to Is - ra - el, God - ful - fills\_\_\_ the  
 flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead\_\_\_ them  
 lift high the gate - way for the King\_\_\_ of  
 tell the glad tid - ings, Let your lights\_\_\_ be

8 E(sus4) E E(sus4) E Am

prom - ise.  
 home - ward.  
 glo - ry.  
 shin - ing!

## WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Epistle:

David Iannotti

Isaiah 2: 1-5

Romans 13:11-14

**CHORAL ANTHEM** “Emmanuel Shall Come”

*Those who are able please stand*

**GOSPEL:**

Matthew 24: 36-44

**RESPONSE:**

“Alleluia”

#495

*The congregation may retake their seats*

**PASTORAL & 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**



Will those who are able please rise to sing

**HYMN:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#88

*Chorus, with organ*

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine  
 3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
 heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife and dis - cord cease;

HARMONY

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Em -  
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Em -  
 Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Em -

UNISON

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
 man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
 man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el! A-MEN.

**CHARGE**

P: Friends, live this week not seeking a sign from God but being a sign of God to your family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, classmates and everyone you encounter along your way. For the sake of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

P: The tender mercy of God dawn upon you;  
 The hope from on high shine brightly for you,  
 Guiding your feet into the way of peace. Amen.

C: Amen.

**POSTLUDE**           “Veni, Emmanuel”

*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               | Beth Lanford         |
| LIVESTREAM RECORDING | Beth Sterba          |
| NURSERY ATTENDANT    | Annie Noorts         |

---

# Advent Vespers Service

## Sunday, Nov. 27th at 6pm

Candlelight • Music • Scriptures • Prayer • Reflection

St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
8013 Laramie St, Skokie 60077  
[stpeteruccskokie.org](http://stpeteruccskokie.org) | 847-673-8166





# Holiday Concert

**The HARMONAIRES  
IN CONCERT  
FEATURING MUSIC AND A SING-A-LONG**

**4TH DECEMBER 2022**

**4PM - 5PM**

Suggested donation \$10 Adults \$5 kids over 3

**8013 LARAMIE, SKOKIE, IL  
[www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)**



Reservations  
requested:  
(847)  
673-8166

Santa Meet  
and Greet



Jingle Mingle to follow featuring beverages  
and savory & sweet hors' d'oeuvres



# POINSETTIAS

Orders are now being taken for Christmas

Poinsettias. This years' colors are Red and Marble. See below for details on each. To place an order, please fill in the form below, include payment and drop it off at the office, mail it to St Peter's, or place it in the collection plate on Sunday morning. *The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.* The plants will be delivered to the church in time to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day. You can pick up your plant(s) after the service or you can leave them to beautify our Sunday Christmas service.



|                     |                      |  |
|---------------------|----------------------|--|
| <b>Name:</b>        | <b>Phone #:</b>      |  |
| <b>In Honor Of:</b> | <b>In Memory Of:</b> |  |

| Quantity           | Color                 | Price   | Total |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|-------|
|                    | Red (6-1/2) Single    | \$18.00 |       |
|                    | Marble (6-1/2) Single | \$18.00 |       |
| <b>Grand Total</b> |                       |         |       |

---

# News in the Pews

---

**Good Morning!** Today is the first Sunday of Advent and a new church year. Welcome to this rich season of worship.

**CELEBRATION! CELEBRATION! CELEBRATION!** Join us after worship today for a Special Coffee Hour to celebrate the marriage of Ben and Charlie hosted by the Choir. If you are thinking of a gift, may we suggest a monetary gift toward their DREAM VACATION (honeymoon) to GREECE next summer.

**Tonight is a new event at St. Peter's** - an Advent vespers prayer service of music, readings, candlelight, silence and prayer to mark Advent's beginning and to put us one step further into the new season. It starts at 6 o'clock. Be sure to come!

**Have you made your reservation yet?** Join us Sunday, December 4th holiday music concert in the sanctuary by the Harmonaires followed by a Jingle Mingle reception with hors d'oeuvres and sweets in the Memorial Room. The concert starts at 4, the Jingling Mingling at 5, and the donation we request is \$10 (\$5 for kids over 3, under 3 are free). You can reserve online here:

<https://www.stpeteruccskokie.org/event-details/the-harmonaires-holiday-concert-and-jingle-mingle/form>

Or contact Barb Todd or the office to make your reservation before tonight's deadline! We need to have an idea how many are coming, and please bring your friends or family, too!

**Collecting for the Holiday Meals program at the Jewel in the Village Crossing Shopping Center continues!** Please keep donating, so we have meals for Christmas needy folks! We raised around 90 dinners for Thanksgiving, most went to District 69!

---

---

**Baby Items collection for our Sunday School Mission Project –**

We will be collecting baby items for the Niles Township Food Pantry again this year. The Food pantry has sent us an EXACT list of what items you can donate, and they are: Baby Food, Formula, Lotion, Shampoo, Cheerios, Diapers, Wipes, Fruit cups/snacks, juice/milk boxes & pudding cups. They do not accept clothing or toys. Items can be left under the tree in the Sanctuary or by the office and we'll bring them upstairs. More information coming in the December Announcer.

**Thanks to everyone** who decorated our chancel, sanctuary, put up the tree and dressed it again with Chrismons!

**Christmas Eve Worship this year is Saturday the 24th at 7:00 PM** with a Choral Anthem, the Lord's Supper, lessons, carols, a homily and closing candle-light. Christmas Day is a Sunday, so there will also be a worship service celebrating Jesus' birth at 10 AM then, too, with Communion.

**Winter is coming! It's a good time to buy a plot at our St. Peter's U.C.C. Cemetery.** See Kathy Zipperer to get the ball rolling.

**Regarding our traditional yearly collection for the Night Ministry:** Right now the plan is to hold our collection for the Night Ministry in January. An email from the Ministry told us they receive gifts of winter hats, gloves and scarves through March (cookies were not mentioned although I'd mentioned them).

---

---

# Our People

---

**Pastor Richard will be looking for persons to read Scriptures on Christmas Eve**, so don't wait long to let him know if you are interested and available to read at our 7:00 PM service!

**Advent Devotionals:** This year's survey told us you'd like your devotional in paper form, and the one Pastor picked did not have a digital option, so we went with that. If you would like a copy mailed to you please let us know.

**The Nominating Committee is at work asking members to consider staying on a Board, or coming onto a Board, or becoming an Officer of the Church.** Please do pray about the request; there is a reason you were thought of to approach. It is always an honor to serve God in these ways, and we do need folks to help carry on the labors the Church!

---

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

---

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| PRESIDENT           | Jenn Schneider   |
| VICE-PRESIDENT      | Judy Paige       |
| TREASURER           | Chad McCoy       |
| SECRETARY           | Carolyn Kuechler |
| 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.

---



## **MISSION MOMENTS**

---

**November 27, 2022**

**First Sunday of Advent (Year A)**

**Matthew 24:36-44**

**Called to Gift**

**United Black Christians Anniversary**

Today is United Black Christians Anniversary. United Black Christians (UBC) is an officially recognized special interest group of the United Church of Christ (UCC), providing voice and vision for more than 70,000 African Americans.\*

UBC represents lay and clergy persons who faithfully minister in more than 278 predominately African American congregations of the United Church of Christ and those African American members in congregations that are not predominately African American.

UBC seeks to preserve our tradition as a people of faith and hope. UBC recognizes that it is the Black Church that has meant survival for African Americans on these shores.

UBC affirms that it is the Black Church that will assure our continued growth, development, endurance and ultimate liberation.

---

---

UBC affirms that each of us has gifts to offer and is entitled to the full rights and privileges of the United Church of Christ.

Provide voice for the African American members of the United Church of Christ

To strengthen Black churches in the UCC

To train and nurture leaders of our churches for Gospel inspired service to the Black community

To provide relevant ministry for our youth and young adults

To empower the laity for present day ministry

To create ecumenical and world-wide partnership for service and evangelism

To be active advocates for liberation and racial justice at home and abroad

To provide spiritual nurture for our members

To enhance clergy-lay ministry partnership

To provide support to African American Seminarians

“Remembering Our Way Into the Future” ~ Zechariah 8:4-8

\* [https://www.ucc.org/domestic-policy/ourfaithourvote\\_about/about-us\\_united-black-christians/](https://www.ucc.org/domestic-policy/ourfaithourvote_about/about-us_united-black-christians/)

---

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares,

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

**Romans 13:11-14**

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and

jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**Matthew 24:36-44**

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."