

A large, colorful stained glass window depicting the Transfiguration of Christ. The central figure is Jesus, shown in a white robe with a red sash, standing on a rocky mountain. He is surrounded by two other figures, likely Moses and Elijah, and a bright light emanates from his chest. The scene is set against a backdrop of a stormy sky with dark clouds and a rainbow. The window is framed by ornate Gothic-style tracery. Below the main scene, there are several panels with text in German, including "Gloria in excelsis Deo" and "Kyrie eleison".

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
February 11,
2024**

10:00 AM

**Transfiguration
Sunday**



RESPONSE “Open the Eyes of my Heart”

SSB #25

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord**Open the eyes of my heart****I want to see You****I want to see You***Repeat***To see You high and lifted up****Shinin' in the light of Your glory****Pour out Your power and love****As we sing holy, holy, holy***Repeat***Open the eyes of my heart, Lord****Open the eyes of my heart****I want to see You****I want to see You****CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: The whirlwind pace of many of our lives becomes so all-consuming that we may forget our origins. Our busyness separates us from knowledge of God’s glory in the face of Christ.

C: Now in these quiet moments apart from our everyday distractions, we seek to renew our relationship with God, and be restored to wholeness once more.

P: Let us confess any sins of ours; let us also look for the mercy of the God we know in Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: When the gospel is veiled from us, mighty God, we feel alone. How easy it is to love our direction and go the wrong way! At times we feel as if we are perishing under the demands of our day, unable to see clearly what is most important. We become enslaved to our routines and enticed by shallow distractions. We fill all our hours with doing, so there is no time for reflection and prayer. Forgive us, O God, and restore balance to our lives! Keep us close to You. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Jude 20-21*

P: "But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life."

We look forward to that mercy because it is real, and is in the present, as well as the future that leads to eternal life – by the grace of Christ extended to all. In the name and by the blood of Jesus Christ, our sins are washed away and mercy is poured down upon us from the Maker of the heaven and earth! Will the church join me in praising God for such love, and say...

All: Thanks always be to God! Amen.

HYMN

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

SSB #32

Refrain



Shine, Je - sus. shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



blaze, Spir - it, blaze. set our hearts on fire.



Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;



send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!



1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the



2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world. shine up - on us,



play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry.



set us free by the truth you now bring us.



mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain



Shine on me. shine on me:

Shine on me. shine on me:

Text: Graham Kendrick
Music: SHINE, JESUS, SHINE, Graham Kendrick

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The congregation may be seated

MISSION MOMENT**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Barb Todd

Epistle:

2nd Corinthians 4:1-2, 5-6

Gospel:

Mark 9:2-9

MUSICAL MEDITATION “St. Denio”

arr. Callahan

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.****OFFERTORY**

Will those who are able please rise to sing

RESPONSE/DOXOLOGY *tune #551*

**Praise God from all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, comforter;
One God Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: As You have blessed us with the means and willingness to give, loving God, so now bless this church with which we share some of Your gifts to us. Thank you for the gift of generosity, which reflects Your image in our lives, as You are a giving, generous Lord, in whose name we pray and dedicate this offering. Amen.

The congregation may be seated

SERMON “Mountaintop Memo, Mountaintop Models”

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" SSB #35



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876

CHARGE

P: We have spent this hour together in the presence of our Holy God. As you depart, remember that you are the face of Jesus to everyone you encounter. Live and love as he would. And may the world be changed because they have met Jesus face-to-face.

BENEDICTION

P: May God go before us to show us the way, behind us to encourage us,

C: Above us to watch over us, below us to lift us up,

P: And within us, so others might always see the light of Christ shining through our lives.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Shine, Jesus, Shine!”

arr. Bock

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	N/A
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	N/A
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Laurie Mitchell

News in the Pews

We're so glad you are here! Welcome to worship [on this Transfiguration Sunday]. May we always follow God's call to listen to his beloved Son.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered in the several ministries of the church this morning – ministries of worship, education, hospitality, and administration.

TODAY is the All-Boards (and Officers) Brunch! The goal is building community and successfully launching into a new year of board work. As always, all are invited into the work of the church. Even if you are not an officer or a church board member, you can come to the All-Boards Brunch. (If you are an officer or member of a board, you should have already received your invitation.) The plan is to cater food in so our volunteer leaders are not distracted with kitchen tasks. Please see Pastor or President Peggy if you would like to join the brunch meeting or want more information.

TODAY IS THE SUPERBOWL WATCH PARTY! Chad McCoy would like to invite you to come and watch the big game (or just the commercials if you prefer) with your church family today starting at 4PM (kickoff is at 5:30PM) in the Memorial Room. Bring a dish, or some snacks, beverages, games, etc. We'll treat it like a large family living room and enjoy some fun time together. This is not a fundraiser, but hopefully a "FUN"raiser. *While we watch the game, a few of us will be knotting, no-sew fleece blankets for the Niles Township Respite Center. See Peggy for more information about this game-day craft activity.*

A ❤️ for the Veterans Collection - We are collecting household goods AND easily accessible food (food bars, individual drinks, snacks & microwavable food with pop tops) for the Military Outreach's program for Vets exiting homelessness as well as their food pantry for Vets who come in their doors to have a hot meal. Items will be collected in the Memorial room and can be brought on Sundays or during office hours. See insert for more details!

ASH WEDNESDAY is this coming Wednesday the 14th! There will be a briefer service with the optional imposition of ashes beginning at 11:30, and a fuller service at 7:00 PM which includes Communion and an Anthem by our Choir, as well as the optional imposition of ashes.

The Lenten Soup-n-Study starts a week from Wednesday, on the 21st, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the Memorial Room, with the "soup and" going from 6:30 to 7, and then the study. We are continuing last year's study of the Gospel according to John; see Beth Lanford for a hard copy of the lesson sheets! Or you can go to The Pilgrim Press and do a search for Listen Up! Bible studies, on John, Part 1, but section 2 of that Part 1. There you can pay \$3 or so for a downloaded copy. Newcomers welcomed!

The Cemetery Association is looking for volunteers to serve on the board! Help us keep our cemetery strong. For more information, contact Kathy Zipperer at (847) 528-9829.

No Spring Craft Show this year! There just weren't enough shoppers even with all the advertising we do. We will however have our Fall/Holiday craft show on Saturday November 2nd so "Save the Date."

Our People

Birthdays this week belong to Susan (Burmeister) Speicher, and the wedding anniversary tomorrow belongs to Karen and Ken Christianson! Best wishes of fun and health to all.

Pictures needed! As we adjust to the news of Pastor's retirement, we ask all you folks to go through your old photos and memorabilia of him and Beth and share them with us. You can email the church office with the photos office@stpeteruccskokie.org, or bring or mail them in and we'll scan and return them to you. Thanks so much for your help!

Thank you to Pack 85 for the special help loading up vehicles with the bags and bags of soft goods for the Savers FUNdrive!

The Church Council meets next Sunday. If you are responsible for a report to the Council, please prepare it and deliver it to the Council / February Drop Box as soon as you can this week. Thank you!

A week from tomorrow, Monday the 19th, is the deadline for the March newsletter!

This morning's Call to and Prayer of Confession are reprinted by permission of United Church Press from Led by Love by Lavon Baylor. Copyright 1996 by United Church Press.

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! 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.

Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts! Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" and you'll find us!



MISSION MOMENTS

February 11, 2024

Transfiguration

Mark 9:2-9

Compassionate Community

Racial Justice Sunday

Science and Technology Sunday

Today, as we recognize Racial Justice Sunday in the United Church of Christ, nearly four decades ago, the United Church of Christ was not just the first denomination, but the first organization of any kind to formally research and quantify the connection between racism and earth justice. The 1987 document, “Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States: A National Report on the Racial and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Communities with Hazardous Waste Sites”, states:

“In January 1986, two cross-sectional studies were initiated, utilizing appropriate statistical techniques, to determine the extent to which African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans and others are exposed to hazardous waste in their communities.... Much of the data in this report has never before been compiled for public review. It is our hope that this information will be used by all persons committed to racial and environmental justice to challenge what we believe to be an insidious form of racism. We

share a common definition with National Council of Church Racial Justice Working Group.”

As you read the below definition of racism from 1987, consider if it still resonates today. What would you keep the same? What would you change?

“Racism is racial prejudice plus power. Racism is the intentional or unintentional use of power to isolate, separate and exploit others. The use of power if based on a belief in superior racial origin, identity or supposed racial characteristics. Racism confers certain privileges on the dominant group, which in turn sustains and perpetuates racism. Both consciously and unconsciously, racism is enforced and maintained by the legal, culture, religious, educational, economic, political, environmental, and military institutions of societies. Racism is more than just a personal attitude; it is the institutionalized form of that attitude.

We realize that involvement in this type of research is a departure from our traditional protest methodology. However, if we are to advance our struggle in the future, it will depend largely on the availability of timely and reliable information. We believe this data should be utilized by federal, state, and municipal governments to prevent hazardous wastes from becoming an even greater national problem. No residential community, regardless of race, should be left defenseless in the midst of this mounting crisis.”

To read the report in its entirety, as you consider what has changed and what has yet to be transformed, navigate to:
<https://new.uccfiles.com/pdf/ToxicWastes&Race.pdf>.

2 Corinthians 4:1-2, 5-6

Paul writes, “Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God’s word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. . . . For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

Mark 9:2 - 9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

2024 EASTER FLOWER ORDERS



Please find below the order form for the Easter plants that we will have to beautify our chancel on Easter Sunday. Sometimes there are limited quantities of plants available, and G & E will substitute an equal value plant (Orders will be filled by date submitted.) Orders may be placed in the offering plate, brought or mailed to the church. Please write a separate check for your flower order made out to St Peter's UCC.

Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Quantity	Type	Price	Total
	Easter Lily 6" pot	11.00	
	Azalea 6" pot	19.00	
	Hyacinth 6" pot	8.50	
	Tulip 6" pot	8.00	
	Rieger Begonia 6" pot	10.50	
Total			

Name

Phone

In Honor/In Memory:

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 17th 9-12_{pm}

Feb 18th 12-3_{pm}

St Peter's UCC

8013 Laramie

Open to All!