



>Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
October 22,
2023
10:00 AM**

**Twenty-first 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

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, October 22, 2023 at 10:00am
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**

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

PRELUDE Selected

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Praise the Lord, who has shown us the wonders of his unfailing love; and who, for the sake of his name, leads us and guides us.

C: In You, O Lord, we put our trust. You are our God, and our lives are in Your hands.

P: Lord, let the light of Your face shine on us

C: As we celebrate together in Your presence. Amen!

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: Jesus, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof.

C: But only say the word, and your servant will be healed.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: We thank You, God, for inviting us to live in covenant with You and one another, and for remaining faithful to Your promise!

C: Yet, like people of all ages, we find it difficult to be faithful to You. We resent those who remind us of Your call. We grieve You by our rebellion against Your word and our slowness to be Your partners.

P: We are not worthy, God, but, we pray, do not give up on us.

C: May we share with You at Your table of joy and welcome all Your friends as our friends;

A: Through Jesus Christ, Your word of love, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Ephesians 1:7,8a*

P: Speaking of Christ, Paul wrote to the Ephesians, “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us.”

Our God is a God of freedom, paying the cost to free us from the power and guilt of our sins so that we are forgiven. The riches of God’s grace are lavished on us! Imagine, on us! With our lives and also now our words, let us respond to this unfathomable mercy by saying together . . .

A: Thanks be to God!

HYMN "Come, Thou Almighty King"

#4

1. Come, Thou Al - might - y King, Help us Thy
 2. Come, Thou In - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy
 3. Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred
 4. To the great One in Three The high - est

Name to sing, Help us to praise: Fa - ther, all -
 might - y sword, Our prayer at - tend: Come, and Thy
 wit - ness bear In this glad hour: Thou who al -
 prais - es be, Hence ev - er - more! His sov - ereign

glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous, Come, and reign
 peo - ple bless, And give Thy word suc - cess; Spir - it of
 might - y art, Now rule in ev - ery heart, And ne'er from
 maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see, And to e -

o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 ho - li - ness, On us de - scend.
 us de - part, Spir - it of power.
 ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore. A - MEN.

The congregation may be seated

A CALL TO OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Andre Gloeckner

Old Testament:

Exodus 20:1-17

Epistle:

Colossians 3:12-17

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected

Will those who are able please stand up

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:25-33

RESPONSE

“Alleluia!”

#495

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

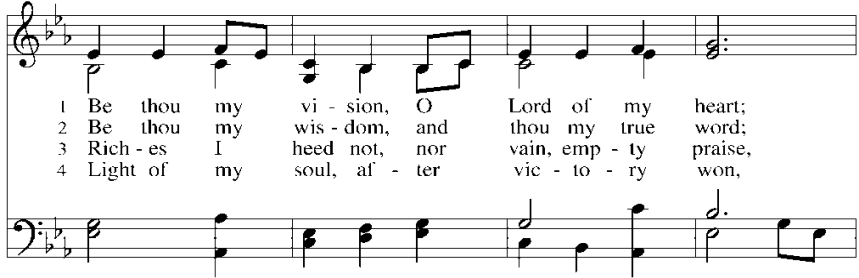
“Priorities”

Will those who are able please rise to sing

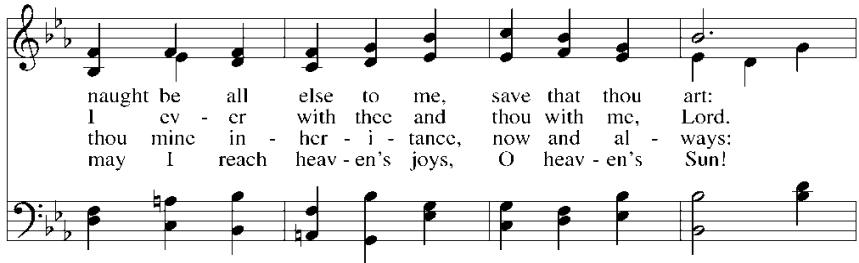
HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

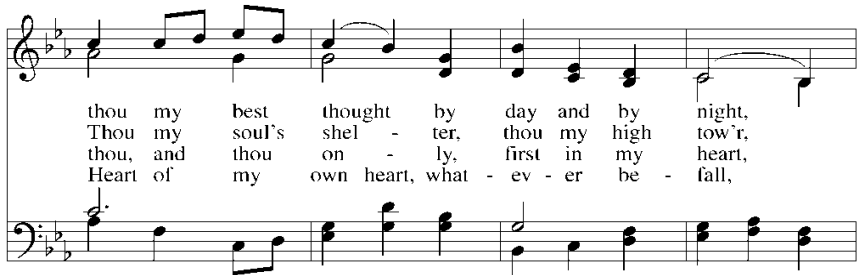
SSB #20



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish 8th–10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.
 Music: STANF. Irish tune

BENEDICTION

P: May God bless you and keep you,

C: And may God bless you and give you away to others.

P: May God’s face shine on you,

C: And your face reflect an irresistible good news.

P: May God lift up everything that is fallen in you,
And give you more pieces of peace
than you alone can hold.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE Selected

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	Peter Svenson
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Laurie Mitchell

News in the Pews

“To the church of [name of congregation] in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace” (see 1 Thessalonians 1:1). Welcome.

Welcome to our Guest Accompanist this morning, Matt Peterson, who is with us while Ben and Charlie celebrate their first wedding anniversary today!

The St. Peter’s Pet Blessing is this afternoon! It starts 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 next Sunday, October 29th. There will also be a baptism in worship that day!

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!!

Mini Food Pantry food needed!! Are supplies are rapidly dwindling, we need more! Donations accepted during office hours or on Sundays; leave it on the shelves by the offices and thank you so much!

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! 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!



We are looking for one woman to play a silent character in the show. You have no lines, you just sit there, but the actors refer to you during the course of the show. We are also looking for 5-10 individuals who can be on an "event team" to help with some day-of-the-show activities. Help needed at noon that day for chair set up, then starting at 4PM through the event and refreshments after. Contact Jenn Schneider to volunteer: (224) 659-9158!

Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale will be November 4th from 10AM – 3PM. *We will need bakers!* If you are able, please bake goods and wrap individually and we will price them. *We will also need some helping hands the day of the craft show* starting at 7:30 AM. We try to help our vendors unload before the sale, so if you are able please let Wendy (847) 528-4545.

Pastor Richard will be attending a meeting of the Skokie Officers Ethics Commission this Wednesday at 6 PM.

There will be a Rummage and Bake Sale wrap-up meeting this Thursday at 4:30 PM in the Memorial Room.

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

Our People

Happy birthday / anniversary! Having a birthday this week are Ryan Loach, Sean Loach, Rich Suckow and Dorothy Panzke! Celebrating a wedding anniversary next Saturday are Darrell Kerbel and Kathy Zipperer! Blessings on you all.

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According to the schedule, barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Beth Sterba, and the Nursery attendant will be Annie Noorts.

HOSPITALIZED: Carolyn VanTil is expected to have hernia surgery this Thursday; Heather (Schuhrke) O'Hara is scheduled to have a benign tumor near her optic nerve removed this Wednesday. Prayers please!

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. 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!



MISSION MOMENTS

October 22, 2023

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Living Messages

In the 1920's when minister's wife Lesbia Scott's three children were young, she enjoyed writing simple hymns for them about everyday things. "Make us a hymn about a picnic," they would ask. Or "write a hymn about a foggy day." She collected the songs she wrote for her children in a long-out-of-print collection.

The only one that remains in regular circulation was not a favorite of hers, or her children's, but it continues to capture the imagination of singers generations later. I Sing A Song of the Saints of God (*#295 in The New Century Hymnal) canonizes the gospel writer Luke, queen Margaret of Scotland, Joan of Arc, John Donne and Ignatius of Antioch - not by name but by characteristics. Today will you sing this song in your church? Which image makes you smile? Which image makes you wonder? Which image makes you understand something about God's people you didn't before?

I sing a song of the saints of God,
Faithful their whole lives through
Who bravely labored, lived, and died
for the God they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
And another a shepherd in pastures green:
they were saints of God, if you know what I mean.
God, help me to be one too.

They loved their God and they lived that love,
It was loving that made them strong;
They did what was right for Jesus' sake,
Lived justly their whole lives long.
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,
and another was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's no earthly reason, none in the least,

They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is filled with the living saints
Who choose to do God's will.
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea,
in church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea;
for the saints are folk like you and me,
and I mean to be one too.

**The New Century Hymnal. Cleveland, Ohio. The Pilgrim Press;
United Church of Christ. © 1995 The Pilgrim Press. Hymn #295
Words, Lesbia Scott. Music, John H. Hopkins.*

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

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. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Matthew 6:25-33

Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."