

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,
July 9, 2023
10:00 AM

Sixth Sunday
After Pentecost



Do justice
Love MERCY
WALK humbly
- micah -
6:8





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?host=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, July 9, 2023 at 10:00am
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE "Praise to the Lord the Almighty" Lehenbauer

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: We have been called here to face into God's gracious way of living. We are to leave the past behind us and walk into these new days of our ministry.

C: **Sometimes we'd rather remember how things used to be. Sometimes we are afraid to be disciples.**

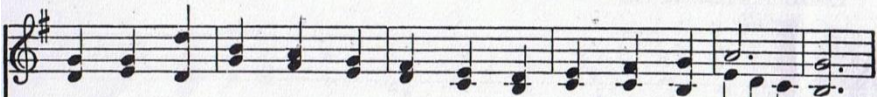
P: But this is a new day, and Christ is sharing freedom with us. It is a day to put aside all fear, to leave doubting behind, and to take courage in God's loving call.

C: **We will look to the new day, and we will set ourselves on the Jerusalem road. We will strive for faithfulness, even at the cost of popularity, and we will be disciples of Christ, renewing and healing the world around us by the grace of God.**

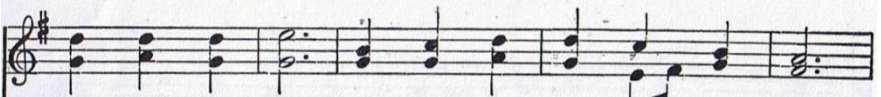
RESPONSE "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" #8 (v.1)



1. Praise ye the Lord, the Al-might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2. Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly reign - eth,
3. Praise ye the Lord, O let all that is in me a - dore Him!



O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal - va - tion!
 Shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so gen - tly sus - tain - eth!
 All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore Him!



All ye who hear, Now to His tem - ple draw near;
 Hast thou not seen How thy de - sires e'er have been
 Let the A - men Sound from His peo - ple a - gain:



Join me in glad ad - o - ra - - - tion!
 Grant - ed in what He or - dain - - - eth?
 Glad - ly for aye we a - dore . . . Him. A - MEN.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- P: Majestic and marvelous God, we come to You knowing our shortcomings and the ways we have gone astray from Your paths of love, righteousness, and loyalty. We know You have shown us great mercy in the past, both to us as individuals, us as families, and to us as congregations. We are grateful, but perhaps not grateful enough, because we confess our sin of withholding mercy when we see fit.
- C: **We sometimes struggle to be forgiving and merciful, even as we celebrate the mercy and forgiveness You have given us. We still wrestle with being in charge and deciding when we will or won't show mercy to those who have deeply offended us or our loved ones.**
- P: Your word, O Jesus, resonate in our ears reminding us: "Freely you have received; freely give." We confess that Your warning at the end of the Lord's Prayer sometimes catches us short, for we know our trouble with being merciful when we can rationalize being vengeful or cold.
- A: **Hear us in our admitted weakness, and have mercy on us, great God! Transform our spirits to be more open and powerfully shaped by Your Spirit within us, that we may be sons and daughters of the Holy One, resembling Your traits of mercy and pardon. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Psalm 145:8, 9*

P: “The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and God’s mercy is over all that He has made.”


In Jesus Christ we see this mercy and steadfast love extended to the world, including to those we may think undeserving of the offer. Regardless, it is offered to all of us, all beloved by God, and in His life, death, resurrection and continual intercession for us, our sins are forgiven and new life is implanted! With God’s help we may grow in our mercifulness and ability to forgive. I think that’s fantastic news, don’t you? What can we say to this?

A: Thanks be to God! Amen!



HYMN

"I Will Sing the Wondrous Story"


#465



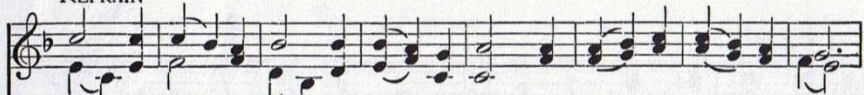
1. I will sing the won-drous sto - ry Of the Christ who died for me,
 2. I was lost, but Je - sus found me, Found the sheep that went a - stray;
 3. I was bruised, but Je - sus healed me; Faint was I from many a fall;
 4. Days of dark - ness still come o'er me, Sor-row's paths I of - ten tread,


How He left His home in glo - ry For the cross on Cal - va - ry.
 Threw His lov - ing arms a - round me, Drew me back in - to His way.
 Sight was gone, and fears pos - sessed me, But He freed me from them all.
 But the Sav - iour still is with me, By His hand I'm safe - ly led.



REFRAIN



Yes, I'll sing the won-drous sto - ry Of the Christ who died for me,




Sing it with the saints in glo - ry, Gath-ered by the crys-tal sea.



The congregation may be seated

CALL TO OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Prophets

Mark Loach

Jeremiah 3:11-13

Gospel the First:

Matthew 18:21-35

MUSICAL MEDITATION “Hyfrydol”

Will those who are able please stand

GOSPEL THE SECOND

Luke 6: 32-36

RESPONSE

“Alleluia!”

#495

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

“On Mercy and Forgiveness”

Will those who are able please rise to sing

HYMN "A King Once Told His Servants"

Sing to the tune of "Lead On, O King Eternal"

A king once told his servants, "Now pay me what is mine!"

One came to him and begged him, "I'll pay! Just give me time!"

And so the king forgave him, though that man's debt was great.

**What joy to be unburdened! What cause to celebrate!
Though he had been forgiven, that man was not so kind.
He threatened one who owed him, "Now pay me what is mine!"**

He would not show compassion toward one whose debt was small.

**What judgment came upon him! How bitter was his fall!
O God, in Christ you freed us; now may we not forget.
Our sin was overwhelming but you once paid the debt.
May we live lives of mercy, forgiving, blessing, too;
And may our grace toward others reflect our thanks to you.**

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CHARGE

P: Go in peace;

WOMEN: Keep the faith;

MEN: Love one another;

A: Serve the Lord!

BENEDICTION

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

C: The love of God, and

P: The fellowship of the Holy Spirit

A: Be with and remain upon us all. AMEN!

POSTLUDE

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

Callahan

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 | Jenn Schneider |
| NURSERY ATTENDANT | Laurie Mitchell |

News in the Pews

Welcome to worship in the name of God the Creator of this beautiful summer day, Jesus our Savior, and the Holy Spirit our Counselor each and every day. Amen.

This month It's Kitchen month! There's a change, as we indicated after our last service. Now we are being asked to raise the \$500 for groceries and also 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.

RUMMAGE SORTING will be on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. We Need Your Help! On Tuesday it's happening from 10 AM – Noon, with Ginger and Annie F. Wednesday is 6:30-8:30 PM with Maria and Kathy here; and Friday the 14th is 10 AM – Noon with Maria opening. *Openers subject to change.* A lot of good fellowship develops during sorting, and later, pricing!

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!

This week there is a meeting of the ad hoc Open and Affirming Support Committee on Thursday, July 13th at 7 PM at the church.

According to Pastor Richard's sermon plans, next Sunday's message will be about Patience.

Your Church Council meets next Sunday after worship!
If you are responsible for a report, please prepare and submit it to the Council July drop box as soon as you can this week, giving everyone else ample time to read it before Sunday. Thank you!

Upcoming office vacations: Laura will be out of the office from July 17th through the 21st. ANNOUNCER articles for August will still be due on the 17th!! Pastor's vacation will begin July 25th and he will return to the office on August 9th.

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According to the schedule, next Sunday's Nursery Attendant will be Annie Noorts; the Lector is scheduled to be either Marcia Hilliard or Andre Gloeckner.

Our People

Hospitalized: Last Sunday morning, Kathy Zipperer's mother JoAnne had a stroke and was taken to a hospital. She is currently back at home. Laurie Mitchell's father John has been in hospice for the past several days in Wauconda. Ron Schuhrke has relocated to Libertyville Manor, 610 Peterson Road, Libertyville, IL 60048 for physical therapy.

Happy birthdays and anniversaries! Having birthdays this week are Wendy Svenson, Jeremy Steegmueller and Shari Meggs; the Lanfords and Greg and Gail (Peterson) Thomas are celebrating anniversaries. May God bless them on their days!

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.

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! 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!



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

July 9, 2023

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Chosen Journeys

[Jesus said:] "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Dear Jesus, our brother and friend,

Today we pray for all those who are weary, that they may feel the easiness of your yoke and the lightness of your load.

We pray for others who are ill, weary from battling the enemy within their own bodies. And we pray for the healing of our own illnesses of body, mind and spirit. Send your healing power like a balm over all who suffer in this way, and help us all to know that you are always near to comfort and to soothe.

We pray for others who are weary from the demands of overwork or from the worthlessness of worklessness. And we pray for ourselves, that we may remember that productivity is not a Kingdom value. Send your grace, Holy Friend, upon all of us who suffer from the delusion that we are only as valuable as their work. Remind us that your ease is for all people, and draw them into the shelter of your mercy.

We pray for others who are trapped in cycles of addiction or violence. And we pray for ourselves, that the bonds of our violent and addictive tendencies be loosened bit by bit in the wake of your healing and hope. Shower us with the full confidence and faith to take the next step forward, and the next, then the next after that. Draw into our circles those who can counsel and guide us in new ways and patterns of being.

We pray for those who are pressed down into the cracks of the broken places in our society and culture. And we pray for ourselves when we find ourselves squeezed into the cracks, so heavily burdened by sexism, racism, or homophobia that it feels that we cannot stand. Raise us up, shattering that which keeps us fast and opening the eyes of all to the ease and joy of your justice.

We pray all these things in your name. Amen.

Having now been in the Promised Land several hundred years, the people have given in to worshiping other gods. By now, Israel has split into two countries, Judah to the south and Israel to the north. God compares the two in their faithlessness, and we hear the mercy as well as the anger of God.

Jeremiah 3:11-13

Then the Lord said to me: Faithless Israel has shown herself less guilty than false Judah. Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say: Return, faithless Israel, says the Lord. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, says the Lord; I will not be angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt, that you have rebelled against the LORD your God, and scattered your favors among strangers under every green tree, and have not obeyed my voice, says the Lord.

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denari; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Luke 6:32-36

Jesus said, "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."