



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
August 27, 2023
10:00 AM**

**Thirteenth Sunday
After Pentecost**

**Outdoor Worship
At Lorel Park**



New to St. Peter's? We are so glad you are here!
Please see a

Welcome Card

in the pew rack for information about:

Worship Times and Options
Open & Affirming | Childcare | Accessibility
WiFi | Holy Communion | Contact Info
And much more!

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. Your gift can be put in an offering plate or you can give electronically:

PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie

- OR -

Text: 844-977-2346

After a short set-up the first time, simply text your gift amount.

- OR -

Vanco Mobile App

Contact the Church Office to set up regular electronic giving.

*Printed copies of today's scriptures are available
if you like to read along.*

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, August 27, 2023 at 10:00am
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Lorel Park Service**

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 Beth Lanford

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Come and worship the God who created us!

C: **We come to sing praises and offer our prayers.**

P: Come and listen to the God who speaks to us still.

C: **In the Scriptures and in the sermon, in fellowship and music we listen for God to speak to us.**

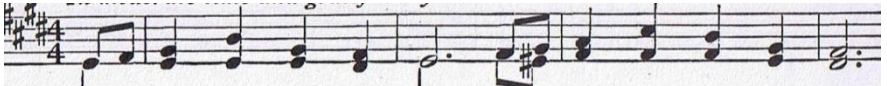
P: God is faithful and wants to speak words of life to all.

A: **We are here, O God, to listen and obey. Let us worship God!**

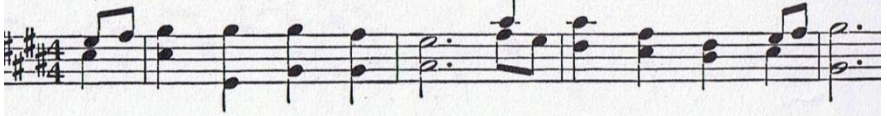
RESPONSE

"This is my Father's World"

#65



1. This is my Fa - ther's world, And to my lis - tening ears,
 2. This is my Fa - ther's world, The birds their car - ols raise,
 3. This is my Fa - ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get



All na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres
 The morn - ing light, the lil - y white, De - clare their Mak - er's praise.
 That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.



This is my Fa - ther's world: I rest me in the thought Of
 This is my Fa - ther's world: He shines in all that's fair; In th
 This is my Fa - ther's world: The bat - tle is not done; Je



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the won - ders wrought.
 rus - tling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev - ery - where.
 sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, And earth and heaven be one. A - M



CALL TO CONFESSION *Psalms 65:3*

P: "When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, You forgive our transgressions."

C: This is our hope, surrounded by our knowledge that God wants God's people to return, and know this forgiveness. Let us pray, after we have read the silently read the prayer to ourselves first.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Many if not all of our lives, dear God, are under stress. Sometimes it's only one section of our lives that brings it to us; sometimes it's life itself. Often without thinking, without realizing what we're doing, under our strains we act out. We lose our temper too quickly. We easily return to a judgmental spirit. Our language disappoints us. We hurt others, and may be too proud to apologize or take responsibility for hurting that person. We let resentments, grudges, pain or uncertainty stand in the way of our usefulness to You and to others.

Forgive us, and help us to grow stronger in patience, serenity, acceptance and joy! In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

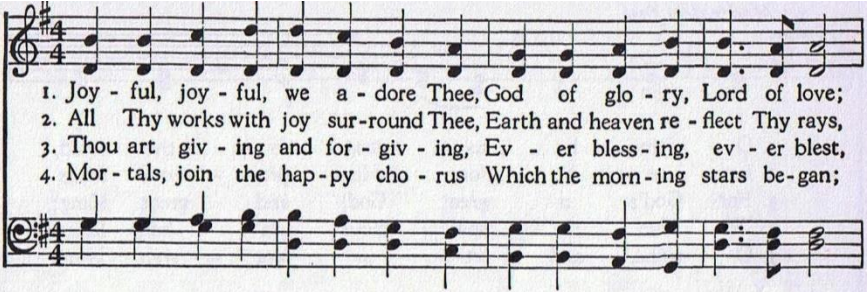
ASSURANCE OF PARDON *From Hebrews 2:17-18*

P: In affirming the incarnation of Jesus and his experience giving Him solidarity with us humans, the writer said, “Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.”

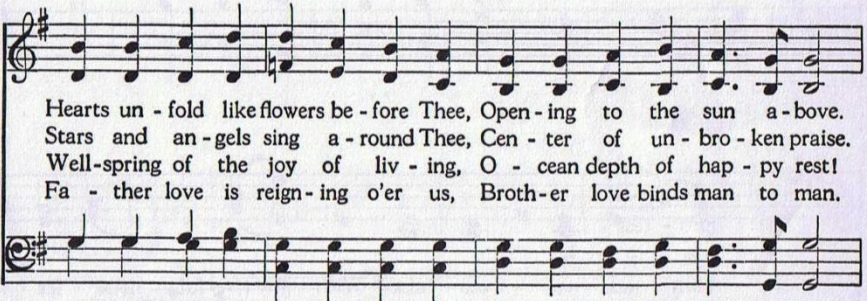
Jesus did make atonement for the sins of the people by his passion and death on the cross, then the forgiveness was validated by his resurrection from the tomb! In Christ our sins are paid for, and in the Spirit given, we are enabled to live new lives of change and triumph under grace. In claiming this magnificent, world-changing gospel, will the Lorel Park congregation join me in saying . . .

A: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

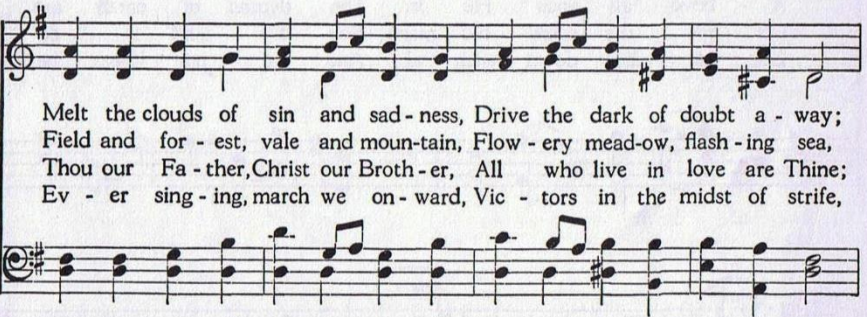
HYMN "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" #21 (vv. 1-3)



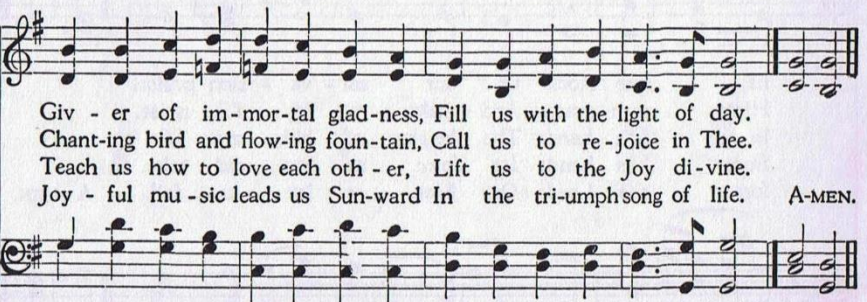
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
 3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
 4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are Thine;
 Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the Joy di - vine.
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us Sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - MEN.

The congregation may be seated

A CALL TO OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Annie Noorts

The Psalter:

Psalm 34:1-8

The Epistle:

Philippians 4:4-9

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected

Will those who are able please stand up

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:9-15; 26:36-46

RESPONSE

“Gloria Creator”

Sing to our usual tune for the Gloria Patri

“Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost!

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end! Amen, amen.”**

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 “Prayers in the Bible; Prayers in Us”

Will those who are able please rise to sing

HYMN “When You Are Praying”

Sing to the tune "Amazing Grace"

**"When you are praying," Jesus said,
"Don't put on vain displays —
But close your door and speak your heart,
And humbly offer praise."**

**Our Father in the heavenly realm,
Our Abba, ever near —
Your name is holy, set apart;
O bring your kingdom here!**

**God, give us all we daily need
And we will be content;
Forgive our sins as we forgive
The wrongs that we resent.**

**God, give us grace to follow you;
Protect us on your Way.
When evil tempts us from your path,
Deliver us, we pray.**

**O Lord, we turn in trust to you;
You know the things we need —
And like a parent, you so love:
The ones who ask, receive.**

Text: Copyright © 1998 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Included in [Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship](#) (Geneva Press, 2000). This book includes a permission note for those who own it to use this hymn (along with the 44 other

new hymns in the book) in their local church's worship services. Pastor Lanford has the book.

CHARGE

P: May the lonely paths of self-interest and despair lead to the broad highway of wholeness and understanding between people.

C: Let us become builders along the access ways to God's peace.

BENEDICTION

P: God is good,

C: All the time.

P: All the time,

C: God is good. 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	Maria Altmayer
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	N/A
NURSERY ATTENDANT	N/A

News in the Pews

Welcome to worship and a time of fellowship as the family of Christ. I invite you to greet those around you in the peace of the Lord.

Good morning! Welcome to worship and a special extension of friendship to visitors. May all who gather here experience “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7). Please stay for the picnic, in hopes enough folks brought food to share after worship today!

Thanks to our Deacon, Ben, Beth and Annie for helping lead worship this morning and for all who helped our Deacon and Ben bring, set up, and take down the keyboard, amp; the counters, Skokie Park District employees for trucking over chairs and other items, and you all for attending!

The Board of Deacons has a meeting after worship today!

Sunday School Rally Day is in two weeks, on September 10th at 9 AM. We plan to gather in the sanctuary for chapel on the 10th. Classes will break up to their locations depending on whether or not the asbestos in the classroom area has been encapsulated in time. That will be happening, and the Trustees really hope it will be done in time for Rally Day.

Food needed for food pantry! We are running low again. All donations greatly appreciated!

Our Office Manager Laura Olson will be out of the office on 2 vacation days this week: Thursday the 31st and Friday, September 1st. The office will be closed on Monday, Labor Day, September 4th.

RUMMAGE SORTING/PRICING SCHEDULE: Openers and sorting times this week are Marlene/Judy, Tuesday from 10 AM to noon, Laurie/Carol, Wednesday from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM and Sharon, Friday from 10 AM to noon. You are welcome to come anytime within those hours and stay as long as you are able.

RUMMAGE DONATIONS UPDATE! Though we set a different date, the committee is asking us to bring rummage in by **SEPTEMBER 1st**, not the 10th. This is due to such a large amount of rummage coming in this year. Items can be brought during office or sorting hours, call ahead in case something changes.

Pastor Lanford is trying to schedule a New Members / Seekers Class, to hopefully be held this month or as soon as possible, with the reception of new members during worship on a Sunday in September. Please talk with him if you are interested in being part of this exploratory and educational one-time class!

Change to Holiday Craft Show & Bake Sale date – Due to vendor conflicts, we have changed the date of the show to November 4th. The hours of 10AM to 3 PM remain the same.

Our People

The Bake Sale is in need of bakers for the Bake Sale, too! Please talk to Barb Todd if you have not already to let her know your plans for participating. Thanks much to everyone who does!

Next Sunday our Lector is Peter Svenson, and Kathy Zipperer is scheduled to be our Nursery Attendant.

Also, next Sunday is a Communion Sunday and the Board of Elders meet.

Having anniversaries this week are Christine (Carnate) and Peter Svenson tomorrow; birthdays are celebrated this coming Saturday, September 2nd by Bill Schaller and Ursula Dworak! Best wishes of God's Providence to them all.

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!



MISSION MOMENTS

August 27, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Be Transformed

A new king rose to power. This king did not understand the past or remember that it was Joseph's wisdom and God-given insight that had saved his people in generations gone by. Instead, like many in power, he began to be afraid of Joseph's many children and grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. What if they join my enemies, he wondered, in the event of war? So, he conscripted and enslaved the people, forcing them into hard labor. Our Book tells us that Pharaoh and his slave drivers were ruthless, imposing harder and harder tasks upon God's people. He could force them to work, even to build great cities, but he could not steal their joy and love. And so, God's people grew in numbers.

Then Pharaoh called the midwives, the women who attended the births and brought the babies, squalling and slimy and so preciously alive, into the world. The midwives must have wondered if they would be killed when they went cautiously before the terrible ruler, but Pharaoh instead commanded them to do something horrible. He commanded that the women, called by God to bring life into this world, would instead kill the boy babies they helped birth.

The midwives left Pharaoh's presence breathing a sigh of relief. They knew just what to do. Instead of killing the babies, they lied to Pharaoh about the birth process, something he obviously knew nothing about.

God's preference for those on the margins is shown strongly throughout the scriptures, but perhaps nowhere as strongly as this story. How can the midwives help you find your power against those who would abuse or oppress? What skills do you have that keep giving life, even times and place that ask you to deal in death?

Psalm 34:1-8

I will bless the Lord at all times; God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt God's name together.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to God, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,

and was saved from every trouble.

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

That is the end of our reading of Psalm 24. Our epistle lesson is Philippians Chapter 4, verses 4 through 9. This passage is somewhat well-known, because Paul says a lot of good stuff in a few words. Paul writes, probably from a Roman prison:

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep

on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 6:9-15; 26:36-46

“Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom comes.

Your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

For if you forgive others their trespasses,

your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Matthew 26:36-46

Then Jesus went with the disciples to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you

want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again, he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.

Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."