



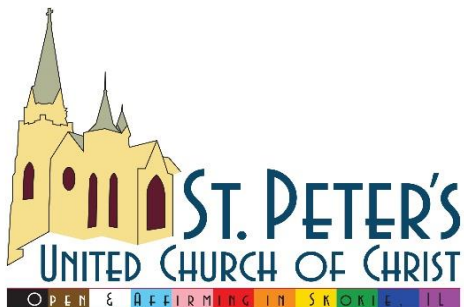
# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,**  
**January 21, 2024**  
**10:00 AM**

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**Third Sunday**  
**after Epiphany**





# 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/merchpot/display/external?merchantid=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](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, January 21, 2024 at 10:00am  
Third Sunday after Epiphany**

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

**PRELUDE**                    "Prelude in D"                    G. F. Handel

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**                    Peggy Reins

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Today we begin our worship with song; let us sing "I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord" which we find below and in our Supplemental Song Book #4.*

The musical score consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for - ev - er. I will sing, I will sing, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord. With my mouth will I make known thy faith - ful - ness, thy faith - ful - ness. With my mouth will I make known thy faith - ful - ness to all gen - er - a - tions." The score includes a "Fine" marking and a "D.C. al fine" instruction.

Text: Psalm 89:1  
Music: HILLMORE, J. H. Fillmore

## CALL TO CONFESSION

P: God's word sometimes comes to us as a warning. How often have we pushed aside the Word we find unpleasant.

**C: Even when we grudgingly acknowledge its truth, we often like to postpone any action to change.**

P: God comes to us today, saying that our days are fewer than we think. Jonah tells us that the time to repent is now; let us pray:

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Sovereign God, we reluctantly confess that we have installed our own gods in our lives. They take our time. They use our resources. They exact from us care and devotion.

**C: We do not like to hear that our way of life is endangered. Yet we sometimes realize that innocent steps into self-indulgence are really deliberate strides away from You. We hear distant echoes of warning and judgment.**

P: O God we want to return to You before it is too late. We repent of everything in our lives that cuts us off from You.

**A: In the name of Jesus Christ, the man for others, we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *Isaiah 1:18*

P: “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”

There we hear it, the mercy of God shown to those who have done nothing to earn it, and could not if we tried. By grace we are saved; by grace our sins are forgiven and the Spirit comes to open hearts, to live within us and redirect the plans of our minds back towards God. In claiming the good news of Christ Jesus, let the congregation join me in saying,

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## HYMN

## "Gather Us In"

## SSB #19



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the  
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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*The congregation may be seated*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Olivia Altmayer

Old Testament:

Psalms 62:5-12

Epistle:

I Corinthians 7:29-31

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

*Will those who are able please rise*

**GOSPEL**

Mark 1: 14-20

**RESPONSE**

Gloria Creator (tune #493)

**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*

## **THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS INTO THE CHURCH**

### **The Invitation**

*At this time the Pastor invites Rita McMahon, Denise Hopp, Julie McGinnis and Ann Herren to come forward and join him on the chancel steps.*

**Scriptural Quote** (*Ephesians 2:19-22, adapted*)

### **Questions of the Candidates for Membership**

#### **Affirmation of Trinitarian Faith**

*Will those who are able please stand up*

P: Let us unite with the Church in all times and places in  
Confessing our faith in the Triune God. Do you  
believe in God?

**A: I believe in God,**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**A: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**A: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

*The congregation may be seated*

### **Address**

#### **Question about Participation**

#### **Welcome and Reception**

P: Let us, the members of St. Peter's United Church of  
Christ in Skokie, Illinois, express our welcome and  
affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**C: We welcome you with joy**

**In the common life of this church.**

**We promise you our friendship and prayers**

**As we share the hopes and labors**

**Of the church of Jesus Christ.**

**By the power of the Holy Spirit**



**May we continue to grow together  
In God's knowledge and love  
And be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

### Greeting of Christian Fellowship

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of St.  
Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie, we extend  
to you the hand of Christian fellowship, welcoming  
you into the company of this local church.

### Prayer

**A: Amen.**

### Benediction

P: Go in the peace of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Will those who are able please rise*

### RESPONSE "Blest be the Tie that Binds" #280 (vv. 1, 2)

1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3. We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear;  
4. From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin, we shall be free;

The fel - low-ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims, are one, Our com - forts and our cares.  
And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
And per - fect love and friend - ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty. A-MEN.

## **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**

### **OFFERTORY**

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**RESPONSE** "We Give Thee but Thine Own" #258 (v. 1)

1. We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be:  
 2. May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive,  
 3. To com - fort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,  
 4. The cap - tive to re - lease, To God the lost to bring,  
 5. And we be - lieve Thy word, Though dim our faith may be:

All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.  
 And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first fruits give.  
 To tend the lone and fa - ther - less, Is an - gels' work be - low.  
 To teach the way of life and peace—It is a Christ - like thing.  
 What - e'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it un - to Thee. A - MEN.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**A:** God of steadfast love, we pray that You will love the world through the moneys we dedicate today. We pray that Your work of transformation will be carried forward by our gifts. As a church, we seek to follow where Jesus leads. As individuals, we heed the call to discipleship. Bless our efforts to fish for people – for their sakes, not our own. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The congregation may be seated*

**SERMON** "Of Nets, Garments, and Following Jesus"

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**HYMN**        “Jesus, You Once Called Disciples”

*Please sing to the tune “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.”*

**Jesus, you once called disciples, choosing twelve to follow you:**

**Simon (also known as Peter), Andrew and Bartholomew,**

**Philip, Thomas, James and Matthew, Simon, Thaddaeus, John, and James —**

**Then there was the one called Judas. These were your disciples' names.**

**Women, too, were your disciples, sitting, learning, at your feet.**

**Mary knew your word was precious, even more than food to eat.**

**Martha trusted in your power when her brother Laz'rus died.**

**Women shared your journey, Lord, and stayed when you were crucified.**

**Lord, so many heard and followed, like the woman at the well.**

**Meeting you, the living water, she sought others she could tell.**

**Like the boy with loaves and fishes, like Zacchaeus in the tree,**

**Many gladly heard your message; many shared your ministry.**

**Jesus, still you call your people, "Come and follow me today!"**

**Some, like Paul, feel sudden wonder; some are brought up in your way.**

**Lord, no matter how we meet you, by your Spirit, make us new.**

**May we know your living presence; may we daily follow you.**

*Included in **Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor** (Upper Room Books, 2009). **Hymn Use Permission: Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor** by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Upper Room Books, 2009) includes a permission note for those who own this book to use this hymn (along with the 76 other new hymns in the book) in their local church's worship services. Our Pastor owns this book.*

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**CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

P: Act with faith;

**C: Believe with humility;**

P: Love one another, and love those whom nobody loves;

**C: Serve the Lord!**

P: And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**A: Amen.”**

**POSTLUDE**

“Beecher”

arr. 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.*

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**FOR WORSHIP TODAY**

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MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

DEACON

Maria Altmayer

LIVESTREAM RECORDING

Beth Lanford

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Annie Noorts

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# SOFT GOODS DRIVE

**Donate during  
January 2024**

**St. Peter's UCC**

8013 Laramie Ave. Skokie, IL 60077

For more information, call

**(847) 673-8166**

**Items Needed:**  
Clothing  
Shoes, Hats,  
Purses, Belts  
Bedding  
Linens  
Stuffed Toys  
Pillows



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# News in the Pews

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**A warm welcome to all [on this cold winter morning]!** May you know the fire of God's love as we worship in the name of Jesus, who showed us how to love.

**A special welcome to our new members!** We're so blessed to have Ann Herren, Denise Hopp, Julie McGuinness and Rita McMahon join our family as official members today. Thank you for picking St. Peter's UCC Skokie as your church home, we are so glad to have you.

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

**Please come downstairs after worship and join in the special Coffee Hour celebrating the uniting of our new members to St. Peter's!** Thanks and thanks again to those who host this Coffee Hour!

**The Church Council meets after worship today** after folks have a chance to enjoy some Coffee Hour.

**Annual Reports are now ready to be picked up** in the Memorial Room. It will also be emailed to you if you are a voting member. If you take one, please remember to bring it back with you next Sunday, as we will have limited numbers of hard copies available.

**NEXT SUNDAY is the Annual Congregational Meeting followed by a meeting of the Cemetery Association** after worship! We need a quorum of at least 21 active members (20% of active membership, which is 84 after 4 persons joined today). An active member is a member who has within the past year taken Communion, made a financial contribution or attended worship at least once.

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**INSTALLATION of newly elected and re-elected Boards and Officers** takes place during worship in two weeks (February 4th).

**Nominating Committee still has some open slots, so if you are approached** 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!

**Moana Jr LIVE** - Our very own Ricky Riley will be narrating the Special Gifts Theatre's production of Moana Jr., a fun show for all ages!! Special Gifts Theater is not for profit that helps kids like Ricky with intellectual disabilities. Click this link for tickets <https://specialgiftstheatre.org/tickets-for-upcoming-events/> and come give him our support! The LIVE performances are **Saturday, Feb. 3rd & Sunday, Feb 4th at 2PM**, located at Ebinger School, 7350 W. Pratt Ave. Chicago. Talk to Anna Riley [annadriley@gmail.com](mailto:annadriley@gmail.com) for more info.

**SAVERS FUNDRIVE is well underway!** Softgoods like clothing, shoes, belts, hats, purses, linens, stuffed animals and more will be collected during the month of January through Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a designated spot on and/or near the stage for collection. Bring during office hours or on Sundays. On **Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10AM to noon** we'll be having a special public collection time. Tell your friends and neighbors!

**Lou Malnati's/C.A.R.E. Fundraiser** - Help our favorite animal rescue center C.A.R.E. of Skokie and get a great pizza at the same time!! Tuesday January 23rd plan to order pizza from Lou Malnatis at one of these 3 locations, Lincolnwood, Evanston & Wilmette use the promo code GPFUND24 and they'll get 20% of whatever you spend!!

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# Our People

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**Coffee Hours 2024!** There is a new sign-up sheet in the Memorial Room, sorry for the delay. Coffee hours are a great way to catch up with/get to know your fellow congregants better, so please consider hosting! If you are new to it and would like to co-host, just drop the office a line and we'll help facilitate a co-host.

**Pastor Richard will be attending a meeting of the Skokie Officers Ethics Commission** this coming Wednesday evening the 24th at 7 PM.

**Celebrating birthdays this week** are Alane (Schaller) Swiderski, Ricky Riley, Richard W. A. Schaller, Jamie Iannotti's daughter Layla Costello, and Megan (Knowles) Caras' son Ethan Michael Caras.

**Annie and Gerry Noorts have their wedding anniversary today.** Blessings to all of them!

**Hospitalized:** Phil Lindroth underwent open heart surgery the week before last. Please keep him in your prayers.

**In Memoriam:** Ron Schuhrke died early Tuesday, January 16th in hospice care. His service was held here yesterday and he was buried in our church cemetery next to his beloved wife Gail. Pastor has the addresses of the daughters (Lisa, Katy, Heather) if you want to send a card.

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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## Regular Reminders!

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**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!

According to the schedule, next Sunday's lector will be Peter Svenson and the Nursery Attendant will be Kathy Zipperer.

This morning's Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession and Prayer of Dedication are reprinted by permission of United Church Press from *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1996 by United Church Press. The order for Receiving New Members into the Church is from the Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ.

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**January 21, 2024**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

**Mark 1:14-20**

**Follow Me**

**Ecumenical Sunday**

In today's reading, Jesus calls the disciples to follow him not only to a new line of work (fishing for people instead of fish) but also to a whole new way of life. Centuries later, those who are called to ministry also find themselves not just in a job, but in a vocation or way of living. Helping to navigate the sometimes complicated waters of this vocation is the MESA team of the United Church of Christ's National Offices.

According to their website,\*

“Within the United Church of Christ, the Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization team (MESA), supports the critical implementation of denominational polity for authorized ministry, especially equipping the Committees on Ministry that determine authorization of those persons who hold or are pursuing ministerial standing.

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In other words (to make metaphorical use of “mesa”), the Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization team serves as host at the table that is ministry in the United Church of Christ. Gathered at the table are authorized ministers, calling bodies, Associations, Conferences, and Committees on Ministry, to which the MESA team offers support and resources for faithful and effective ministry. Additionally, MESA’s role as host includes the encouragement of ongoing conversation regarding issues of ministry in the 21st century. The MESA team works in a collaborative model to meet the needs of those at the table.”

All settings in the United Church of Christ, speak to and with each other, rather than for each other. MESA is one of those settings that is ready to be in conversation with you. Maybe, like those first disciples, you hear Christ calling you too. Maybe, like those first disciples, you are ready to change your life as well as your vocation. Maybe, you just have a question or an idea about ministry. Whatever the case, pull up a chair at the table and begin or continue the conversation with MESA today.

\*<https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/local-church/mesa-ministerial-excellence-support-and-authorization/>

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**Psalm 62:5-12**

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in the Lord at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. *Selah*

Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion;

in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery;

if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.

For you repay to all according to their work.

**1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

**Mark 1:14-20**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come

near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.