



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

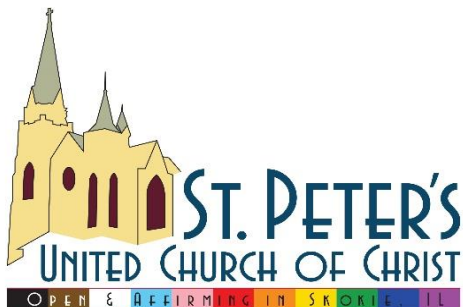
**Sunday,**

**January 28, 2024**

**10:00 AM**

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**Fourth 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/merchot/?x=1&from=seller=&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](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 28, 2024 at 10:00am  
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

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

**PRELUDE** "Blessings" arr. Brickman

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Peggy Reins

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**P:** Great is our God! God is worthy to be praised!

**C:** **Let us lift up our voices and worship our Sovereign and Savior.**

**P:** God is faithful and good; bidding us to enter the divine presence with grateful hearts.

**LEFT:** **Let us approach the throne of grace with thanksgiving and song.**

**P:** Now is the time for worship. Proclaim to the peoples of the earth God's glory and honor.

**RIGHT:** **We are here; now is the time. Know that the Lord is our God; let us worship our Creator and Redeemer.**

**A:** **We are God's people. We are the hands and feet of the Holy One for the sake of God's mission to our neighbors and the nations.**

**RESPONSE****“This is the Day”**

SSB #22

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the

Lord has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be

glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the

Lord has made; we will re-joice and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: This is the day that the Lord has made; we rejoice, but we also acknowledge our having fallen short of God’s will for our lives, challenging us in our walk with Jesus and those on the margins.

**C: If our falling short is something we make excuses for, or is something we’re not even aware of, our souls benefit from it being pointed out lovingly, and from confessing the same to God.**

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** *based on the Beatitudes*

P: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the realm of heaven.

**C: Forgive us our spiritual arrogance.**

P: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

**C: Forgive us our false independence.**

P: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

**C: Forgive us our misplaced aggression.**

P: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, for they shall be satisfied.

**C: Forgive us our gluttony.**

P: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

**C: Forgive us our half-hearted commitment.**

P: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

**C: Forgive us for ignoring the call to make peace.**

P: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
For theirs is the realm of heaven.

**A: Forgive us for not taking a stand. In Christ's name we pray.  
Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

P: Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are those who seek the face of God.

Everyone who asks, receives, and the one who seeks, finds.  
Blessed are those who ask for forgiveness, for they shall be forgiven.

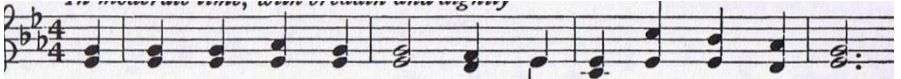
Blessed are those who repent,  
For they shall be freed to live fully in the present moment,  
under grace. Let the congregation express their response  
together and say . . .

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

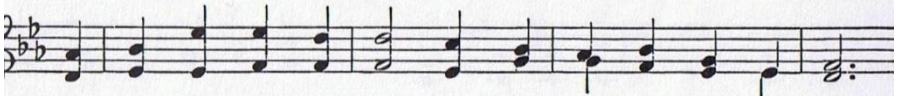
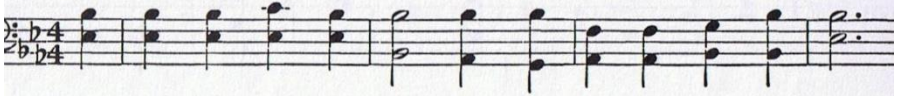
## HYMN

## "The Church's One Foundation"

#322



1. The Church's one Foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth,
3. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, And tu - mult of her war,
4. Yet she on earth hath un - ion With God the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the word:  
 Her char - ter of sal - va - tion One Lord, one faith, one birth;  
 She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 And mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion With those whose rest is won:



From heaven He came and sought her To be His ho - ly Bride;  
 One ho - ly Name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.  
 And to one hope she press - es, With ev - ery grace en - dued.  
 And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.  
 Like them, the meek and low - ly, On high may dwell with Thee.

A-MEN.



*The congregation may be seated*

## **MISSION MOMENT**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Peter Svenson

Old Testament:

Psalm 111

Epistle:

I Corinthians 8:1-13

### **MUSICAL MEDITATION “A Prayer of Need”**

by Rodriguez

*Will those who are able please rise*

### **GOSPEL**

Mark 1: 21-28

### **RESPONSE**

“Alleluia!”

#495

## **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/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: By giving away some of the wealth we cherish so much, we keep ourselves focused on who You are, gracious God, and on what You expect of us. As the body of Christ, we seek to be a healing force in our world. May the offerings we present be used in ways that encourage faithful behaviors among us in the church, within our community, and as far as our influence can reach. Receive us and our gifts, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated*

**SERMON**            "The Loving Thing to Do"



*Will those who are able please stand up*

**HYMN**            "Our God, We Are a Church Reformed"

*Sing to the tune "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

**Our God, we are a church reformed,  
A church reforming still:  
We long to grow in your true Word,  
And follow more your will.**

**How awesome is your sovereign rule;  
You reign from heav'n above.  
Yet you knelt down in Jesus Christ,  
In sacrificial love.**

**In love, you bring your people here  
And call your church to you,  
That we may know salvation's joy  
And serve in all we do.**

**You call us to community;  
By faith our hearts are stirred.  
In church, we seek an ordered life,  
According to your Word.**

**As faithful stewards we find joy;  
We need no rich display.  
Lord, teach us all to use with care  
The gifts you give each day.**

**The world makes gods of lesser things,  
And wrongly uses power;  
So by your Spirit may we work  
For justice every hour.**

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*Text: Copyright © 1998 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.*

*Included in **Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship** (Geneva Press, 2000).*

***Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship** includes a permission note for those who own this book to use this hymn (along with the 44 other new hymns in the book) in their local church's worship services. Rev. Lanford owns this book.*

## CHARGE & BENEDICTION

**P:** Go in peace; stay for the meeting.

**C: Keep walking in God's peace on the journey of faith.**

**P:** Surround this peace with things that make for peace,  
and the God of peace will be with you.

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

**POSTLUDE**

“Go Out with Joy!”

arr. Miller

*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

MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Kathy Zipperer



# 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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**Welcome to worship.** “Praise the Lord! ... He sent redemption to his people. ... Holy and awesome is his name” (Psalm 111:1, 9, NRSV).

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

**TODAY is the Annual Congregational Meeting after worship!** A sandwich lunch is being served, thanks to Rich Schneider. We need a quorum of at least 21 active members (20% of active membership, which is 84). An active member is a member who has within the past year taken Communion, made a financial contribution or attended worship at least once. The Cemetery Association will hold a meeting immediately afterward and members are urged to stay for this important time of sharing information and needs.

**THE INSTALLATION** of newly elected and re-elected Boards and Officers takes place during worship next week (February 4th)!

**SAVERS FUNDRIVE!** 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

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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!

**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.

**Coming in February, A <3 for the Veterans Collection!**

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# Our People

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**Pastor Richard will be attending a meeting of the Skokie Officers Ethics Commission** this coming Wednesday evening the 31st at 7 PM. The next morning, Thursday, February 1st, he will be attending the 10 AM – Noon gathering of CMA Cluster 1 clergy and Members-in-Discernment (those preparing to be ordained) at the First Congregational Church of Evanston, U.C.C.

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

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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!

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**January 28, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**Mark 1:21-28**

**Power to Do**

**Health and Human Service Sunday**

In the story today, Jesus casts out an unclean spirit in the temple. As he gazes with love on the broken person in front of him, Jesus thinks only of how that person could be healed. He is not concerned about distracting others from the way things “should be” or making a mess in that holy space. Jesus only lovingly wants to act in ways that bring wholeness where there is brokenness, health where there is illness, community where there is isolation.

Today is Health and Human Service Sunday when we honor the work of the United Church of Christ’s The Council for Health and Human Service Ministry (CHHSM).

Last year CHHSM’s annual meeting was held in Denver, which gave Archway Homes a chance to showcase the work they have been doing in Colorado for fifty years.

“Since its founding in 1974, Archway Communities, initially established as Mountain United Church Housing, became Rocky Mountain HDC in 1995 and is now Archway Communities, has

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remained steadfast to its commitment to provide service-enriched affordable housing for very low-to-moderate income families in the Denver Metro region and Colorado Springs.

With 8 properties in the Denver metro and Colorado Springs (and two more in development!), we have been developing affordable housing communities, expertly managing properties, and providing essential supportive services to individuals and families for almost 50 years.

By integrating housing and supportive services, Archway Communities is helping 1,516 residents improve economically and socially. We are a faith-based non-profit that is affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

Archway wishes to create communities of dignity and respect for families, neighbors and staff.

Creating community requires a commitment to seeing the humanity and interconnectedness of all that we do.

It requires a willingness to step up with courage and decency, to do the hard tasks, and the ability to celebrate each triumph joyfully.”

Find out more at Archway’s website:

<https://www.archwaycommunities.org/mission/>.

What are the health and human service organizations in your area? How can you celebrate and support them?

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**Psalm 111**

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;

the LORD is gracious and merciful.

God provides food for those who fear him;

and is ever mindful of his covenant.

God has shown his people the power of his works,

in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of God's hands are faithful and just;

all the Lord's precepts are trustworthy.

They are established forever and ever,

to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

The Lord sent redemption to his people;

God has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is God's name!

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

all those who practice it have a good understanding.

The Lord's praise endures forever.

*Our epistle lesson is First Corinthians 8, verses 1 through 13. Although it sounds like an odd thing to be concerned about to you and me, the question if it was OK for a Christian to eat food that had been sacrificed to an idol was a major one for*

*the Corinthian church. Paul actually takes more than one chapter to work out his reply. Here is the beginning.*

**First Corinthians 8:1-13**

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords — yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

**Mark 1:21-28**

They went to Capernaum; and when the Sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.