



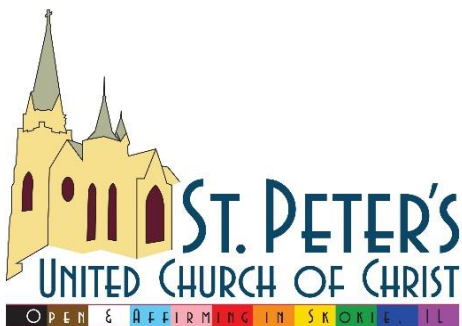
Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
November 12,
2023**

10:00 AM

**Twenty-fourth
Sunday after
Pentecost**





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, November 12, 2023 at 10:00am
Twenty-fourth 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: Day after day, an abundance of God's love,

C: Morning by morning, new signs of blessing:

P: A gentle rain, an awesome sunset,

C: A friend's embrace, a child's smile,

P: A new insight, a sense of peace,

C: A shared meal, a treasured moment.

P: All around us and deep within us are signs of God's presence.

A: How can we not sing of God's faithfulness?

P: And sing we shall! But first, let us attend to any barriers between us and God.

CALL TO CONFESSION *from Isaiah 64:6, 9*

P: “We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

C: Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever.

A: Now consider, we are all Your people.” Let us confess our falling short.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Caring God, in our anxiousness, we cling tightly to familiar people. Afraid to extend our hand, we bind up our gifts, fearing we won't have enough for ourselves. Loving Jesus, lacking trust in you, we clutch our possessions as if they are the meaning of life. Our hesitancy to share stops the flow of your compassion.

C: Gracious Spirit, we discount our ability and talents and miss what is possible when Christ blesses our offering. Holy God, loosen our closed hands and tight hearts that we may offer the gift we are and the gifts we have, to touch the bruised world.

A: Let your compassion flow through us. In the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Ephesians 2:3-5*

P: Paul wrote to the Ephesians of our estrangement from God because of our sins, then wrote, “But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which God loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved.”

God’s grace is greater than our filthy cloths; God’s love and power triumph over all our falling short as we turn to the Lord knowing our need. Some are rich in money; God is rich in mercy. In words of grateful praise, let the church join me in acclamation:

A: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

HYMN

"This Is My Song"

These stanzas, published during the period between the 2 world wars, express a hope for lasting peace among all nations, races, and cultures. Thus, Pastor deemed it fitting for Veterans' Day Sunday.

—1914, 1934

1 This is my song, O God of all the na-tions, a song of
2 My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o-cean, and sun-light

peace for lands a-far and mine. This is my home, the
beams on clo-ver-leaf and pine; But oth-er lands have

coun-try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
sun-light, too, and clo-ver, and skies are ev-ery-

dreams, my ho-ly shrine; But oth-er hearts in oth-er lands are
where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat-ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
na-tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

The congregation may be seated

A CALL TO OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rich Schneider

Old Testament:

Leviticus 19:9-13

Epistle:

I Timothy 6:17-21

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected

Will those who are able please stand up

GOSPEL

Matthew 25: 13-30

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.

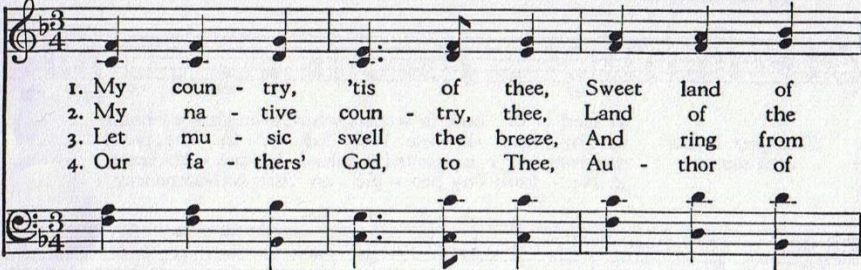
**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen**

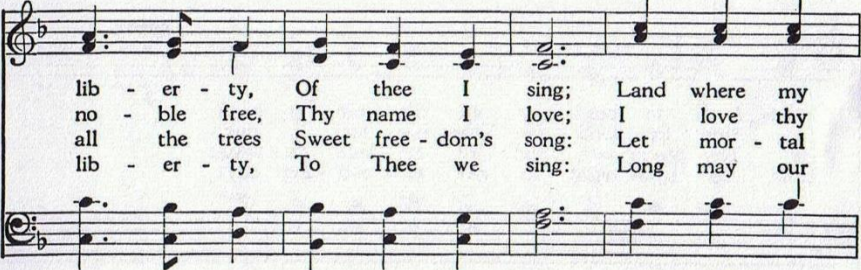
HYMN "My Country, 'tis of Thee"

#441

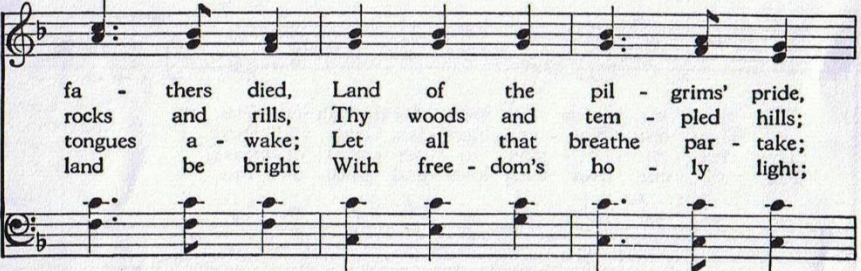
To be inclusive you may sing "forebears" in place of "fathers" in verse 1, and "Our forebears' God" in place of "Our fathers' God" to start verse 4



1. My coun - try, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of
 2. My na - tive coun - try, thee, Land of the
 3. Let mu - sic swell the breeze, And ring from
 4. Our fa - thers' God, to Thee, Au - thor of



lib - er - ty, Of thee I sing; Land where my
 no - ble free, Thy name I love; I love thy
 all the trees Sweet free - dom's song: Let mor - tal
 lib - er - ty, To Thee we sing: Long may our



fa - thers died, Land of the pil - grims' pride,
 rocks and rills, Thy woods and tem - pled hills;
 tongues a - wake; Let all that breathe par - take;
 land be bright With free - dom's ho - ly light;



From ev - ery moun - tain side Let free - dom ring.
 My heart with rap - ture thrills Like that a - bove.
 Let rocks their si - lence break, The sound pro - long.
 Pro - tect us by Thy might, Great God, our King. A - MEN.

SERMON “Stewardship Lessons”

Will those who are able please rise to sing

HYMN “Oh God, We Yearn for Safety” C.W. Gillette

Sing to the tune “The Church’s One Foundation”

**O God, we yearn for safety; we long to be secure.
Yet faithful, loving service is what You value more.
You give us what is needed; You love, forgive and save.
Then, sending us to serve You, You call us to be brave.**

**You give to some ten talents — to others, two or three;
To some you give one blessing to manage faithfully.
For you, O Lord, are loving and don't demand success;
You daily call your people to lives of faithfulness.**

You give your church the gospel — Good news for us to share.

**You give us great compassion for neighbors everywhere.
You give us skills to serve you and loving work to do.
We're blest to be a blessing, and called to risk for you.**

**O God, it seems much safer To live from day to day,
Protecting what you lend us and hiding it away.
Yet all these gifts can't flourish when hidden in the
ground;**

**When we are brave to share them Your blessings will
abound.**

Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. This song is included in [Sing to My Savior: New Hymns from the Stories in the Gospel of Luke](#) (2022), and permission is granted to one who owns the book like our Pastor to reprint this for one service.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION *from Christian Smith, cpcmc.org*

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you as you go from this place to share the gifts that you have been given with a world in need. Amen

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	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Carolyn Van Til

News in the Pews

Welcome to St. Peter's United Church of Christ! It is a gift to come together in worship of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We join with the rest of our nation in giving thanks for the service of the veterans of our armed forces this weekend!

Thank you to all those who served in the ministries of the church this morning – in education, worship, music, administration, communication, and on Boards!

Holiday Concert and Jingle Mingle! Celebrate the opening of the Christmas season at St. Peter's by joining us for beautiful music from Lakeside Flutes and amazingly tasty treats! Founded in 1987 by a group of flute enthusiasts, they will favor us with a program of Christmas holiday music on Sunday December 3rd at 3:00pm. Following the concert will be a "Jingle Mingle" in our Gym at 4:00pm and will feature sweet and savory hors' d'oeuvres, and liquid refreshments. Suggested donation is \$10.00 for adults and \$5 for children 3-12 years old. RSVP here:

<https://www.stpeteruccskokie.org/event-details/lakeside-flutes-holiday-concert-and-jingle-mingle/form> or call the Church office at 847-673-8166 to let us know you are coming. Donations will be collected at the door (cash or check).

The Thanksgiving Tuesday night service will be held at 7:30 PM at Central United Methodist Church on November 21st. The theme of this community interfaith service is "Words and Songs for Healing and Peace," sponsored as always by the Niles Township Clergy Forum.

We are now collecting for the Night Ministry - cookies, hot cocoa hats, scarves & gloves – we are now collecting all but the fresh cookies (bake those closer to the bagging date) we'll be bagging these items on Sunday, December 3rd after worship. You can leave those items on the table in the Lobby, they'll be a sign there!

Please donate to the Holiday Meals program at the Jewel at Village Crossing Shopping Center in Niles. We provide a full holiday dinner for needy 4-6 people for Thanksgiving and Christmas. All you must 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!!

Pastor will be officiating at the interment of the urns of Rev. Merritt Berg and his wife Elaine this Wednesday at 11 AM at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. He led the memorial service for them last month.

The Open and Affirming ad hoc Support Committee meets this coming Wednesday night from 6:30 to 8:00 PM.

The Church Council meets next Sunday, November 19th. If you are responsible for a report, please submit yours as soon as you can to the Drop Box for the Council meeting in November.

Gingerbread House Making Class– On December 9th at 9:30 AM Carol Iannotti will be having a "Gingerbread Making Class" (pending the council approval) where you'll get to make a beautiful gingerbread house for the holidays! Must RSVP. Cost of the class is \$28.00 and a portion of that will be donated to St. Peter's UCC. Seating is limited so call (847) 673-4143 to make your reservation!

Our People

Happy birthday / anniversary! Having a birthday this week are Bruce Mau, Chad McCoy, Judy Paige's granddaughter Alexandra Paige, Christine Svenson, Heidi Tarzian, and Isabelle Banoyo. Today is Andre and Marcia's wedding anniversary, and in two days Beth and John Sterba will also mark their anniversary! May they sense God's presence as they celebrate.

HOSPITALIZED: Ron Schuhrke has been moved to hospice care back at Libertyville Manor, 610 Peterson Road, Libertyville, IL 60048. He had been admitted to Lake Forest Hospital for a handful of days. Pat Erdman had hip replacement surgery earlier this month, and is now getting physical therapy at Glenview Terrace, 1511 Greenwood Avenue, Glenview 60025.

According to the schedule, barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Mark Loach, and the Nursery attendant will be Rita McMahan.

Office Manager Laura Olson will be out of the office this coming Friday, November 17th. Pastor will be in, unless away on a call, after 10 AM.

The Board for Christian Education meet after worship this morning. **The Board of Finance** meets over Zoom at 1:30 PM.

The Micah 6:8 Committee meets over Zoom this evening at 6:30 PM.

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.

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!

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!



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

November 12, 2023

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 25:1-13

Tending God's Light

Stewardship Sunday

Today's story reminds us that we all carry the light of Christ within us, and it is our joy as well as our responsibility as followers of Christ to tend to that light so that it can shine brightly in service of God and the world.

As this year's stewardship materials remind us, because of YOU and the light you shine in the world, our church changes lives. The materials claim, "It is a statement both bold and simple. It boldly expresses the truth about the ultimate nature and the purpose of the church: to engage in acts of transformation. It boldly asserts that we see our mission as one that gives assurance to every individual that their life matters, not because we say so, but because the gospel says so."

...We can be bold because we know it's true. Our own life stories bear witness that being a part of the beloved community in some way has either made us different or causes us to fervently believe that it will. It gives us hope, reminds us of our value, calls us to discover and claim our purpose, clarifies the moral Right and Wrong, motivates us to be a part of something bigger than ourselves all for the sake of change! Change that can more closely align us and our world with the values of the Realm of God. Our church matters because of you.

Our theme, Because of YOU, our church changes lives, is also simple. It recognizes that each of us, by our gifts and the decisions we make to employ them, power this sacred work. Our resources make ministry happen. The arithmetic is not complex. Our choice to grow in our generosity to the church increases the impact of the difference it makes.

By choosing to give even a little bit more, we will expand our shared quest to change lives - even our own. Be bold! Take a step forward in your generosity. It's simple! The choice is yours!"

God has given you a light to tend. How will you tend that light today and into the year to come? The choice to let your light shine is as simple as it is bold. Let it shine!

Leviticus 19:9-13

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.

You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning.

1 Timothy 6:17-21

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Avoid the profane chatter and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge; by professing it some have missed the mark as regards the faith. Grace be with you.

Matthew 25:13-30

Jesus said, "Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his

property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.

In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for

this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”