



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
July 2, 2023  
10:00 AM**

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**Fifth 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?hosted_curl=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, July 2, 2023 at 10:00am**  
**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**PRELUDE** "Thaxted" by Holst

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Peggy Reins

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Our Call to Worship this morning is by singing "Let Jesus Lead You" a Capella led by Pastor Richard.*

**Let Jesus lead you, let Jesus lead you, let Jesus lead you  
all the way:**

**All the way from earth to glory. Let Jesus lead you-ou-  
ou all the way!**

**v. 2 He led Saint Peter, he led Saint Peter, he led Saint  
Peter all the way....**

**v. 3 He led my mother, he led my mother, he led my  
mother, all the way.....**

**v. 4. He's a mighty good leader, he's a mighty good  
leader.....**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

P: Great God, we want to end up in glory too, but we know there are some things within us we've got to get rid of, got to come clean from, got to ask You for help with, before that happens. So please hear our prayer of confession, Lord, because we trust You are right here in our midst. Let us pray:

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Lord we try to be loving and honest all the time, but sometimes our old human nature with its fears and pride creep in to change our behavior. We snap, we go cold, we fudge the truth for whatever reason.

**C: Forgive us and make us stronger, Jesus.**

P: We plan to be generous and kind with our time or money, God,

**C: But sometimes we listen to that little voice inside that says, "No." Forgive us and make us stronger, Holy Spirit.**

P: We see poverty, drug addiction, racism, and messed-up priorities in our world, and we point ourselves to a group we or our church can be part of that's making a difference,

**A: But then we feel overwhelmed, and figure our church is too tired, too. We stop. Forgive us, and make us both more hopeful and stronger to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, in whose blessed name we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *Hebrews 10:20-23*

P: “Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean . . . Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for the One who has promised is faithful.”

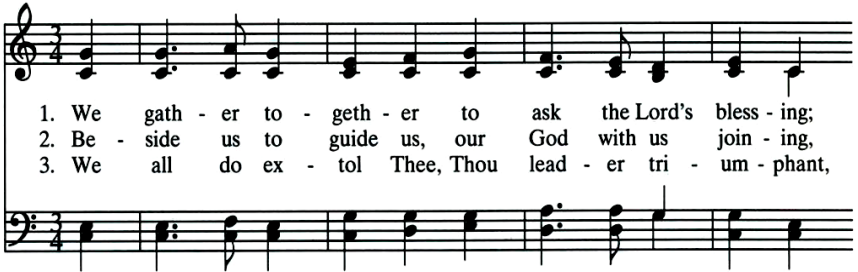
Through the grace of Christ crucified and risen, our sins are forgiven and that new life remains before us. God is not through with us! Let us now go forth in worship as God’s mercy turns us into grateful people, and in response to the good news of death-defeating love, let the congregation say . . .

**A: Alleluia! Amen.**

## HYMN

## "We Gather Together"

## SSB #12



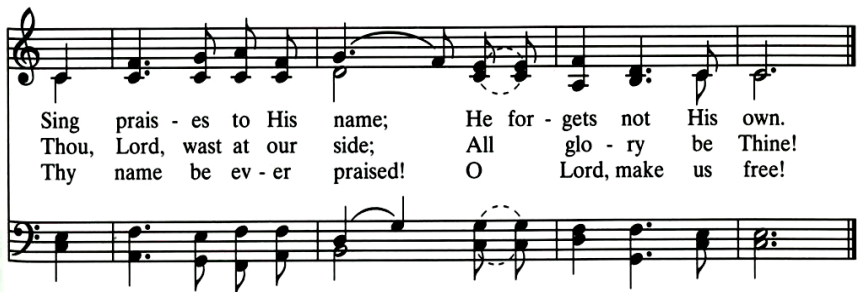
1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;  
 2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,  
 3. We all do ex - tol Thee, Thou lead - er tri - um - phant,



He chas - tens and has - tens His will to - make known;  
 Or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing His king - dom di - vine;  
 And pray that Thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.



The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing,  
 So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;  
 Let Thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;



Sing prais - es to His name; He for - gets not His own.  
 Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glo - ry be Thine!  
 Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

*The congregation may be seated*

**WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Karen Christianson

Old Testament: First Kings 18:17-24, 36-40; 19:1-3

Psalm 72:1-4, 12-14

New Testament: Acts 5:27-33, 39b-42

**MUSICAL MEDITATION** Selected

*Will those who are able please stand*

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 21:12-14

**DOXOLOGY**

Tune # 551

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,**

**Praise God all creatures here below,**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host,**

**Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost!**

**Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated*

**PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS**

**HOMILY**

“Our Rebellious Heritage”

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**Exhortation and Invitation**

**Sursum Corda:**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts!

**C: We lift them up to the Lord!**

**P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

## Prayer of Consecration

**RESPOND**  
**153**      **Eat of This Bread**

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Eat of This Bread'. It consists of four staves of music in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 65. The lyrics are: 'Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; come and be fed, come now and dine. Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; here all are fed, here all may dine.' Chords are indicated above the notes: Eb, Ab, Ddim, Gm, Cm, Fm, Fm7, Bb sus, Bb, Ddim, Gm, Cm, Fm, Bb, Eb.

Eat of this bread,      drink of this wine;  
come and be fed,      come now and dine.  
Eat of this bread,      drink of this wine;  
here all are fed,      here all may dine.

## The Words of Institution

## Participation

## CLOSING PRAYER AND 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

Would the congregation please rise

**HYMN** "My Country 'tis of Thee"

#441

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.

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** *Adapted from I Corinthians 13:7, 13*

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, endure all things, with faith, with hope, and above all, with love.

**C: Amen!**

**POSTLUDE** “God of the Nations” arr. Lehenbauer

*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	Jenn Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Kathy Zipperer

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# News in the Pews

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**As our nation prepares to celebrate its independence, we praise God for the freedom to gather for worship. Welcome to all.**

**In our closing hymn, to be inclusive you may sing 'forebears' in place of 'fathers' in verse 1. In verse 4, "our forebears' God" in place of "our fathers' God."**

**RUMMAGE SORTING will be Wednesday and Friday this week and we need LOTS of help, we have a lot of stuff already.** Join us on July 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 PM for sorting, our scheduled openers are Heidi & Christine. On Friday July 7<sup>th</sup> we'll be sorting from 10 AM to Noon, and Barb B. will be opening. Openers are subject to change!

**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!

**No July Announcer this year. Due to a lack of events next month,** it was decided to skip July and instead rely on our weekly emails and bulletins to communicate

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important things. *The deadline for the August newsletter will be July 17th.*

**The office will be closed July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and reopen on the 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**Next Friday afternoon the 7<sup>th</sup>** our Pastor will meet with the Skokie Officers Ethics Commission from 4 to 5 PM. The previous meeting was rescheduled.

**The ad hoc ONA Support Committee** meets at 7 o'clock Thursday, July 13th to tighten up some summer and fall plans.

**Mini Pantry donations still greatly needed!** If you are able please bring donations anytime!

**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.

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# Our People

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**Birthdays this week belong to** Mandy (Taheny) McDonald, her brother Mike Taheny, Ann Aler, Beth Lanford, Judy's grandson Danny Mahoney, Nancy Lindroth, Sandy Piper and Ron Schuhrke. Linda and Bruce Mau have an anniversary, too! God bless them all.

**The Board of Elders meets in-person after Communion Clean-up is over (if not during it).**

**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! It is also a good digital profile when on-line worshipers can enter YouTube through their Google account, 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.

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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! 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!** There are now copies of a list of suggestions and items by the narthex and on the shelves where the food is kept by the offices. Take one home! Demand has increased considerably since it was first installed last September. We always appreciate what is brought in, and the need does not go away. Perhaps if you are employed you could ask about doing a collection at your job. 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!

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UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## MISSION MOMENTS

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**July 2, 2023**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Matthew 10:40-42**

**Holy Welcome**

[Jesus said:] "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."

These are the very last words in the stirring and challenging set of instructions that Jesus gives to the disciples before he sends them forth to heal and to drive out evil. Their task is daunting, to go from town to town, carrying nothing with them. As they go, they are to speak to anyone who will listen, of Christ's healing and saving power. Jesus warns them this task will be difficult and at times even feel divisive. If anyone does not listen to the disciples, they are to shake the dust of that place from their feet and move on, preaching and teaching to new people. Jesus ends his instructions by reminding his followers that those who welcome them welcome Christ among them, and those who welcome Christ among them will find their way to God.

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These words continue to ring out for our denomination as delegates gather in person this weekend for the 34th United Church of Christ General Synod in Indianapolis, Indiana, under the theme, Making All Things New. During this time, attendees and delegates have the opportunity to fully live Jesus' welcoming vision. Like the disciples, they are encouraged to speak the truth of Christ's healing and life-giving presence. Like those who encountered the first disciples, sometimes that truth can feel challenging or even divisive. But Christ calls General Synod attendees to both speak and listen anyway.

This speaking and listening happens at General Synod this week over committees with clear agendas, in less formal conversations in hallways and parking lots, in worship and workshops, over vendor tables and, of course, in the main assembly, where all delegates gather to pray, deliberate, listen and speak. We do all this because Christ continues to assure us that where our words are welcomed, God is present. And when we can discern God's presence, we can better sense what God is calling us towards.

As the 34th General Synod draws to a close, we thank God for the opportunity to follow these old instructions as we Create A New Thing!

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*We begin with First Kings Chapter 18, verses 17 through 24, then 36-40, and ending with the first three verses of Chapter 19. The opening context is that Israel is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a drought, for which the prophet Elijah had called in the presence of King Ahab. Elijah pays Ahab a visit.*

**1 Kings 18:17-24, 36-40; 19:1-3**

When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" He answered, "I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals. Now therefore have all Israel assemble for me at Mount Carmel, with the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. Elijah then came near to all the people, and said, "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." The people did not answer him a word. Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets number four hundred fifty. Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the Lord; the god who answers by fire is indeed God." All the people answered, "Well spoken!"

*At this point Elijah goes over the details of the contest, and First Kings describes the failed attempts of Baal's prophets to provoke their god to light the wood on fire and consume the offering. Elijah makes fun of their god as to its delay. Finally, Elijah calls time and then makes his own wood and bull-offering harder for the Lord to set afire and consume, by pouring water on the wood and having a trough of water around the whole thing. Then the contest resumes between the two gods and their prophets.*

At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you

are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back."

Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench.

When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God." Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape." Then they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Wadi Kishon and killed them there.

*It did not happen immediately, but soon enough that day, the rains fell. Ahab ran off to Queen Jezebel and Elijah took off to Jezreel. The last three verses of the story:*

**1 Kings 19:1-3**

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

**Psalm 72:1-4, 12-14**

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.  
 May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.  
 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.  
 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,

give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.  
He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

From oppression and violence he redeems their life;

and precious is their blood in his sight.

*We'll remember that the early church was not welcomed by most of the Jewish religious leaders. In fact, when this begins, those leaders in Jerusalem had already ordered them to stop preaching in Jesus' name. This order was broken and the offending disciples were arrested.*

### **Acts 5:27-33, 39b-42**

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them.

*At this point a respected Jewish leader named Gamaliel recommended they not be jailed but be left alone. His argument carried the day. The story ends with these verses:*

They were convinced by him, and when they had called in the apostles, they had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. As they left the council, the disciples rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name. And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.

**Matthew 21:12-14**

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, "It is written, '*My house shall be called a house of prayer*'; but you are making it a den of robbers."

The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them.