



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
October 15,
2023
10:00 AM**

**Twentieth 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/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

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, October 15, 2023 at 10:00am
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

PRELUDE "Meditation No. 3 in B flat" by Franck

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Come along with me as a sojourner in faith. Bring along a sense of expectancy, a vision of high hopes, a glimpse of future possibility, a vivid imagination. For God's creation is not done.

C: **We are called to pioneer a new future with God. As we venture forward, we leave behind our desires for a no-risk life, worldly accumulations, certainty.**

P: Let us travel light in the spirit of faith and expectation toward the God of our hopes and dreams.

C: **Come along together as sojourners in faith, knowing that God goes with us and God is here now! Amen!**

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: We can come along together knowing that God goes with us, but in honesty, we also know that there are times we and God part company when what we want and what God wants for us diverge. So often we choose the lesser and need to be reconciled with God.

C: Reconciliation is one reason why Jesus came. Let us completely return to the Lord with a prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Holy One, sometimes we are our own worst enemy. There are times our anger at something or someone does not quickly depart but makes a home within us.

C: We let grudges start and harden and fester. Sometimes we are almost proud of them, so much do we believe in the rightness of our cause, and the wrongness of grudge's target.

P: We come to see that they can be bad for our health in more ways than one, yet we leave them be. We can even forget they are there, until summoned from the past by a story or an acquaintance. The claws can run deep and we are somehow poisoned a little.

C: Forgive us the self-righteousness behind our resentments, soften our hearts and change our minds, so we will become more and more like Your Son Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

A: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Isaiah 54: 9-10*

P: The Lord said to Isaiah, “This is like the days of Noah to me: Just as I swore that the waters of Noah would never again go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you and will not rebuke you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”

God’s love does not leave us even when we have angered God. This steadfast love is more long-lasting than the mountains and hills God created, and in Jesus Christ we most profoundly meet God’s mercy and forgiveness! Through Christ crucified and risen, God forgives our sins, cleans the slate, and begins to change us from the inside out for service in the kingdom. This is all magnificent life-changing news. Please join me in praising God for this, as we say . . .

A: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

HYMN "Sing Hallelujah to the Lord" SSB #1 *With repeat*

Descant

Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

Unison

Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-

Sing hal-le-lu-jah, hal - le - lu-

lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-lu-jah, sing hal-le-

jah; sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

lu-jah. Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

The congregation may be seated

A CALL TO OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Annie Noorts

Genesis 4:1-12

Epistle:

James 1:19-21

CHORAL ANTHEM “Servant Song”

Will those who are able please stand up

GOSPEL

Luke 9: 46-62

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,

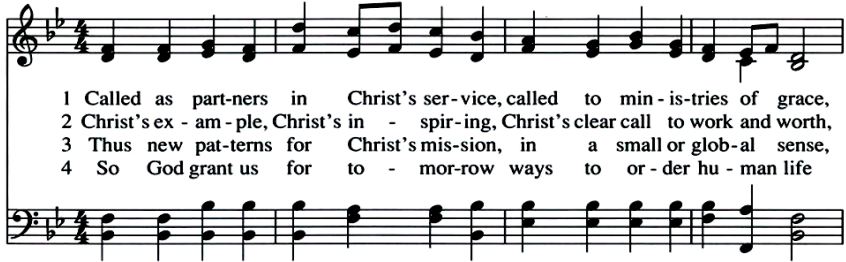
and the glory forever. Amen

SERMON

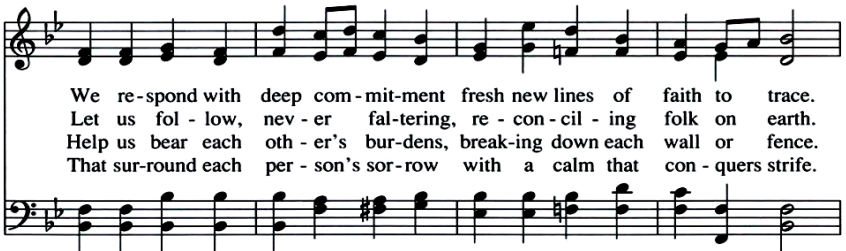
“On Resentment”

Will those who are able please rise to sing

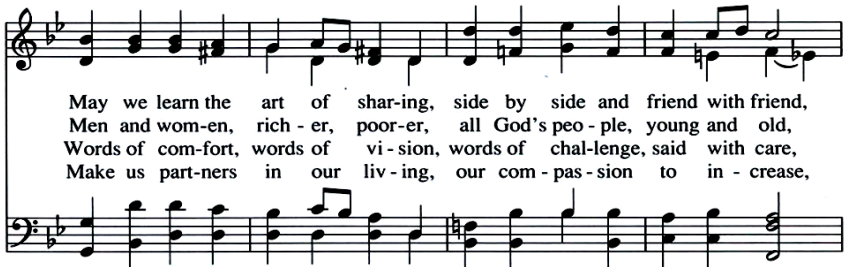
HYMN “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” SSB #13



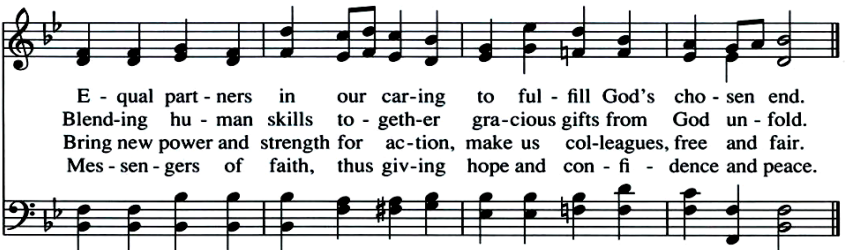
1 Called as part-ners in Christ’s ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ’s ex-am-ple, Christ’s in-spir-ing, Christ’s clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ’s mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, re-con-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er’s bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son’s sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God’s peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God’s cho-sen end.
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

P: Go in peace, keep the faith, love one another, serve the Lord.

A: Amen!

P: And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

C: **that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

A: Amen!

POSTLUDE

“In Celebration”

by Rainey

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	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Kathy Zipperer

News in the Pews

Friends, the King's banquet of life and love is ready! In baptism you have been clothed for the occasion. Welcome to worship.

Tomorrow is the deadline for articles for the November newsletter.

Thanks to those who organized, and those who attended last Sunday night's viewing and discussion of the video of the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer's address at Elmhurst College about White Christian Nationalism and its danger to church and country. It was a very enlightening, interesting and also disturbing time.

The St. Peter's Strategic Planning & Profile task force meets over Zoom at 7:00 PM this coming Thursday, October 19th.

This coming Saturday at 1 PM, Pastor Richard will be officiating at the funerals of Rev. Merritt Berg and his wife Elaine at G. L. Hills Funeral Home. A committal of the urns will be another day.

The St. Peter's Pet Blessing is next week! It starts at 3 o'clock in our Gym, starting with a brief reflection and prayer followed by the blessing of the animals. C.A.R.E. will be there to talk about, and show, animals available for adoption; there will be raffle baskets of prizes too! *Also, we need 3-4 volunteers for the Pet Blessing on Oct. 22nd from 2:30-3:45, a greeter, raffle ticket seller, assist with individual blessing flow/photographer and treat dispenser. Please call Marcia (847) 845-1840 if you*

are available and all donations are gratefully accepted. This is sure to be a purr-fectly wonderful experience^{^^}.*

It is time once again to donate to the Holiday Meals program at the Jewel at Village Crossing Shopping Center in Niles. This wonderful program started by Carol Iannotti provides a full holiday dinner for 4-6 people for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Laura facilitates this with District 69, UCAN and our neighborhood needy folks. All you have to 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!!

New Wifi Name! Due to technical difficulties, please use ATTUNITEDCHURCH1 to logon, the password has not changed.

St. Peter's UCC Skokie & Evanston Pride present

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche - Saturday, Oct 28th

at 5pm in the Memorial Room followed by Q&A

with the actors and food! St. Peter's United

Church of Christ in Skokie and Evanston Pride

have partnered to present 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche, brought

to you by Mosaic Players. Come join us for an evening of fun,

food, and the fabulous '50s like you've never seen them

before! Tickets are \$15 and must be purchased ahead of time.

The QR code will take you to the place to purchase them! *We*

are looking for one woman to play a silent character in the

show. You have no lines, you just sit there, but the actors refer

to you during the course of the show. We are also looking for 5-

10 individuals who can be on an "event team" to help with

some day-of-the-show activities. Help needed at noon that day

for chair set up, then starting at 4PM through the event and



refreshments after. Contact Jenn Schneider to volunteer: (224) 659-9158!

There will be a New Members / Seekers class after worship on Sunday, October 29th. There will also be a baptism in worship that day!

Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale will be November 4th from 10AM – 3PM. *We will need bakers!* If you are able, please bake goods and wrap individually and we will price them. *We will also need some helping hands the day of the craft show* starting at 7:30 AM. We try to help our vendors unload before the sale, so if you are able please let Wendy (847) 528-4545.

Our People

Happy birthday / anniversary! Having a birthday this week is Shawna Mendoza (formerly Shawna Taheny Frenzel); Anna and Hugh Riley have a wedding anniversary Saturday, and Ben Westphal and Charlie Rasmason have their first wedding anniversary next Sunday the 22nd (so Ben will be away next Sunday). God bless them all on their celebration days!

According to the schedule, barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Andre or Marcia. The Nursery attendant will be Laurie Mitchell.

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.

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.

Mini Food Pantry donations! We're in need once again of food for the mini-pantry, especially now that the weather is turning. There's a list taped to the mailboxes above the shelves where we keep the food if you need any suggestions, but we'll take anything! Thank you so much for your help!

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

October 15, 2023

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Philippians 4:1-9

Praiseworthy Living

Children's Sabbath

Laity Sunday

Today is Laity Sunday, the day we celebrate the many astounding gifts of people who are not authorized or ordained ministers, and yet serve the church in manifold ways. On this day, we remember that the priesthood of all believers means that every person has a vital part to play in the life of local congregations.

Laity Sunday is a day of joy, a day to remember that when we focus on standing with one another, even as we maintain a variety of perspectives or behaviors, we are living God's dream for us. Laity Sunday is a day to remember the gladness of giving into the spaciousness of God's call and purpose for all people. Laity Sunday is a day to focus on, as the letter writer exhorts in the epistle to the Philippians, "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."

Laity Sunday is a day to remember that this journey can be full of wonder and bursting with possibility. In short, Laity Sunday is a perfect day to play together. If you haven't already, it's a good day to check out "Grow Your Church: A Board Game for Engaging the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Congregations".

This game is designed to get people talking about church vitality through the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Churches. It will help deepen relationships with each other and with the congregation's covenantal partners while laughing, thinking creatively and having critical conversations.

This game is for the decision makers and strategic thinkers. It's for the board room and the dining room table. It's for the flower arranging committee and the deacons. This game is for people who love their church and want to experience it grow in vitality and faithfulness. Roll the dice and move about a garden path with your church friends!

You can learn more about the "Grow Your Church: A Board Game for Engaging the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Congregations", and order one for your own congregation at uccresources.org.

Genesis 4:1-12

Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have produced a man with the help of the Lord." Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground.

In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the Lord said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground!" And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

James 1:19-21

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of

wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

Luke 9:46-62

An argument arose among them as to which one of them was the greatest. But Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side, and said to them, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest." John answered, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us."

But Jesus said to him, "Do not stop him; for whoever is not against you is for you."

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the

plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."