

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
February 12,
2023**

10:00 AM

**Sixth Sunday after
Epiphany**



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL

A chalkboard with a white frame is positioned on a wooden floor. The text is written in white and pink chalk. The top line says "Do justice" with a small yellow hammer icon above the word "justice". The second line says "love MERCY" with a small red heart icon above the word "love". The third line says "WALK humbly" with a small green leafy branch icon above the word "humbly". The bottom line says "- micah - 6:8" in pink chalk.



Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. Following COVID safety protocols

Livestream on YouTube. Live at 10am then available on our channel



"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast. On Soundcloud, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



Ways to Give

Text Your Gift. 844-997-2346 Super easy after a first-time setup

PayPal. [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&url=https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/stpeteruccskokie) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peter's

Check or Cash. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

Vanco GivePlus App. Contact the church office to set up 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 invite 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, February 12, 2023 at 10:00am
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

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

PRELUDE "Azmon" arr. Callahan

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

Those who are able please stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: From restless sleep and anxious dreams,

C: Walk toward the light.

P: From shadowy fears and gloomy thoughts,

C: Walk in the light.

P: From dark depressions and worried futures,

C: Walk into the light.

**A: Upon us light has risen. This day, this moment, let
the light be to us warmth and joy!**

CALL TO CONFESSION *from Psalm 86*

P: Although we invoke the light from God, we know our hearts can dwell in shadows. The Psalmist sang, "Incline Your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

C: For You, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on You.”

P: Let us call on God, as we desire to come clean through our Savior and be reconciled. After reading the prayer silently to ourselves, we'll pray it aloud as one.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Great loving God, You know how we have walked away from Your ways, reasserting our own will and desires over the nudges and teaching of the Spirit. Sometimes we have done so deliberately, sometimes fearfully, and sometimes in forgetfulness or ignorance.

Forgive us, and strengthen us, we pray!

There have been times we've hurt others, known it at the time or learned about it later, and have let the tentacles of procrastination have their full effect:

we do not apologize or seek reconciliation.

We hope they'll forget, or forgive and forget.

We do not want to be accountable because that hurts.

Again, we confess to You, and pray for Your mercy and strength

to amend what we are and shape us into Your kind of people.

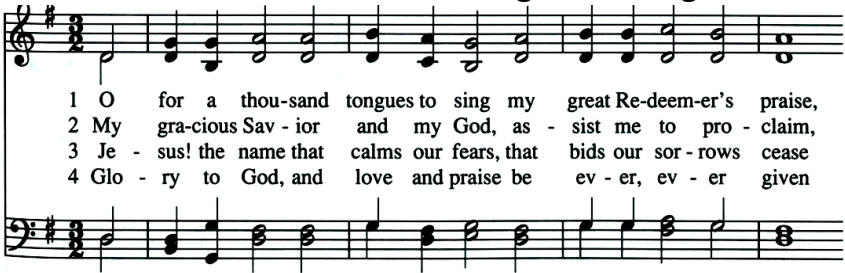
In the name of Jesus who reconciled us to You we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *from Hosea 14*

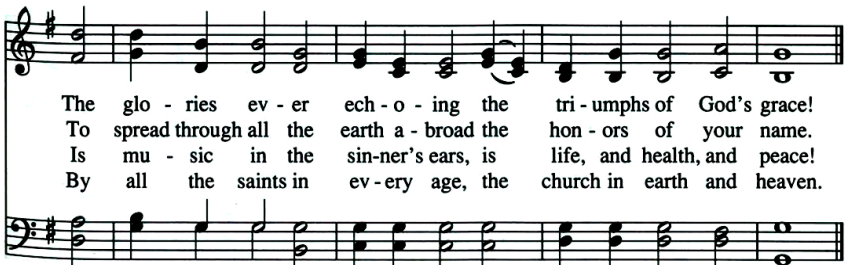
P: The Lord says through the prophet, "I will heal their disloyalty; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. I will be like the dew to Israel . . . they shall again live beneath my shadow, they shall flourish as a garden."

These words were first for a rebellious Israel; now in Jesus Christ crucified and risen, we too find forgiveness and change spoken here to us. God heals our disloyalty, for we were bent or broken; we will flourish anew by the mighty, tender, grace of God. Please join me in thanking God for this by saying . . .

A: Praises be to God! Amen.

HYMN "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" SSB #6


1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
 2 My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
 3 Je-sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease
 4 Glo-ry to God, and love and praise be ev-er, ev-er given



The glo-ries ev-er ech-o-ing the tri-umphs of God's grace!
 To spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
 Is mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
 By all the saints in ev-ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

The congregation may be seated

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

BIBLE PRESENTATION TO FELIX ROY SVENSON

Barbara Todd

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Beth Lanford

Old Testament:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Gospel:

Matthew 5:21-37

MUSICAL MEDITATION “Slane”

arr. Callahan

Will the congregation please rise

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Heidelberg Catechism

The Heidelberg Catechism is part of our heritage in the Reformed Church

P: What is your only comfort, in life and in death? (Q1)

A: **That I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him. Amen.**

***RESPONSE**

“We are an Offering”

SSB #11

We lift our voi - ces, — we lift our hands, — we lift our
 lives — up to You, we are an of - fer - ing; — Lord, use our
 voi - ces, — Lord, use our hands, — Lord, use our
 lives, — they are Yours, we are an of - fer - ing. —
 All that we have, — all that we are, —
 all that we hope to be we give to You, we
 give to You. — We lift our
 voi - ces, — we lift our hands, — we lift our
 lives — up to You, we are an of - fer - ing, — we are an of - fer - ing. —

The congregation may now take their seats

PASTORAL 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 “Exploring Reconciliation”

Will the congregation please rise and sing

HYMN “Up on a Mountaintop”

Sing to the tune of "Be Thou My Vision"

**Up on a mountaintop, Jesus sat down,
Teaching the people who gathered around:
Look for the blessings that God kindly brings;
God's loving kingdom is changing all things.**

**You are the salt and you're also the light.
Flavor God's world, with your faith shining bright.
Know that I've come here, God's word to fulfill.
Keep the commandments and follow them well.**

**Let go of anger, for it is a sin.
It will destroy you, both outside and in.
Even your thinking can lead you astray;
Whatever tempts you, just throw it away.**

**Keep strong the bonds between husband and wife;
Keep your commitments for all of your life.
Don't swear by heaven or by earth below;
Let "yes" be "yes" then,
and let "no" be "no."**

**If any hurt you, then you may resist,
But not with hatred or weapon or fist.
God's way is stronger than any you face;
Stand up and love them! And give them God's grace.**

**Love those who hate you and pray for them, too.
God's mercy reaches out far beyond you.
Seek, as God's people, God's wholeness each day
So you can witness to God's perfect way.**

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CHARGE & BENEDICTION

P: We are broken; may we live with compassion.

We are blessed; may we live with creativity.

We are beloved; may we live with courage. Amen.

C: Amen!

POSTLUDE

“Old Hundredth”

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.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

DEACON

Peter Svenson

LIVESTREAM RECORDING

Jenn Schneider

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Laurie Mitchell

News in the Pews

Paul tells us, “We are co-workers in God's service” (1 Corinthians 3:9, NIV). So we gather to be fed for a new week of ministry. Welcome!

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.

Today our “A Heart <3 Veterans Collection continues after starting last Sunday, having held our first Community Outreach collection here yesterday morning, and being open again today for contributions to our collection from 12 to 3 PM. See the Announcer or insert for details on supplies and help us collect goods for veterans transitioning from homelessness to homes! Also, there will be a special presentation during Coffee hour today from a retired General letting us know how we can help through the collection we're doing. Please stay for that; he expects to begin his presentation at 11:15. Thank you to all involved! This opportunity goes on throughout the month of February.

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 22nd. There will be a service at 11:30 AM (any singing is a Capella), and another at 7 PM with Communion. Optional imposition of ashes during the Prayer of Confession at both.

A for the Veterans

Move-in Essentials Collection

GIVE A GIFT TO VETERANS EXITING HOMELESSNESS

Personal Hygiene:

Bath Soap ★ Hand Soap
Toothbrush ★ Toothpaste
Deodorant
Shaving Cream
Hairbrush ★ Comb
Nail Clippers

Kitchen & Cleaning:

Dishwashing Liquid
Paper Towels ★ Windex
Kitchen Trash Can
Garbage Bags ★ Dish Cloth
Mop & Bucket ★ Sponge
Broom & Dustpan

Bathroom:

Toilet Brush ★ Plunger
Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Bath Towels ★ Wash Cloth
Shower Curtain
Toilet Paper

Miscellaneous:

Flashlight ★ Light Bulbs
Sandwich Bags
Laundry Detergent
Hamper ★ Laundry Basket
Aluminum Foil
Pot Holders

VISIT STPETERUCCSKOKIE.ORG FOR MORE INFO

Feb 11th 9-12_{pm}

Feb 12th 12-3_{pm}

St Peter's UCC

8013 Laramie

Open to All!

The Board of Finance meets later today over Zoom at 1 o'clock.

The Lenten Soup n- Bible Study will begin Wednesday evening, March 1st. The plan is to meet in person, with the previous Soup-n-Study format of gathering and eating from 6:30 to 7:00 PM, then going over our chapter from 7 to 8 PM. If there is substantial resistance to meeting in person or rotating "soup responsibilities," we will adjust! The study as it comes to us will be of the first part of the Gospel according to John (Chapters 1 through 5:18). The Booklet actually has 10 studies, but we will stop after 5 to stay within Lenten parameters (ending Wednesday, March 29th). Right now, the booklet is only available to download at a cost of less than \$6 each. We are able to print some hard copies for people who do not or cannot download material. Please let Pastor know if you are interested, and let him know if you can receive and make use of a downloadable study booklet! It is found through a search for Listen Up! Bible Studies on the ucc.org website.

Donation Statements: Donation statements have been mailed out to those not in attendance for the Annual Meeting. If you did not receive one and think you should or had any problems with yours, please let Laura in the office know.

Food donations for the mini-pantry are needed! We are starting to get low and could use more donations. There's a list of suggested items on the shelves under the office mailboxes if you need help, but we'll be glad to take all food donations!

Our People

Sharon Johnson had successful hernia surgery last Monday and is recuperating at home. Please remember her in your prayers. Folks for whom we have recently prayed, Ron Schuhrke and Gena Zelenka, both have reported getting better!

Birthdays this week belong to Susan (Burmeister) Speicher and one of our baptizees, Atlas Fink! Ken and Karen Christianson mark a wedding anniversary today. God bless them all!

Lenten devotionals have been ordered and should arrive sometime next week.

Are you on our email list? Get weekly updates, our monthly Announcer and weekly electronic bulletins and more by signing up. Give us your email address on the attendance register, or email us at office@stpeteruccskokie.org!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

Regular Reminders!

Donations always needed for our food pantry. There's a list of items on the shelves outside the offices if you aren't sure what to buy. Items can be left on those same shelves under the stairs by the offices.

Pastor's Podcast is now on all the Podcast platforms- iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! You can also get it via the church's webpage link. Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.



MISSION MOMENTS

February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Matthew 5:21-37

From the Heart

**Racial Justice Sunday/Science and Technology
Sunday**

First Congregational Church UCC of Poughkeepsie, NY knows that most people find new churches through webpages, and they want to assure that all who visit understand their stand on the importance of science as a companion to faith. Their website has a whole page dedicated to explaining their stance on the value of science.

“For too long, science and faith have had a combustible relationship...Some people like to describe science as being true whether you believe in it or not because it is based in conducting repeatable experiments, collecting measurable data and arriving at conclusions that match the data. Many consider faith, if not contrary to science, at least completely separate from it because they regard faith as believing in what cannot be proven.

But in the United Church of Christ, we don't regard science and faith as mutually exclusive, or as occupying completely separate realms. Instead, we want them to be engaged in conversation because we think they each have something to offer to the other. For we trust that God is still speaking, and we listen for God's voice not just in places of quiet contemplation or majestic beauty, but also in labs and lecture halls, through the lenses of microscopes and telescopes, in moments of discovery and through efforts to understand the world around us. We value intellectual curiosity and the way that science can uncover new information that expands our perspective. Because we are committed to service, social and economic justice, and careful stewardship of creation, we also are interested in the ways scientific discoveries can support or undermine these commitments.

So it is not surprising that since 2008, our congregation has chosen to recognize in worship the mutually valuable insights that can be gained when science and faith are in open and honest dialogue with one another. Indeed we desire a faith that is "scientifically sophisticated, technologically advanced, morally just, ecologically sustainable, and spiritually alive." (from the UCC's Pastoral Letter on Faith Engaging Science and Technology).

We want to make clear the UCC's belief that science and religion are not mutually exclusive, and we extend our unequivocal welcome to persons who devote their lives to scientific inquiry, no matter the discipline.

We are a thoughtful, thinking church."

"Faith and Science." www.opentogod.org/science.

Deuteronomy 30:15 - 20

Moses said, ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Matthew 5:21 - 37

Jesus said, ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your

brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.