



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,**

**August 13, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

---

**Eleventh Sunday  
After Pentecost**

**Healing Service**



Service  
of  
Healing



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL



# 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=paypal-merchant-directory&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**



**RESPONSE** "Awesome God" SSB #21 (with repeat)

Our God is an awe - some God, he  
reigns from heav - en a - bove with wis - dom,  
pow'r, and love— our God is an awe - some God!  
Our God is an awe - some God! Our God is an awe - some God!

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in the Source of grace, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer, and then together aloud.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

A: Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to You the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray, in Jesus' name. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *Isaiah 53: 4, 5*

P: “Surely, he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.”

Christians believe this prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus’ passion and death, for our sins and those of the world. It’s an expression of God’s ultimate loving sacrifice for the good of the beloved, the human race, to bring us back to God forgiven and made whole in soul. Speechless though we ought to be, will the church join me in gratitude by saying . . .

**A: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

# HYMN "There is a Balm in Gilead" SSB #23

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-c-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,  
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."  
 and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

*The congregation may be seated*

## **A CALL TO OFFERING**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Beth Lanford

Old Testament:

Isaiah 53:1-5

Epistle:

James 5:13-18

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

J. Rodriguez

*Will those who are able please stand up*

### **GOSPEL**

John 20:19-23

### **DOXOLOGY**

Tune #551

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

**Praise God all creatures here below!**

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

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated*

## **SERVICE OF HEALING**

### **PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS**

*During the prayers for healing Pastor Lanford will offer a prayer of thanksgiving over oil . . . Then he will say . . .*

P: Those who desire to be anointed and to have hands laid on them for spiritual healing may come forward down the center aisle. If you wish me to come to you, raise your hand high or ask your neighbor to identify you for me. You may come for yourself, or you may come as a channel of God’s healing power for someone else. During this time, I invite all present to make silent prayers for each one who comes forward.

### **THE ACT OF ANOINTING WITH OIL**

### **THE LAYING ON OF HANDS**

**BRIEF CLOSING PRAYER****CONTINUING PASTORAL PRAYER****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** "Come, You Hungry Ones"

*Please sing to the tune 'Kum-ba-yah'*

**"Come, you hungry ones," Jesus said. "Come to me and know: I am Bread! Come, you weary ones, you are blest! In me, find your rest."**

**Hear our cry, O God, hear our prayer! Heal the ones who know deep despair; Mend the broken ones from their pain. Make them whole again.**

**God, we need you, too, so we pray: Give us life and health every day. Give us joy and peace, trusting you. In Christ, make us new.**

**We are saved, O Lord, by your grace; We are healed and sent from this place. Through your Spirit's gifts, may we share Your love everywhere.**

***Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship** by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Geneva Press, 2000) 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 the book.  
The congregation may sit down

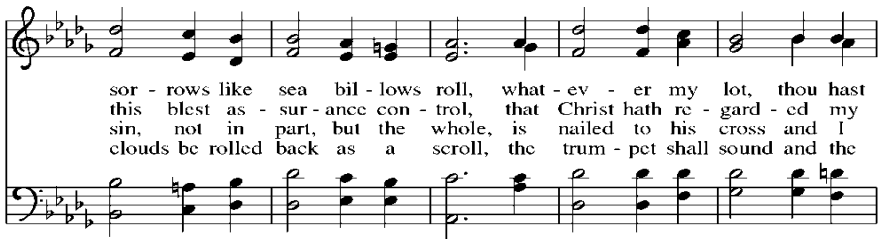
## HOMILY "Aspects of Healing"

Will those who are able please rise to sing

## HYMN "Peace Like a River (It is Well)" SSB #24



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul.

---

**CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

*Given at the 2020 IL Conference Annual Celebration*

P: We are broken;

**C: may we live with compassion.**

P: We are blessed;

**C: may we live with creativity.**

P: We are beloved;

**C: May we live with courage.**

**A: By the grace of God, Amen!**

**POSTLUDE**

“Joy Overflowing”

P. 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

Beth Lanford

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Mike Ryan

---

---

# News in the Pews

---

**Welcome to worship, Christian education and fellowship — a chance to be fed and nourished by God’s Word before being sent again to serve the world in the week ahead.**

**If you’re wondering about our service of healing, here’s how we do it:** It’s during the pastoral prayer, when the prayers are for healing. Then, as prompted, coming forward to receive the anointing with oil and the laying-on of hands is, of course, voluntary. Pastor Richard will make the sign of the cross on your forehead (like the ashes on Ash Wednesday), and gently lay his hands on top of your head for some extra words of prayer and blessing. Folks are welcome to come for themselves, or on behalf of someone else. We ask that those who remain in their pews please join the others in the spirit of prayer. The words used are from The Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ.

**Please join us downstairs after worship for a very special coffee hour!** Your St. Peter’s ad hoc ONA Support Committee encourages you to come downstairs for coffee hour and a screening of the trans-related documentary “Learn with Love,” created by the Trevor Project. This film is part of Trevor Project’s initiative to protect transgender and non-binary young people amid increased political and physical attacks across the U.S. The mission of the Trevor Project is to end suicide by LGBTQ young folk. Please plan to stay; the documentary is not long; and our conversation together afterward includes members of the ad hoc ONA Support Committee who will share why supporting transgender youth

---

---

and adults is an important aspect of our church's covenant to be Open and Affirming.

**The deadline for articles** of the September 2023 newsletter is a week from tomorrow: Monday, August 21st!

**The Church Council meets after worship next Sunday, August 20th.** If you are responsible for a report, please prepare it and submit it to the August Council 2023 Drop Box as soon as you are able. The sooner you get it in, the more time the rest of the Council folks have time to read and digest it!

**RUMMAGE SORTING SCHEDULE:** Openers and sorting times this week are Rita, Tuesday from 10 AM to noon, Carolyn/Carol, Wednesday from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM and Barb B., Friday from 10 AM to noon. You are welcome to come anytime within those hours and stay as long as you are able.

**In two weeks, on Sunday the 27th, our worship service will be held at Lorel Park.** Helpers and a truck from the Village will arrive at the Laramie Avenue entrance at 9 AM to pick up folding chairs, a Deacon's table if desired, a music stand or two, and maybe more. The service cannot be live-streamed, so we encourage folks coming in person when possible, and it will be recorded for our YouTube channel so folks can attend the service virtually, later. For a picnic afterwards, we ask those whose last names begin with letters A through M bring a dessert or chips, and those whose last names begin with a letter from N to Z please bring a dish or nice side to share. It is BYOB. Maybe if someone brings some various kinds of balls / gloves, we can use the park for more than just worship, grub and talk!

---

---

# Our People

---

**Happy birthday / anniversary!** Having a birthday this week are Elliott Kerbel, Karen Rector, Tom Schaller and Rich Miller. Ron and Stephanie Lundeen have their wedding anniversary too! God's blessings are wished for all of them.

**According to the schedule,** barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Olivia Altmayer; the Nursery Attendant is to be Annie Noorts.

**Please remember to lift up in prayers:** Judy Paige as she recovers from her knee surgery (not replacement); also, Jenn Schneider's mom Dorene Schurman is in hospice. Beth Lanford will have left hip replacement surgery on August 15th. Those mourning recent family deaths include Laurie Mitchell, Jen Schneider (stepmom Carolyn Boyer) and Bill Orpet.

Our Call to Worship is reprinted by permission of the publisher from Touch Holiness, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright 1990 by The Pilgrim Press. Copyright 2012 Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Our Call to, and Prayer of, Confession, are written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

---

## 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! 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!**

**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**

---

**August 13, 2023**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28**

**When All Seems Lost**

In today's story, Joseph, the youngest and favorite son of Jacob is gifted a beautiful coat by his father. Joseph's brothers are jealous of Jacob's favor, and turn on him, plotting to kill him. One brother, Reuben, softens and suggests instead that they throw him in a pit. He tells his brothers that then they will be spared the blood guilt of killing their brother directly but thinks to himself that he will come back at a later time and rescue him. Then, seeing some slave traders passing by, the brothers decide to sell Joseph instead. Then, they take his coat, which they have torn and bloodied, to their father as proof that his favorite is no more.

---

---

This story, and Joseph's adventures in Egypt that follow this capture, was memorably made into a musical by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Weber more than fifty years ago. The musical, which began as a 15-minute cantata, has grown into a full length and often-staged musical, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat\*. If not the only, it is certainly the most popular staged musical interpretation of a Genesis story, beginning with the lines,

“Way, way back many centuries ago,  
Not long after the Bible began.  
Jacob lived in the land of Canaan,  
A fine example of a family man...”\*

and ending with a rousing call to follow your dreams no matter the circumstances.

For many, the musical, like another Rice and Weber production, Jesus Christ Superstar, has been a gateway into learning a bible story that they would not have easily walked into another way.

What about you? How have you learned the bible? What songs or chants have helped you to take it to heart and know it by heart? How can we, in our churches, introduce both our members and those in our communities to the stories that form our faith?

\*You can find this and all the songs from the musical at this resource: Webber, L.A. (1992). Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Songbook. Hal Leonard.

---



**Isaiah 53:1-5**

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

**James 5:13-18**

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for

three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

**John 20:19-23**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."