



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
December 24,
2022
7:00 PM**

Christmas Eve





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_button_id=68888888888888888888888888888888)

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

OPENING RESPONSE "Joy to the World"

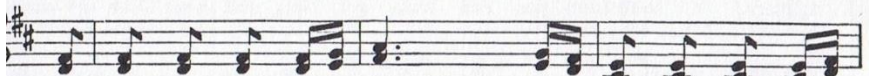
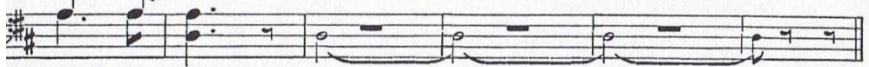
#120



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - iour reigns: Let men their
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the



ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness,



And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His

And Re - peat the sound - ing joy,
 And won - ders of His love,



And
 Re -
 And



sing, And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love. A-MEN.



heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of His love,

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: We have come, all we faithful, joyful yet knowing how undeserving we have been of this manifestation of the grace of our God. Beneath the star, lower than the angels, and before the manger, please join me in a responsive confession of sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: O God, whose wondrous love took the form of a little boy:

C: We confess, honestly and sadly, our great lack of love.

P: We fail to love the unlovely, because the effort seems foredoomed.

C: We forget that, in your sight, as we sin, none of us is lovely.

P: Sometimes we are so hard on the ones that we love.

C: We forget that, with you, love means acceptance first.

P: And Lord, we suspect that we do not love even ourselves properly;

C: And that the poverty of our love may reflect our failure to accept the riches of your love,

P: Offered to us, again and again, freely and gladly, in the form of that little boy.

A: Forgive us, merciful Lord, for his sake, and in his name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Luke 1:76-77*

P: Zechariah, speaking of his newborn son John and thus also of Jesus, “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.”

John’s message was Jesus, and that in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven! By the power of His death and resurrection, our lives can be changed more and more to resemble, reflect, and reveal the same Jesus Christ who lives within all who receive him. In laying hold of this spectacular love of God, embodied in the One whose birth we celebrate, will the congregation join me in saying . . .

A: Alleluia! Amen.

HYMN “Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

Chorus: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere! Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

**When I was a sinner, I prayed both night and day; I asked the Lord to help me, and He showed me the way.
Chorus**

**When I was a seeker, I sought both night and day; I asked my Lord to help me, and He taught me to pray.
Chorus**

**He made me a watchman upon the city wall; And if I
am a Christian, I am the least of all.**

Chorus

The congregation may take their seats

THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

A Prophecy of the Messiah's Message

Luke 1:24-25, 57-58, 67-79

Read by Beth Sterba

THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY

Luke 1: 39-56

The Magnificat

Read by Peggy Reins

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph's Dream

Read by Barb Todd

Luke 2:1-7

The Journey and the Birth

Read by Bill Schaller

ANTHEM

"Lullaby for a King"

by Hughes

Luke 2:8-20

Of Shepherds and Angels

Read by Beth Lanford

Philippians 2:5-11

Paul's version of The Incarnation

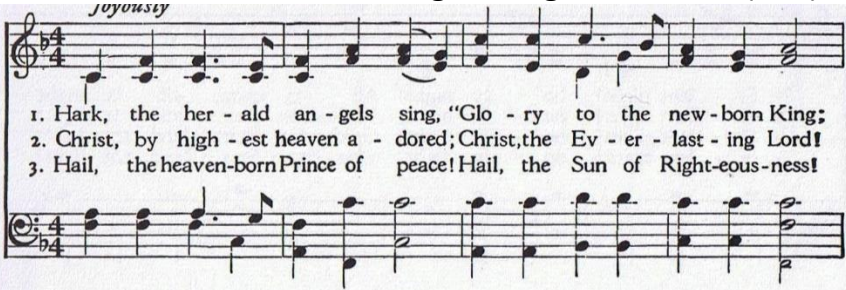
Read by Carolyn Van Til

THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

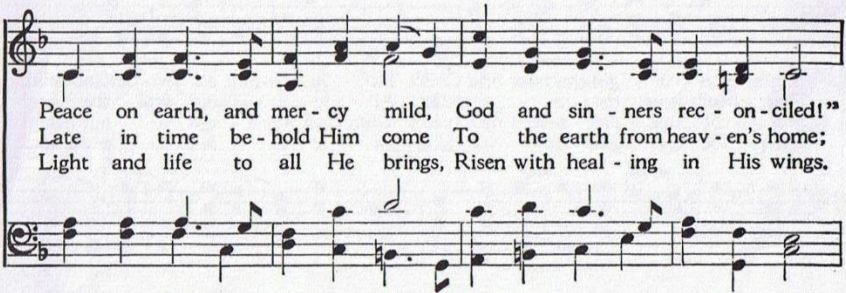
Will those who are able please rise to sing

HYMN: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #102 (v. 1)

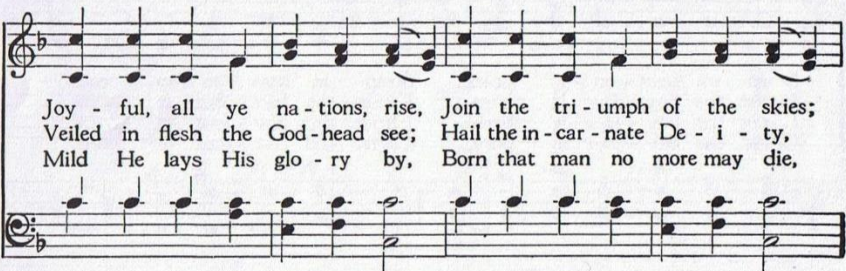
joyously



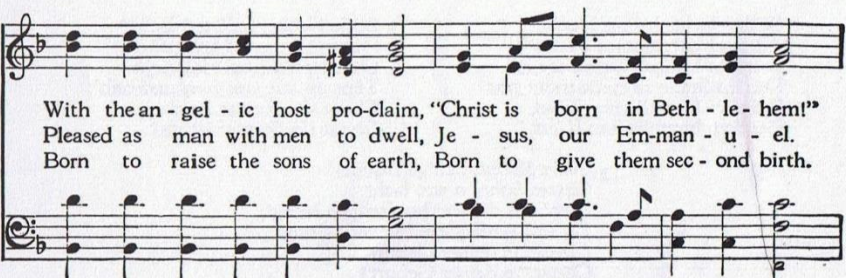
1. Hark, the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the Ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come To the earth from heav - en's home;
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

THE CHRIST CANDLE IS LIT

P: Christmas is a time of wonder – the wonder of Jesus; God-with-us; the Promised One, the Light of the world, the Holy One of God.

On this holy night, we light the Christ candle and we wonder:

C: Is Jesus really here?

P: We light this Christ-candle and we wonder:

C: Jesus is really here!

P: We light this Christ-candle and we know . . .

**C: God is with us, the Promised One has come,
The Light of the world breaks through the shadows,
The Holy One of God brings peace, hope, love and
joy.**

HYMN

"The First Noel"

#118 (vv. 1, 2)

In the style of a Carol

1. The first No - well the an - gels did say Was to cer - tain poor
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, Shin - ing in the
 3. And by the light of that same star, Three Wise Men
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er Beth - le -
 5. Then en - tered in those Wise Men three Full rev - erent -
 6. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es

shep - herds in fields as they lay, In fields as they lay keep - ing their
 east be - yond them far, And to the earth it gave great
 came from a coun - try a - far, To seek for a king was their in -
 hem it took its rest, And there it did both stop and
 ly up - on their knee, And of - fered there in His pres -
 to our heav - en - ly Lord, That hath made heaven and earth of

REFRAIN

sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep. No - well, No -
 light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 tent, And to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 stay, Right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay,
 ence Their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.
 naught, And with His blood man - kind hath bought.

MEDITATION

“Like Mary: Treasuring, Pondering, Following”

Will the congregation please rise and sing

HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High” #105 (vv. 1, 3)

1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad ti - dings did you hear?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a . . . in ex - cel - sis De - o. A - MEN.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration

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

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

For those of us in person, the ushers will receive light from the Christ Candle and come up the center aisle. The ushers will light the candle of the person nearest the center aisle. Then you pass it on down your pew. How? When you light the candle of the person next to you, keep your candle straight up. To light your candle, tip your unlit candle into the untipped flame offered to you. For those of you joining us virtually, you are invited to light your own candle, and then sing along. When all candles are lit, the lights will begin to fade out. Lights will slowly rise during the Postlude.

Will the congregation please rise and sing

HYMN: "Silent Night"

#101 (vv. 1, 2)

Quietly

1. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright;
 2. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Dark - ness flies, all is light;
 3. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Guid - ing Star, lend thy light!
 4. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Won - drous Star, lend thy light!

'Round yon vir - gin moth - er and Child, Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild;
 Shep - herds hear the an - gels sing: Al - le - lu - ia! hail the King!
 See the east - ern wise men bring Gifts and hom - age to our King!
 With the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our King!

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ the Sav - iour is born, Christ the Sav - iour is born.
 Christ the Sav - iour is born, Christ the Sav - iour is born.
 Christ the Sav - iour is born, Christ the Sav - iour is born.

BENEDICTION

P: May the stars be extra bright,
 May the song of the angels be clear.
 May the love of God hold you tonight,
 And may God bring joy to you and all who are near.
 Amen.

C: Amen!

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

POSTLUDE “Joy to the World!” by Callahan

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	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY POINSETTIAS 2023

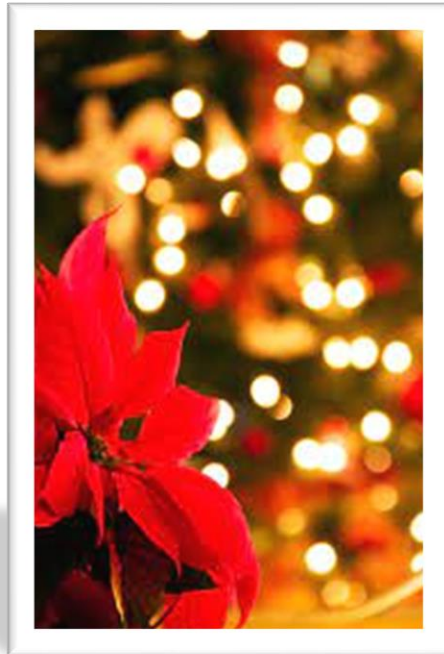
**Maria & Randy
Altmayer**
In Memory of Tom
Altmayer

Sue & Barbara Bailey
In Memory of Our
Loved Ones

Ann Herren
In honor of my
mother, Katy
Bowman, who
taught me about gardening and so much
more

Sharon Johnson
In Memory of Johnnie & Susan

Rita McMahon
In Memory of David Eberhardt



Annie Noorts

In memory of my mother, Joan Stahl who
always made the Christmas season extra
special

Judy Paige

In Memory of Loved Ones

Harold Ruesch's Daughters

In Memory of Ruesch Family Loved Ones

Marlene Russell

In Honor of Friendship and in Memory of
Loved Ones

**Theresa Stielow, Martha Mazur and Susan
Schmidt**

In Memory of our Parents, Harold and
Jacqueline Ruesch



News in the Pews

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright” (Joseph Mohr). Silent and calm, until a newborn wails and angels illumine the fields! Holy indeed. Merry Christmas, and welcome to worship!

Thank you to our lectors, our Choir, all who ordered, brought up to the chancel, and organized the poinsettias, our live-streamer, Communion Elders, Deacons, volunteers behind the scenes, our staff, and you for attending or joining us through the live-stream! Thanks too to Ben Westphal our Music Director, and Office Administrator Laura Olson for the extra work they put in for Advent, for tonight’s service and communicating the bulletin and links!

In singing 'Joy to the World,' "to be inclusive, in verse 2 you may wish to sing "let earth her songs employ" instead of "let men their songs employ."

The 2024 offering envelopes are ready to be picked up! They will be downstairs in the Memorial Room. Based on the reduced usage by previous envelope holders, we ordered fewer than before. This means there are now fewer boxes and numbers going out. Box numbers had to be adjusted to reflect that change. As a result, if you get offering envelopes, you probably are getting a

different box/envelope number this year. 2024 wall calendars courtesy of Haben Funeral Home, with St. Peter's contact information, are also very available for pick-up in the Narthex, on a desk by the office, and in the Memorial Room.

The Sunday School Program is collecting “Baby Items for Jesus” as their yearly mission project. Please donate diapers, wipes, lotions, baby food, baby snacks and formula to the tree under the sanctuary on Sundays or leave by the office and we'll bring it upstairs. December 31st is the last Sunday to bring something!

AJH Kitchen Join us on Saturday, December 30th from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM (service is from 12 to 2) to serve at A Just Harvest Kitchen in Chicago, Rogers Park area. Contact Chad if you can volunteer to serve, and please contribute to the cost of the meal so it will add up to the \$500! Thank you in advance.

The Church Office will be closed Monday, December 25. Pastor Lanford is on vacation December 26th through the 31st, as Laura will be on Wednesday, December 27th through Friday the 29th. The office will also be closed on Monday, January 1 2023.

Sunday School resumes at 9 AM on Sunday, January 7th.

The months of January / early February hold our annual Soft Goods collection - Start cleaning out your closets, basements, garages and storage for our Winter FUNDdrive Soft Goods collection. We'll take clothing, linens, bedding, accessories like shoes, hats, bets, purses, gloves, scarves etc. stuffed toys and anything soft and fabric like. They pay by the pound, and this is a great way for folks to help us and themselves!! All must have been donated by the end of office hours **Friday, February 9th**. The truck is coming the next morning. Contact Annie Noorts or the office with questions.

There is worship next Sunday morning! We will have a special service on December 31st, comprised of singing, prayers, Scriptures, readings beyond Scripture, and closing with a tradition Ben is introducing us to called Sharing the Light of Christ. No sermon but lots of other good stuff to enjoy together in Christmastide worship. Be sure to come and join us!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
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.

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.

About Communion: We are passing the plate again with the pre-filled cups on them! We suggest you start to peel back the lid to get to the wafer before this prompting! If you are with us on-line, we ask you to please have some bread, roll or some food meaningful you (for the bread / body to be consecrated during the service) and likewise juice, water or other beverage (for the wine / blood of Christ) and likewise, partake when the minister prompts us. Thank you!
