



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
December 4,  
2022**

**10:00 AM**

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**Second Sunday of  
Advent**



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

8013 LARAMIE AVE - SKOKIE, IL - 60077



# 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](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, December 4, 2022 at 10:00am**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

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

**PRELUDE**                      “Come You People of the Promise”

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Those who are able please stand*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: From the flurry of holiday busyness,

**C: We come longing for peace,**

P: Yearning for lasting joy,

**C: Hoping to find our rest in God.**

P: From full calendars and hectic schedules,

**C: We come to taste the Bread of Life,**

P: Drink the cup of blessing,

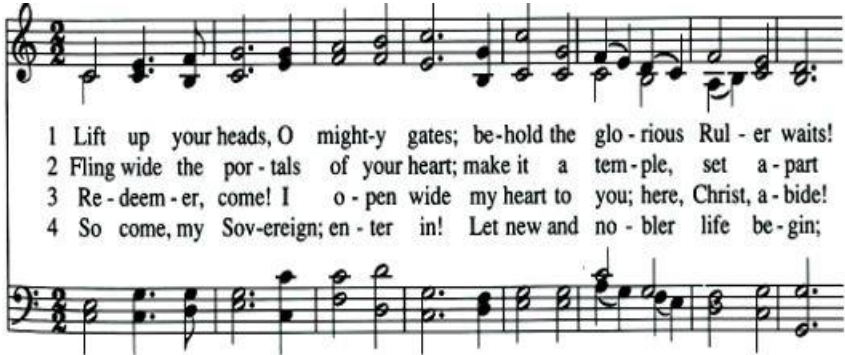
**C: Sing the songs of Advent hope.**

P: From the worry of our days,

**C: We come to be set free,**

P: Be made new,

**A: Follow the Prince of Peace, the joy of every longing heart.**

**OPENING RESPONSE “Lift Up Your Heads” SSB #9 (v.1)**


1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo-ri-ous Rul-er waits!  
 2 Fling wide the por-tals of your heart; make it a tem-ple, set a-part  
 3 Re-deem-er, come! I o-pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a-bide!  
 4 So come, my Sov-ereign; en-ter in! Let new and no-bler life be-gin;



The Sov-ereign One is draw-ing near; the Sav-ior of the world is here.  
 From earth-ly use for heaven's em-ploy, a-dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 Let me your in-ner pres-ence feel; your grace and love in me re-veal.  
 Your Ho-ly Spir-it guide us on, un-til the glo-ri-ous crown be won.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: Friends, we are in the presence of the ineffable and holy God! Let us humbly confess our neediness, our need for spiritual mending, asking for grace and mercy. Let us first read this confession silently to ourselves, to make it our prayer, and then we'll pray it aloud together.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**A:** God of the loving heart, we confess before You those places in our hearts where we have refused You entrance: people we have refused to love; habits we never get around to changing; good things we have left undone; and ways in which we hurt You, ourselves, and others. Come to

**us in the light of Christ. Shine on those places we have hidden from You. Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that Christ may find a home among us and within us. Be known among us now and forever! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

P: In contrasting the effects of Adam and Jesus, Paul wrote, "Therefore, just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous . . . where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 5:18ff).

Jesus came to bring grace, forgiveness, the basis of a new covenant with God righting our relationship with the Almighty as we could not do ourselves. In Christ we are set right, and equipped for the changed, God-centered life of love we now lead. Please join me in acclamation of this priceless news by saying . . .

**A: Alleluia! Amen.**

## HYMN "Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn"



1. A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, For  
 2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3. In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, When  
 4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, Though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, His hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, As morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, The ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, Be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, Yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, So warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, Be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, To bring all hearts to -  
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul And hymns of lov - ing  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, The lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer, And love, our end - less



geth - er, He o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door And  
 kind - ness, The thun - der of his an - thems roll To  
 won - der, The weak be raised a - bove the strong, And  
 sto - ry, May God fill ev - 'ry day we share, And



lives now in - side us for ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

*The congregation may be seated*

## **LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**

*Lighting the Candle of Peace this morning and sharing some thoughts on what hope means to her is Beth Lanford.*

**RESPONSE** “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” (v. 2)

**Light two candles to watch for Messiah;**

**Let the light banish darkness.**

**He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.**

## **WORDS ABOUT OFFERING**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Rich Schneider

Old Testament:

Isaiah 11:1-10

Epistle:

Romans 15:4-13

### **VOCAL SOLO**

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Rich Schneider, Tenor

*Those who are able please stand*

### **GOSPEL:**

Matthew 3:1-12

### **RESPONSE:**

“Alleluia”

#495

*The congregation may retake their seats*

## **PASTORAL & SILENT PRAYERS**

**HOMILY** “The Good News, and Fruit, of Repentance”

## **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

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**

*Will those who are able please rise to sing*

**HYMN: “God, We Await Your Advent Here”**

*Sing to the tune “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”*

**God, we await your advent here:  
When will these desert lands rejoice?  
When will new blossoms bright appear  
And all earth praise you with one voice?**

**We live in deserts we have made;  
Gifts of your love we pass right by.  
We seek possessions, more each day,  
And then in thirst for joy, we cry.**

**God, we prepare for Jesus' birth —  
Searching for gifts from store to store!  
Yet when you sent your Christ to earth,  
You gave us joy worth so much more.**

**When in the love of Christ we grow,  
Streams in this desert shall abound.  
Then by your Spirit we will know:  
True wealth in Jesus Christ is found.**

*Text: Copyright © 1998 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.*

*Included in **Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship** (Geneva Press, 2000). The book 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. Pastor Lanford owns the book.*

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**CHARGE**

P: Go forth and continue the journey of Advent. Begin your preparations, start the planning, look to the future, but in all you're doing, keep focused on the great gift, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

P: Jesus knows our hearts and minds and needs; He speaks to us, and has spoken to us here today.

Peace. Peace be with you; divine peace, heavenly peace, eternal peace; peace, not fear; peace, not doubt; peace, not despair; peace, not anger; peace, not anguish. Peace. Amen.

**C: Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**            "Bereden väg för Herran"

*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	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

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# News in the Pews

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**Good Morning!** Welcome, beloved of God! As the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism, so does God's Spirit rest on us as we gather today — and always.

**Ben and Charlie would like to extend a heart-felt thank you** for the lovely coffee hour last Sunday to celebrate their marriage. The food was delicious and the conversation was wonderful. Thank you for your love and support!

**About Communion:** We invite all believers, regardless of denominational background, to join in the Lord's Supper. We do ask our St. Peter's young ones to complete a Communicants Class first (6th grade). The servers will bring the elements to you in the pews. Please hold your bread until all are served; we will partake together at the Pastor's prompting as a sign of Christian unity, likewise with the cup. The innermost circle of cups in the wine tray holds grape juice and the outer circle is wine. Please note: we now offer Gluten-free wafers which are in a separate cup as they cannot touch the other wafers. The Board of Elders would like to ask that attendees on Communion Sundays please dispose of the plastic single-serve communion cups and lids as they leave the sanctuary. The Elders are no longer counting the empty cups after the service, and trash receptacles are provided by both exit doors. Thank you!

**Our Holiday Concert & Jingle Mingle starts at 4PM today in the sanctuary!** The show is followed by a Jingle Mingle reception time, at 5 PM in the Gym, with hors d'oeuvres and sweets in the Memorial Room. The donation we request is \$10 (\$5 for kids over 3, under 3 are free).

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**Thanks to everyone** who supported last Sunday night's lovely vespers service with their attendance and participation! Thanks to Ben, Barb and the Choir who put it together, and Ben for whose idea it was to begin with.

**Village Inn Food Fundraiser is December 11<sup>th</sup>!!** Mention St. Peter's to your server on this day and we get 20% of whatever you buy!

**Christmas Eve this year is Saturday the 24th at 7:00 PM** with a Choral Anthem, the Lord's Supper, lessons, carols, a homily and closing candle-light. Christmas Day worship continues at 10 AM with Communion.

**Collecting for the Holiday Meals program at the Jewel in the Village Crossing Shopping Center continues!** Please keep donating, so we have meals for Christmas needy folks! We raised around 90 dinners for Thanksgiving, most went to District 69!

**Baby Items collection for our Sunday School Mission Project –** We will be collecting baby items for the Niles Township Food Pantry again this year. They accept Baby Food, Formula, Lotion, Shampoo, Cheerios, Diapers, Wipes, Fruit cups/snacks, juice/milk boxes & pudding cups. They do not accept clothing or toys. Items can be left under the tree in the Sanctuary or by the office and we'll bring them upstairs.

**Regarding our traditional yearly collection for the Night Ministry:** We're collecting now and bagging and tagging January 8<sup>th</sup>. An email from the Ministry told us they receive gifts of winter hats, gloves and scarves through March (cookies were not mentioned although Pastor mentioned them).

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# Our People

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**AJH Kitchen Service has returned!!** Join us January 31<sup>st</sup>!

We are humbly asking for the \$500 to pay for the meal we serve, AND for 8 volunteers to serve it as lunch at the Kitchen on Sat., Dec. 31st from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM! Those are the hours volunteers are needed to be there. Let Pastor, Maria or Beth know if you can help serve.

**Pastor Richard will be looking for persons to read Scriptures on Christmas Eve**, so don't wait long to let him know if you are interested and available to read at our 7:00 PM service!

**Winter is coming! It's a good time to buy a plot at our St. Peter's U.C.C. Cemetery. See Kathy Zipperer to get the ball rolling.**

**The Nominating Committee is at work asking members to consider staying on a Board, or coming onto a Board, or becoming an Officer of the Church.** Please do pray about the request; there is a reason you were thought of to approach. It is always an honor to serve God in these ways, and we do need folks to help carry on the labors the Church!

Next Sunday for the third Sunday of Advent we will light the Candle of Love.

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

**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.

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UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## MISSION MOMENTS

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**December 4, 2022**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

**Vision of Peace**

On this second Sunday of Advent, we welcome the prophet Isaiah into our midst. The Biblical prophets are not those who foretell the future. Instead, like all of the Biblical prophetic voices on record, Isaiah reveals what is hidden in this present moment. Because it is timeless, his writing is as potent and powerful on this first Sunday of December in the year 2022 as it was in the year that he first wrote them, about three thousand years ago.

Like his sister and brother prophets, the reality that Isaiah reveals brings difficult and joyful news together. So being willing to hear the prophets is really about being able to receive both Divine challenge and Holy comfort. That's because the world as we know it, and the world as Mary and Joseph knew it as they began their journey to Bethlehem, and the world that Isaiah knew it as he put ink to papyrus may seem different, but really they are much the same.

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Like Isaiah, like the Christ child's parents, we also yearn for a time when the meek will receive equity and children will not experience the terror of violence as they make their innocent way in the world. Like them, it is our yearning that brings us to the hope of a Messiah, one to show us the way where our human imagination has come to an end. And so, we draw close to the manger, to the one who will bring us the comfort, as well as, the challenge that the prophets foretold.

As you hear the words of the prophet today, in all their joy and difficulty, take some time to reflect on these questions:

Who are the prophets - the ones who reveal truth, even if it is uncomfortable - in your own life? In the life of your church congregation?

What does your community do to respond to the yearning that Isaiah expresses and that so many feel for equity and justice?  
What could you do that you are not doing yet?

How does the coming arrival of the Christ child fill you with hope?  
What other responses might the arrival of the Messiah bring up for you?

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**Isaiah 11:1 - 10**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,

and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,

the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling together,

and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,

and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD

as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**Romans 15:4 - 13**

Paul wrote, <sup>4</sup>For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup>and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup>and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;

in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Matthew 3:1 - 12**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”



# Holiday Concert

**The HARMONAIRES  
IN CONCERT  
FEATURING MUSIC AND A SING-A-LONG**

**4TH DECEMBER 2022**

**4PM - 5PM**

Suggested donation \$10 Adults \$5 kids over 3

**8013 LARAMIE, SKOKIE, IL  
[www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)**



Reservations  
requested:  
(847)  
673-8166

Santa Meet  
and Greet



Jingle Mingle to follow featuring beverages  
and savory & sweet hors' d'oeuvres