



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,

June 11, 2023

10:00 AM

**Second Sunday
After Pentecost**



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/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

P = Pastor

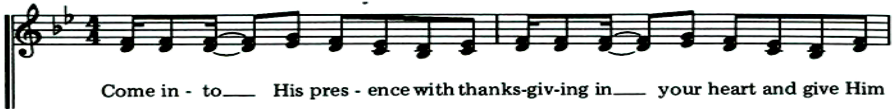
C = Congregation

A = All

RESPONSE

“Come into His Presence”

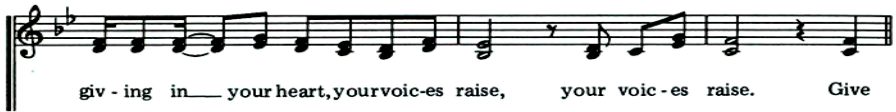
SSB #15



Come in - to___ His pres - ence with thanks-giv-ing in___ your heart and give Him



praise, and give Him praise; Come in - to___ His pres-ence with thanks-



giv - ing in___ your heart, your voic-es raise, your voic-es raise. Give



glo - ry___ and hon - or___ and pow - er un - to



Him, Je - sus, the name a-bove all names. ^{Bb}

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: We come into God’s presence with thanksgiving, yes; but being aware of God’s presence, we are also awakened to all that is not godly that is also within us.

C: Let us come clean and return to God with our whole heart.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our Confession this morning is a return to something we have not done for a while. At the Pastor's prompting, please inhale 4 seconds, reflect for 3, and exhale together while we say, "Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." We will do this three times. This are our prayers of confession, what is in silence known only to God, to Whom we turn it over.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Romans 4:21-25*

Paul wrote about Abram's belief that God would make good on God's promises, and described him as "being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification."

From Abraham and Yahweh, to you, me and Jesus crucified and risen, faith in this saving God means so much to God that in perceiving our trust, God reckons we are in right standing before our Holy One. No sins, no guilt, just righteousness, made available by God and Christ, received by our faith. Our sins are forgiven through the grace of God! Please join me in praising God for this priceless gift and say . . .

A: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

HYMN "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"

#277

1. I greet Thee, who my sure Re - deem - er art,
 2. Thou art the King of mer - cy and of grace,
 3. Thou art the life, by which a - lone we live,
 4. Thou hast the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness;
 5. Our hope is in no oth - er save in Thee;

My on - ly Trust and Sav - iour of my heart,
 Reign - ing om - ni - po - tent in ev - ery place;
 And all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive;
 No harsh - ness hast Thou and no bit - ter - ness;
 Our faith is built up - on Thy prom - ise free;

Who pain didst un - der - go for my poor sake;
 So come, O King, and our whole be - ing sway;
 And sus - tain us by Thy faith and by Thy power,
 O grant us by the grace we find in Thee,
 Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,

I pray Thee from our hearts all cares to take.
 Shine on us with the light of Thy pure day.
 And give us strength in ev - ery try - ing hour.
 That we may dwell in per - fect u - ni - ty.
 That in Thy strength we ev - er - more en - dure. A-MEN.

The congregation may be seated

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Judy Paige

Old Testament:

Genesis 12:1-9

Gospel:

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected

Will those who are able please stand up

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith (in the form of a Doxology)*

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.
You seek in holy love to save all people from
aimlessness and sin.**

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and
risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our
common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling
the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and
renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in
covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.
You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy**

of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

Amen.

RESPONSE

Tune #493

Glory to our Creator, And to our Christ, And to the Holy Ghost! As it was in the beginning, Is now, and ever shall be, world without end! Amen, Amen.

The congregation may be seated

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

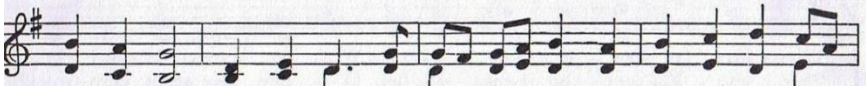
SERMON

Would the congregation please rise

HYMN "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" #80



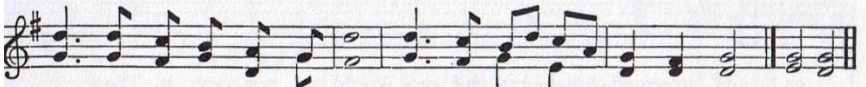
1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



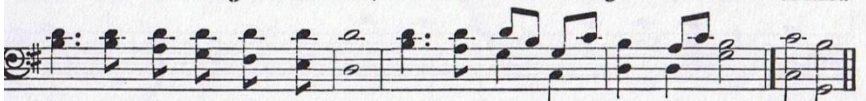
bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me with Thy
stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud-y pil - lar Lead me all my
fears sub-side; Death of death, and hell's de - struc-tion, Land me safe on



power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en,
jour - ney through; Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer,
Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee. A-MEN.



CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P: The way is long, let us go together.

The way is difficult, let us help each other.

C: The way is joyful, let us share it.

**The way is Christ's, for Christ is the Way;
let us follow.**

P: The way is open before us, let us go:

With the love of God,

C: With the grace of Christ, and

A: the communion of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

POSTLUDE

“CWM Rhondda”

by 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

Barb Bailey

LIVESTREAM RECORDING

Jenn Schneider

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Laurie Mitchell

News in the Pews

“The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord” (Psalm 33:5, ESV). Welcome to worship. Let us together praise God!

The Women’s Guild June meeting and luncheon will be this *Wednesday, June 14th (Flag Day) at 11:30 AM* at the Todd residence on Mason Street. RSVPs are needed, so please let Barb know ASAP if you are coming! (She won’t be here today, so call).

Our next gathering as an ONA congregation during *Pride month* will be St. Peter’s participation in Skokie’s Pride gathering at Oakton Park on *Sunday, June 18th from 1 to 4 PM*. We welcome anyone to help us represent St. Peter’s UCC and help with a craft for the children who come with their families to this family-friendly affair. Please talk to Pastor, Peggy, Jennifer, Beth, Mark, Bonnie, or Chad if you want to commit to some time at our table! A tent overhead will be available for us.

Thanks to all who were able to come out yesterday to spend some time on our Church Clean-Up! It is appreciated.

The ad hoc Open and Affirming Support Committee met over Zoom last Friday.

The Village of Skokie marks Juneteenth Day this coming Saturday the 17th at Oakton Park from 1 to 7 PM. June 19th is the real Juneteenth Day.

The St. Peter's special coffee hour to discuss the UCC's "All Church Read" of How to be an Anti-Racist by Ibram Kendi has been moved from Sunday, June 11th to Sunday, June 25th. That is now the date for an engaging coffee hour discussion of the book, sponsored by your Micah 6:8 Committee. You now have more time to read the book! Please plan to stay even if you have not read the book.

Speaking of supporting St. Peter's, one way to boost our profile on Facebook is by liking or loving our posts when you see them on your feed. The more 'hits' we get, the more often our posts will show up, and more people will get the messages! It is also a good digital profile when on-line worshipers can enter through their Google account, visit our YouTube page, and hit the thumbs-up on a service of ours.

The deadline for articles for the July Announcer is a week from tomorrow (that would be Monday, June 19th).

Our People

Happy Birthday this week to Ginger Kalensky (today!), and blessed anniversary to Cristy and Louie Lopez, Karem and David Iannotti, and Christopher and Valerie (Paige) Mahoney. God bless all of them!

There is no Church Council meeting next Sunday.

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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! There are now copies of a list of suggestions and items by the narthex and on the shelves where the food is kept by the offices. Take one home! Demand has increased considerably since it was first installed last September. We always appreciate what is brought in, and the need does not go away. Perhaps if you are employed you could ask about doing a collection at your job. Thank you!

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!



MISSION MOMENTS

June 11, 2023

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 12:1-9

The Call of Abram

In today's story, God calls Abram and his family away from the place they are living, and into a new home that is being prepared for them. In this story, God promises to be with Abram and his family for always, not just in this generation but the next and the next and the next. There are many reasons that a family might be called to leave the home somewhere on the globe, for the promise of a new one - war, famine, climate change, economic opportunity, religious freedom, or to freely love, express their gender and thrive in any number of ways. When a family is called in this way, God's promise of accompaniment might meet them in the form of a United Church of Christ congregation or other entity.

In the UCC, "We have a long history of providing and creating robust structures of welcome for the resettlement of refugees and the protection of asylees within the United States, while advocating for and responding to the needs of those displaced globally."*

Are you or your congregation feeling called to be the face and hands of God for a resettling family or individual? If so, there are a number of grants available that can help you help God fulfill the promise of presence made to Abram long ago and to many others in this time.

Search the web to find more information about UCC Global H.O.P.E. Refugee & Migration Ministries Grants. Some of them include:

- Migrant Empowerment Match Grant: Career development funding for individual migrants across a range of visa statuses.
- Migrant Community Program Seed Grant: For churches creating community enrichment programs for migrants.
- Refugee Resettlement Booster Grant: Funding for churches to resettle a single or multiple families through a local refugee resettlement office, the U.S. Sponsor Circle Program or the Church World Service Remote Resettlement Program.
- Refugee and Migration Solidarity Grant: For UCC churches and conferences to meet emergency mass care needs.
- Asylum Accompaniment Booster Grant: Funding for churches hosting or resourcing asylum seekers.
- Ukrainian Sponsorship Seed Grant: Awards for churches to sponsor Ukrainian nationals.

*<https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/global-hope/refugee-and-migration-ministries/#anchor1>

Genesis 12:1-9

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

9:18-26

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well."

Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well.

When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.