



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,**

**July 10,**

**2022**

**10:00 AM**

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**Fifth Sunday after  
Pentecost**



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL



# 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&from=seller=&to=buyer=&source=paypal) 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**

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**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for Sunday, July 10, 2022 at 10:00am**  
**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**PRELUDE**

Selected

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jenn Schneider

*Those who are able please stand.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: A gift of a new day,

**C: Unlived, untried, ready to be opened.**

P: A new day with surprising miracles;

**C: With love to be given,**

P: Kindness to be shared

**C: And peace to be enjoyed.**

P: A gift of a new day,

**C: God's gift to us.**

P: Let us receive it with joy

**A: And live it in expectation.**

**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: God rightfully expects more from us who call ourselves the Church of Jesus Christ.

**C: Are we tempted to conform to ways we observe around us? The plumb line hangs straight across all our excuses.**

P: How do we measure up before the law, and the grace, of God?

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**A: Righteous God, we confess our easy compliance with ways of the world. We are happy to accept advantages for ourselves that are unavailable to many. We do not call oppressors to account or recognize our own oppressive ways. We pass by many who suffer, as if their suffering were no concern of ours. Our practice of the faith gives neither offense nor inspiration. We are troubled when we see ourselves this way. Redeem us, O God! In the name of Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *Colossians 1:12-14*

P: "...giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

It is God who has done this, for us, for God longs for us to be God's people, light in the world's shadows. God yearns for community with us, for a mutual belonging, as we give our lives to the One who gave His for us. In Christ's name we are forgiven.

**C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.**

## HYMN "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" SSB #35

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.  
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **CALL TO OFFERING**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Judy Paige

Old Testament

Deuteronomy 30:6-14

Epistle Lesson

Colossians 1:1-14

### **MUSICAL MEDIATION**     Selected

*Those who are able please stand.*

### **GOSPEL**

Luke 10:25-37

### **RESPONSE**

Gloria Patri

#493

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **PASTORAL PRAYER 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**

*Those who are able please stand.*

**HYMN**      “O God, You Give Us Neighbors”

*Sing to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation"*

**O God, you give us neighbors for whom your love abounds.  
They've come here seeking refuge; they work here in our towns.  
Their children go to school here; they come to church and pray.  
O Lord, we grieve when neighbors are being sent away.**

**O God, you give us neighbors in this world that divides.  
We see them at the border; they're struggling for their lives.  
They're hurting by the roadside, and by the river, too.  
You call us to show mercy to neighbors loved by you.**

**O God, you give us neighbors and call us all to see  
our common fears and longings, our shared humanity.  
You call us all to listen to burdens they have known,  
to hear the truth they tell us, to see the love they've shown.**

**O God, you give us neighbors; and now, what must we do?  
This question asked of Jesus is one we ask anew.  
May we not make excuses and choose to walk on by  
these neighbors fleeing violence — some sent back now to die.**

**God, may we work for justice for those who live in fear;  
may we show Christ's compassion, and pray and persevere —  
and by your Holy Spirit, in all we do and say,  
may we stand up for neighbors now being sent away.**

*Text: Copyright © 2019 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used by personal permission.*

**CHARGE**

P: Act, with faith;

**Men: Believe, with humility;**

**Women: Love one another,**

P: And love those whom nobody loves;

**A: Serve the Lord!**

**BENEDICTION**

**C: Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

Selected

*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	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Annie Noorts

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# News in the Pews

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**Good Morning!** In Paul's words to believers of long ago: "To God's holy people .... Grace and peace to you from God our Father" (Colossians 1:2, NIV). Welcome.

**THIS WEEK RUMMAGE SORTING** is on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (6:30 – 8:30 PM), plus Fridays 10 AM to Noon. Come when you can, leave when you must, all assistance will be needed and appreciated.

**Donations very much needed for our mini food pantry!** Our supply as dwindled, any items appreciated. Bring your donations to Sunday service or to the office area during the week and thank you!

**Next Sunday our Church Council meets after worship**, so if you are responsible for a report, please submit it to the July Council folder in the Drop Box as early as you can during the week, letting others have the most possible time to read them! Thank you.

**We are anticipating celebrating the baptism** of Harry Kuras II in worship next Sunday!

**A week from tomorrow**, Monday July 18th, is the deadline for articles for the August newsletter.

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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.

**Laura Olson will return to the office** Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> 2022.  
Thank you Sharon Johnson for filling in!

**Pastor Lanford will be starting his vacation** in the middle of next week, FYI. That means we'll enjoy some new voices in the pulpit! The Guest Preachers next Sunday the 24th will be the Rev. Dr. Penny Taylor and her husband, the Rev. Dr. Bill Ressler. They are a clergy couple in the United Church of Christ, clinical social workers, and co-founders of the Center to Awaken Kindness providing family therapy to individuals and couples. They will be bringing a dialogue sermon called "Don't Bother Me." Remember, we come to church to worship God and not just hear our settled pastor, so please come on out and experience their dual-sermon! The Lay liturgist barring a switch will be David Iannotti our Lector. The Rev. Roger Dart will be the guest preacher in two weeks, July 31st. He is the volunteer director of the Illinois Conference Disaster Recovery Team, and has preached here before. He and Pastor Richard are colleagues in CMA Cluster 1.

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# Our People

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**Pastor will be holding a new members/seekers class soon!** Please let him know if you are interested in joining in!

**Happy birthdays and anniversaries!** Having birthdays this week are Wendy Svenson, Hillary Gack, Sydney Kerbel, Mary Taylor, Shari Meggs and Jeremy Steegmueller. Marking wedding anniversaries will be the Lanfords and Gail and Greg Thomas!

According to the schedule, next Sunday's Nursery Attendant will be Mike Ryan.

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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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**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 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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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**July 10, 2022**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Luke 10:25-37**

**Caring Neighbors**

Today's scripture is the story of the Good Samaritan. Listen to the story in the words of those who experienced it:

The Religious Official speaks

I always believed there are two kinds of people in the world - good ones and, well, not-good ones. I, of course, have been blessed by birth and by training to be one of the good ones. I help when I can, but I tell myself that you can't help them all. And so that day, I rushed right by that person lying beaten on the side of the road, as I had rushed so many times before. In my rush to get where I was going and do the "good" thing I had planned, I think I missed a chance. I can't stop thinking of him and wondering if there was something more I could have done, wondering if "you can't help them all" is just a justification to not help anyone. Since that day, I've been thinking that maybe the world is not so easy to divide into good people and bad ones.

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### The Man Beaten by Robbers speaks

I always knew that there are two kinds of people in this world - those who suffer and those who make others suffer. Until that day, I made sure that I was the one who made others suffer, so they couldn't hurt me. Everyone feared my fists, and that's why they hired me to walk that dangerous road. But that day, I let down my guard for a moment, and others found me, and beat me. I thought I would die there, but instead I felt a cool cloth on my head, a gentle hand to bandage my wounds. Since that day, I've wondered if maybe the world is not so easy to divide into assailants and victims. The person who picked me up and helped me that day had no reason to help, he just did. Maybe the world isn't all about avoiding suffering or inflicting it. Maybe there is another way to live - healing and helping - that I hadn't noticed before.

### The Samaritan speaks

Look, there are two kinds of people in this world. The right ones, like me, who know that God dwells on the holy mountain and the wrong ones, like him, who think God lives in a box in the city. When I saw him lying by the side of the road that day, I knew that he was one of the wrong ones. But in that moment, I also saw his pain was just like mine would have been. I saw that his blood was red just as mine is. And for some reason, I couldn't walk away. Since that day, I've wondered if maybe God could be both in my mountain and in their city. Maybe the world is not so easily divided into us and them.

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**Deuteronomy 30:6-14**

Moses continues, “Moreover, the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live. The LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on the adversaries who took advantage of you. Then you shall again obey the LORD, observing all his commandments that I am commanding you today, and the LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.”

**Colossians 1:1-14**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,  
To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### **Luke 10:25-37**

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your

neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."