



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
February 5,
2023**

10:00 AM

**Fifth Sunday after
Epiphany**



New to St. Peter's? We are so glad you are here!

Please see a

Welcome Card

**in the pew rack
for information about:**

Worship Times and Options

Open & Affirming

Childcare

Accessibility

WiFi

Ways to Give

Holy Communion

Contact Info

And much more!

*Printed copies of today's scriptures are available
in the narthex if you like to read along.*

Those who are able please stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our Call to Worship is a song this morning:

“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, yourvoic-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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: We come into the presence of God with thanksgiving and praise, tremendous! We also come into the presence of God carrying dents, tears and shortcomings of and within our souls. We have sinned, we are somewhat broken, and we come asking God for healing, for mercy, and for a renewal of our minds by the Spirit. Please join me in our responsive prayer of confession.

PRAAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Some of our falling short of Your will for us has been visible or audible: the angry word said in judgment; the selfish but risky move while driving; our standing idly by while nearby someone could have used our offer of help; our face beaming with ego-tinged pride rather than with an expression of authentic modesty.

C: Some of our missing Your mark for us is, and has been, internal, known only to ourselves and You. Our quietly putting ourselves before others, with no regard for how it affects those we live with. Our mixed motives, which are the opposite of the pure-in-heart. Our calculations to avoid being asked to serve or to speak up on behalf of victims. Our fears of taking chances, of saying the 'yes' which takes us out of our comfort zone.

A: Help us, heal us, forgive us, and transform us, loving God! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Isaiah 14-16a*

P: “But Zion said, ‘The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.’ Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.”

The Lord does have compassion for we children of God, and in Jesus Christ crucified we learn how deep and powerful that love is, and in raising Jesus from the dead, we learn how victorious God is over all that might separate us from God, even physical death. In the name and by grace of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, and the Spirit comes to build up our growing in faith and discipleship. This is the good news; thanks be to God.

A: Alleluia! Amen.

HYMN

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

SSB #2



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-cst not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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The congregation may be seated

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

From the Prophets

The Gospel

Olivia Altmayer

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Matthew 5:13-20

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“You are the Salt of the Earth, O People” arr. Haugen

THE SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

The Installation of Officers and Board Members

Introduction

P: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church, or in various settings in the life of the world.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts,
But the same Spirit gives them.

C: ***There are different ways of serving but the same God is served.***

P: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

C: ***The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each believer for the good of all.***

P: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

C: *It is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts.*

P: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

C: *All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.*

PRESENTATION

(At this time, all who were elected to serve as an Officer or on a Board are named and asked to come forward, standing on the chancel steps when your name is called and facing the congregation).

P: These people have been called by God in accordance with the faith and order of this church to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

COVENANT

P: Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God, in Christ's name, and for the glory of God?

Installees: I am.

P: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Installees: I do, relying on God's grace.

P: (to the congregation): Members and friends of the household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able please rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

C: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

DECLARATION

P: In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the people of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie, I rejoice to announce that you are all now duly installed in your respective positions!

All: Thanks be to God!

*HYMN: "We Would be Building"

1 We would be build - ing; tem - ples still un - done o'er crum - bling
 2 Teach us to build; up - on the sol - id rock we set the
 3 O Build - er, guide our la - bors; may our hands ne'er fal - ter

walls their cross - es scarce - ly lift, wait - ing till love can
 dream that hard - ens in - to deed, ribbed with fine steel, both
 when the dream is in our hearts, when to our ears there

raise the bro - ken stone, and hearts cre - a - tive
 time and change to mock, the un - fail - ing pur - pose
 come di - vine com - mands and all the pride of

bridge the hu - man rift. We would be build - ing,
 of our no - blest creed. Teach us to build; O
 sin - ful will de - parts. We build with you; O

Arch - i - tect Di - vine, re - veal the shape of life in your de - sign.
 Mak - er, lend us sight to see the tow - ers gleam - ing in the light.
 grant en - dur - ing worth un - til your prom - ised realm shall come on earth.

The congregation may now take their seats

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

HOMILY “Remembering Who We Are”

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

RESPOND
153 Eat of This Bread

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of four lines of music. Each line has two phrases of music. The lyrics are: '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 guitar chords are: Eb, Ab, Ddim, Gm, Cm, Fm, Fm7, Bbsus, Bb, Eb, and Eb.

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 the congregation please rise and sing

HYMN “Let us Talents and Tongues Employ” SSB #3



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: I.INSTEAD. Jamaican folk tune, adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Trumpet Tune in D” by Stanley

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	Maria Altmayer
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Annie Noorts

News in the Pews

Welcome to worship as Jesus continues to reveal himself during Epiphany. May you sense anew your Savior's deep love for you and all the world.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend last Sunday's Annual Congregational Meeting in person! We apologize for the (not-our-fault) external wiring problems a few houses north of the church building which took out both the church's phone and Internet capability (hence no hybrid capability on our big screen downstairs).

As we install new and returning Officers and Boards of St. Peter's United Church of Christ for the 2022-2023 year, we give thanks to those who are stepping down or away from their position of service: Jennifer Schneider (Congregation President); Judy Paige (Vice President); Carolyn Kuechler (Congregational / Council Secretary); David Rees and Annie Noorts (Bd. of Finance); Barb Todd and Peggy Reins (Bd. of Elders); Sharon Johnson and Carolyn Van Til (Bd. Of Christian Education); Beth Sterba, Dan Guenther and Beth Lanford (Board of Deacons) thanking those who were willing to serve a 6th or even a 7th consecutive year (Beth S.) due to the suspension of some activity in 2020-21!

Thank you to everyone who came last Saturday morning to help load vehicles to go to Savers for the FunDrive! Thank you to everyone who donated their used soft goods; cannot do this without you!

Today our “A Heart <3 for the Veterans Collection begins! See the [Announcer](#) or insert for details on supplies and help us collect household goods for Veterans transitioning from homelessness to homes! ***Also, there will be a special presentation during Coffee Hour on Feb. 12th letting us know about how we can help through the collection we're doing for the Veterans Transitioning from homelessness.***

Donation Statements: Donation statements have been mailed out to those not in attendance for the Annual Meeting. If you did not receive one and think you should or had any problems with yours, please let Laura in the office know.

Offering Envelopes are in the Memorial Room! ***If you are not on our list and would like a box of envelopes, please let us know, we have plenty of extras and would love to include you!***

Food donations for the mini-pantry are needed! We are starting to get low and could use more donations. There's a list of suggested items on the shelves under the office mailboxes if you need help, but we'll be glad to take all food donations!

Next Sunday we will present 3rd-grader Felix Roy Svenson with his Bible from our Board for Christian Education.

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 22nd. There will be a service at 11:30 AM (any singing is a Capella), and another at 7 PM with Communion. Optional imposition of ashes during the Prayer of Confession at both.

Our People

Birthdays this week friend and former member Sue Leshar, and Bruce and Linda Mau's grandson Daniel.

The Cub Scouts Pack # 85 meet this Tuesday at 6:30 PM.

The Women's Guild meets this Wednesday the 8th at 11:30 AM.

The Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society meets here this coming Saturday the 11th.

Are you on our email list? Get weekly updates, our monthly Announcer and weekly electronic bulletins and more by signing up. Give us your email address on the attendance register, or email us at office@stpeteruccskokie.org!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

Regular Reminders!

About Communion: If you picked up a pre-filled Communion cup and wafer, you're ready to partake at the Pastor's prompting. We suggest you start to peel back the lid to get to the wafer before his prompting! If you did not pick one up, and 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!

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.

A for the Veterans

Move-in Essentials Collection

GIVE A GIFT TO VETERANS EXITING HOMELESSNESS

Personal Hygiene:

Bath Soap ★ Hand Soap
Toothbrush ★ Toothpaste
Deodorant
Shaving Cream
Hairbrush ★ Comb
Nail Clippers

Kitchen & Cleaning:

Dishwashing Liquid
Paper Towels ★ Windex
Kitchen Trash Can
Garbage Bags ★ Dish Cloth
Mop & Bucket ★ Sponge
Broom & Dustpan

Bathroom:

Toilet Brush ★ Plunger
Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Bath Towels ★ Wash Cloth
Shower Curtain
Toilet Paper

Miscellaneous:

Flashlight ★ Light Bulbs
Sandwich Bags
Laundry Detergent
Hamper ★ Laundry Basket
Aluminum Foil
Pot Holders

VISIT STPETERUCCSKOKIE.ORG FOR MORE INFO

Feb 11th 9-12_{pm}

Feb 12th 12-3_{pm}

St Peter's UCC

8013 Laramie

Open to All!



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

February 5, 2023

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Matthew 5:13-20

Restoring Beauty

“There are very few real emergencies. This doesn’t mean truly terrible things don’t happen. But if we can do things like breathe, delay gratification, feel our feelings in real time, keep ourselves from too much impulsivity, and reach for the right practice or people, we can survive—we can emerge-and-see—through disaster. And with spiritual hindsight, many of our disasters might turn out to be Holy Spirit portals: the way God gets in.

Life as it stands will keep trying to shake us up or smash our boat onto the rocks. This is not because God is a jerk. It’s because Nature throws novel viruses and earthquakes and worse into our path. It’s also because humans are inventive and wonderful, but then we dream up things that ruin lives, like crystal meth, hypercapitalism, and high-waisted jeans (not a good look for anyone).

If we think we are safe, we are wrong. Nothing can insulate us from loss. But safe was never the point. There are fates worse than death—like not ever really living.

If you are lucky, you are currently between emergencies. Maybe you've had a rare chance to get off the roller coaster entirely. Your legs have just stopped shaking, and you think, "I'm never doing that again." You are sitting in the sun, eating something delicious and terrible for you: fried dough, a corn dog, a caramel apple that will pull out your crown. Enjoy the moment. It's not going to last.

And if you are in the middle of a fast-moving or slow-motion emergency—a sick toddler, a wayward teen, a relationship at a crossroads, a dance with addiction, a mental health crisis—only time will tell if it really was a true emergency. Because with the right kind of attention, ruptures can reveal us, emerge us, and help us evolve faster than any virus."

This is an excerpt from *How to Begin When Your World is Ending: A Spiritual Field Guide to Joy Despite Everything* copyright © 2022 Molly Phinney Baskette admin. Broadleaf Books. Used by permission. All rights reserved. *How to Begin When Your World is Ending* is available at broadleafbooks.com or wherever you purchase your books.

Isaiah 58:1-9

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,

and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,

and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Matthew 5:13 - 20

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”