

# Welcome

**BE THE CHURCH**

*Protect the environment.*

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

**Reject racism.**

**Fight for the powerless.**

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
October 23,  
2022**

**10:00 AM**

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**Twentieth 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&url=https://www.paypal.com/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**

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**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for**  
**Sunday, October 23, 2022 at 10:00am**  
**Twentieth 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: God is revealed not to the person who is self-sufficient or self-righteous,

**C: But to the one whose mind is open, whose will is receptive, and whose soul is humble.**

**A: In that spirit, let us come in worship before the Lord!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: Friends, as we invoke a humble soul, this world does not much know humility. Ours is a society built on getting ahead, often at the expense of others. Yet if our lives have met God, recognized God's holiness and our falling short of it, we are humble before God.

**C: We can confess with Isaiah, “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a person of unclean lips, and I live in the midst of a people of unclean lips.”**

P: God has, in love, called you and me to confess and turn away from our sins. Let us, then, admit our missing God’s mark in prayer together and responsively.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: God of great love, grant us the courage to honestly open our hearts as we come to you in prayer. As we admit our weaknesses, we know we will receive your loving understanding and come away strengthened because of our conversation with you. Forgive us for the times when we have been less than patient with others.

**C: We regret the instances when we have not given others the mercy that has been extended to us. We are sorry when we trivialize the important issues and exaggerate the small stuff.**

P: Forgive us for all the occasions when we fly off the handle ... and thank you for the people in our lives who love us anyway.

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**C: And we ask you, loving God, to grant us the grace to forgive ourselves. Help us to let go of the times when we have been less than our best. When others have forgiven us and when you have long forgotten, we still harbor feelings of shame and remorse. Help us to let go ... and love ourselves anyway, just as you love us.**

P: We pray that the lessons of the past in our world, where hatred and fighting have been redeemed by love and forgiveness, might give us hope for the future. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who came that we might follow in love and life eternal. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *From Luke 18*

“But the tax collector . . . would not even look up to heaven . . . saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified . . . for all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Friends, believe the good news from the Savior himself: All who hold no pretense with God but own up to their need for mercy, who humble themselves as Jesus put it, will be made right with the God who loves them. In claiming this outstanding gift of grace, will the congregation join me by saying . . .

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

HYMN

“Just as I Am”

#214 (vv. 1, 2, 3, 6)

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea But  
 2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not To  
 3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With  
 4. Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind, Sight,  
 5. Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt  
 6. Just as I am, Thy love un - known Has

that Thy blood was shed for me, And that Thou bidd'st me  
 rid my soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can  
 many a con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -  
 rich - es, heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need in  
 wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause Thy prom - ise  
 bro - ken ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be Thine, yea,

come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
 cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
 Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
 Thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come! A-MEN.

*The congregation may be seated*

**WORDS ABOUT OFFERING**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Jenn Schneider

Epistle:

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Gospel:

Luke 18: 9-14

**MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected**

*Those who are able please stand*

**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.**

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**RESPONSE:** Gloria Creator #493

**Glory to the Creator,  
And to the 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 retake their seats*

**PASTORAL PRAYERS & 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** "The Approach"

*Will those who are able please rise to sing*

**HYMN:**        **“A Pharisee Was Praying”**

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

**A Pharisee was praying; he proudly stood alone:**

**"God, thank you that I'm better than others I have known."**

**He saw the faults of others, yet in that holy place,  
He missed the joy and wonder of God's amazing grace.**

**Far off in that same Temple, a tax collector stood.**

**He knew he was a sinner; he knew that God is good.**

**"Have mercy, God, upon me!" the tax collector cried.**

**He left that place of worship forgiven, justified.**

**O God of love, forgive us when we look all around**

**And think that, by our actions, we stand on solid ground:**

**We pray, "See how we serve you! We work and  
volunteer!**

**Aren't we the ones whose giving builds up your kingdom  
here?"**

**May we, your church, be humble in serving you each day,**

**For pride will never help us to walk your kingdom-way.**

**May we know your forgiveness — our need for mercy,  
too —**

**That, loved and loving others, our life may be in you.**

*Copied from I Sing to My Savior: New Hymns from the Stories in the Gospel of Luke by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (2022). Permission for use in worship granted through ownership of this book, per the book itself.*

**CHARGE** *from 1 Corinthians 16*

P: “Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous and strong.

**A: Let all that you do be done in love.”**

**BENEDICTION** *Ephesians 6:23, 24*

P: “Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

**A: 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	Maria Altmayer
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

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# News in the Pews

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**Good Morning!** Dear Lord: “How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Psalm 119:103).

**Welcome back and thank you** to our Guest Pianist Janet Palmer today filling in for Ben.

**Thank you to everyone who helps finish the dropping-off of rummage by working on the books!** They are just inside the doors of the Gym if you’d be willing to grab a box and bring them to Half Price Books in Village Crossing for some extra profit for St. Peter’s.

**Our Pet Blessing is TODAY with a 3 o’clock start in our Gym!** It starts with a brief service and goes on to the blessing of the pets, along with some raffles, a chance to meet a representative from Skokie’s C.A.R.E. (Community Animal Rescue Effort) who will have some pets available for adoption to show you; light refreshments and fellowship with fellow pet-owners! It ends at 4 PM.

**Our best wishes go out to the newly married Ben Westphal and Charlie Rasmason** who got married yesterday the 22nd! Congratulations again, and God bless!

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**Thanks to all who were able to bring donations** for the Venezuelan asylum-seekers in Skokie; last week's bulletin announced that we were a drop-off site for such donations last week. If they are not picked up before today, they will have been moved out of the Gym for the Pet Blessing, and be picked up Monday while Laura is here.

**Our sincere thanks to everyone who participated in last Sunday's Village Inn Fundraiser for St. Peter's!**

Participation has been declining- but if you have an idea of another restaurant to approach with same 'deal,' let Annie Noorts know when she returns from a wedding in Texas. Also let her know if you want to keep these going with the Village Inn.

**Thank you to those who have contributed to the meal expense for our 5th Saturday to serve this month!** We have reached the amount requested as of this week.

**There are only two vendor spots left for our November 19th Holiday Craft Bazaar!!** Please email Wendy at [st.peteruccbazaar@gmail.com](mailto:st.peteruccbazaar@gmail.com) or text her at (847) 528-4545 if you'd like to be a part of our Craft Show!

**We still NEED Nursery Attendants!** Your service helps the parents get a much-needed break and the kids get to interact with others in the church they might not. Please consider helping, let the office know if you will!

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# Our People

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**Having birthdays this week** are Ryan Loach, Sean Loach, Dorothy Panzke and Rich Suckow. Happy Anniversary to Kathy Zipperer and Darrell Kerbel.

**During worship next Sunday**, October 30th we will celebrate the baptism of Russell N. Paluck, son of Andy and Melissa Paluck.

According to the Lector schedule, next Sunday's lector is Judy Paige, and the Nursery Attendant is Heidi T.

On Sunday, November 6th we will have a Guest Preacher and Communion celebrant, the Rev. Carol Ann Munro! Pastor will be taking 11 days of vacation starting that day. As of Wednesday, he was still working on finding a Guest Preacher for Sunday, November 13th.

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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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**October 23, 2022**

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Luke 18:9-14**

**Just Worship**

In the summer of 2022, The Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ continued its innovative program of summer internships. This information, detailing the program, is taken from their website.\*

The Pension Board sought out the brightest students from some of the best colleges in New York to participate in the Pension Boards' 10-week Summer Internship Program, which begins in June of each year.

The Pension Boards looked for visionary young leaders with an ability to inspire others to innovation through strategic assignments designed to take the Pension Boards to its next level in service to its members. Selected students were empowered to lead with vision and creativity, challenging the organization's "norm," while also creating new direction for the organization. They were encouraged to inspire, create, and innovate.

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Selected interns offered strategic insight and ideas to inform the Pension Boards' future strategic plans and programs in the core areas of analytics, finance, program analyst, health plan analyst, information technology, financial audit, investments, marketing/communications, customer engagement, customer experience, and philanthropy/fundraising.

At the conclusion of the 10-week internship program, students were able to present their visionary ideas and assessments to the Pension Boards' Executive Team.

"We believe this program will help foster creative and valuable input for the Pension Boards that will not only fuel and shape our strategic objectives, but further enhance our services for United Church of Christ members..." said Brian R. Bodager, President and CEO of the Pension Boards.

If you, or someone you know might be interested in next summer's internship opportunity, check out the Pension Board website for more information.

\* <https://www.pbucc.org/internship-program>

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*Our first reading is 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy Chapter 4, verses 6 through 8, and then the writer remembers some persecution he underwent, in verses 16 through 18 as the letter is being wrapped up.*

**2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**

Paul writes,

“As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Luke 18:9-14**

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I

give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."