

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
May 19, 2024
10:00 AM**

Pentecost Sunday





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**

After a short set-up the first time, simply text your gift amount

Use PayPal. [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot?p=stpeteruccskokie)

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

St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 10:00am
Pentecost Sunday

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Be the wind and fire that transform our lives.

C: Breathe upon us as we study Your word of life.

P: Kindle faith from our believing doubt.

C: Cleanse us from our waywardness.

P: Deepen our passion for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

C: Give us voice to proclaim Your mighty works in every tongue.

A: Fill Your church with power. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

RESPONSE: "Sing Hallelujah to the Lord"

SSB #1

First system of the musical score. It features three staves: Soprano, Alto, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/2. The Soprano part begins with a rest followed by a *Descant* of four eighth notes (F#, G, A, B). The Alto and Bass parts enter with a *Unison* of four eighth notes (F#, G, A, B). The lyrics are: "Sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord." The Soprano part continues with "Sing hal-le -".

Second system of the musical score. The Soprano part continues with "Sing hal-le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -". The Alto and Bass parts continue with "lu-jah to the Lord." and "Sing hal-le-lu - jah, sing hal-le-".

Third system of the musical score, concluding with two endings. The Soprano part has two endings: 1. "jah; sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord." and 2. "lu - jah. Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord." The Alto and Bass parts also have two endings, with the second ending featuring a double bar line and repeat signs. The lyrics for the first ending are "jah; sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord." and for the second ending are "lu - jah. Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Great Spirit and eternal God, on this day of Pentecost, we confess we have not always been open and receptive of You. Your Spirit surrounds and empowers us, yet we are so very careful and cautious. Help us now, more than ever, to open our lives to Your Holy Spirit and to live wisely and courageously. In Jesus' name 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."

Friends, God hears our confessions and in Christ our sins are forgiven; we are redeemed, or set free, from them! With the Spirit's aid we are increasingly putting Christ in the driver's seat of life, and not self or a lesser value. Alleluia for the grace of God! And the people said . . .

A: Amen!

HYMN**"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"**

#191

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life a - new,
 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Un - til my heart is pure,
 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am whol - ly Thine,
 4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I nev - er die,

That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.
 Un - til with Thee I will one will, To do and to en - dure.
 Un - til this earth - ly part of me Glows with Thy fire di - vine.
 But live with Thee the per - fect life Of Thine e - ter - ni - ty. A-MEN.

*The congregation may be seated***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Peter Svenson

The Prophet:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

New Testament:

Acts 2:1-21

CHORAL ANTHEM "Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"

by K. Lee Scott

*Will those who are able please stand up***THE GOSPEL**

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

RESPONSE**"Alleluia!"**

#495

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.**

OFFERTORY

If you donate electronically, feel free to place a yellow "Electronic Giving" card into the plate as it comes around so you can enjoy participating in the physical act of giving.

Will those who are able please stand up

RESPONSE/HYMN “Spirit of Gentleness”

SSB #30

Refrain



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the c - ons you called to each thing;
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.

Refrain



“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940

Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley

Text and music © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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The congregation may be seated

SERMON "The Church in the Power of the Spirit"

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN "We are Marching in the Light of God" SSB #26



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God.



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984
Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional
Tr. © 1984 Uryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

CHARGE *First Peter 4:7-10*

P: “The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers.

RIGHT: Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

LEFT: Be hospitable to one another without complaining.

A: Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

BENEDICTION *2nd Thessalonians 3:16*

P: “Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you.”

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	Maria Altmayer
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Peter Svenson
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Laurie Mitchell

News in the Pews

Welcome to Pentecost worship! Today we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. May we be open to the Spirit's dynamic leading.

Welcome to Sandy Kinsley, a college friend of Ben's, who is filling in for him today! Ben has to attend the graduation ceremony this morning of the school where he teaches, Warren Township H.S.

Tonight, sponsored by the Good Good-bye Committee, is the Spaghetti Dinner and "Roast and Toast" at 5 PM. We hope you made a reservation!

Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of May, so we will again have a "Fourth Sunday Conversation" coffee hour after worship. These are about strengthening community and talking about what matters most, given the current and future circumstances we face. These are a time for authentic sharing, when we want to listen together and learn from the experiences, knowledge, and feelings of everyone. Not your standard coffee hour but expect relaxed conversations about mind and heart. The next one after next Sunday will be June 23rd.

Thank you to everyone who takes part in ministries that make our worship happen well this morning: our Deacon, live-streamer, Choir, lector, and ministries of education, administration and finance, plus our staff, other helpers, and of course, you for attending!

Today was the last day of Sunday School for this program year; a hearty and sincere thanks to our teachers Karen Christianson,

Carolyn Van Til and Rita McMahon, and Pastor for leading all those pre-class Chapels!

Your Church Council meets after worship.

Next Sunday is the last Sunday of our mission project of Underwear collection for the Night Ministry (which we call the “Undy 500”). If you were planning to participate, we hope you remembered!

June PRIDE Events!!! We’ll be participating in the Niles Pride Walk on June 8th at 11AM at Kirk Lane Park and our Ben will be a speaker! Also, we’ll be participating in Skokie Pride (we have a booth) on June 23rd from 1-4PM at Oakton Park. We’d love volunteers for Skokie Pride to help meet the community, even 1-hour slots would be so helpful!

St. Peter’s UCC Gear – We’d like to encourage you to get some St. Peter’s UCC wear to help folks identify you as you attend some or all of these events (or other things) this summer and beyond. They have LOTS of great clothing with pages and pages of styles, shirts, hats, coats and more in ALL SIZES and so many different styles, including our LOGO (we have 4 different logos to choose from. Checki it out here: <https://stpeters.qbstores.com/home> and get yourself some St. Peter’s UCC gear!!

One Last Goodbye- Save the date, June 30th as this is Pastor Lanford’s last day at St. Peter’s UCC. Don’t miss his last service, and later that day at 5:00PM we’ll be hosting a special formal dinner for Pastor and Beth. Donations are being collected now to help defray the cost of the dinner. Put “Lanford Celebration Fund” in the memo.

Our People

Having birthdays this week belong to Mark and Bonnie Loach's granddaughter Hayley Bruhn; Gail Hoellerich and Pastor Richard, Diane Meggs and Angelo Iannotti. Mark and Ann Aler **celebrate a wedding anniversary** too! Everybody, enjoy your day.

Do you know? One way to boost our church's profile on Facebook is by liking or loving our church's 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 YouTube through their Google account, visit our YouTube page, and hit the thumbs-up on a service of ours. If you listen to the RedHeaded Preacher podcast, giving a good rating helps too!

Graduations wanted! Please let the office know if you or someone you love is celebrating a graduation and you'd like to share it in the June Announcer.

According to the schedule, next Sunday's lector is Rich Schneider, and Heidi Tarzian is the Nursery Attendant.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

Regular Reminders!

Let us know you were here! Please sign the attendance sheet in the black pew pads and when you think your pew is ready, please pass the pad towards the center aisle of the church.

Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts! Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" in your podcatcher's search engine and you'll find us!

Pantry Donations – while we still have a lot left from our Jewel Foods donation, we can always use more donations! They can be left on the shelves near the staircase by the office doors on Laramie Ave.



MISSION MOMENTS

May 19, 2024

Pentecost

“Spirit for All”

Acts 2:1-21

Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Today many churches will receive the Strengthen the Church offering.

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and

innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.*

It's especially poignant to receive the Strengthen the Church offering on Pentecost, the day in which God's presence as wind and fire was heard, felt and seen by all those gathered. As winds of the Spirit swept over the waters in Genesis beginning Creation, the winds of Spirit sweep over people creating community anew.

On this day, we remember that we are co-creators with God of the reign which is to come. Pentecost reminds us that we are never alone in this co-creation. Both those within our church walls and those without can be vessels of the Holy Spirit, and when we speak, we will be heard and understood. And the promise of Pentecost is that the Holy Spirit does not just fill us with words, but also incites us into action on behalf of the divine.

Look around! What work is the Holy Spirit ready to do through your community? How might the Strengthen the Church offering be a part of that work?

*<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/strengthen-the-church/>

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your

graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Acts 2:1 - 21

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

John 15:26 – 27; 16:4b - 15

Jesus said, ²⁶‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

⁴I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹²‘I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he

will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”