

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
September 4,
2022**

10:00 AM

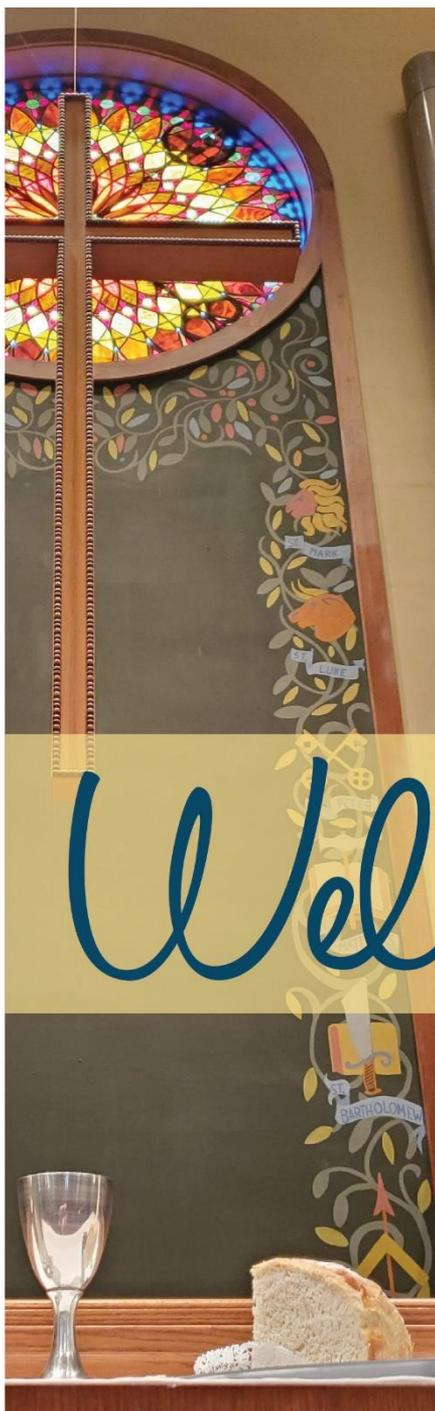
**Thirteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Labor Day Sunday

Welcome



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

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Great God, for us the gospel teaches us a different way to think of labor, and that is “works under the law.” Paul wrote often that we are never made right with You by our works, because works without faith is dead, and if we have not love, we are a clanging symbol. How often though we trust that we are good enough based on our deeds and not on the work of Jesus Christ! How often we forget how essential love and love’s works are to being among the people of Light!

C: With appreciation for all the good works done in Your name, Lord, we realize we need Your grace to fit us for this transformed life we have in Christ. We need to fully trust You, Christ, and not only ourselves, for being in right relationship with You. May the Spirit, and our cooperation with the Spirit, recast Christ as the center of our spiritual lives, and our spiritual lives as the core of our whole human life. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Romans 1:16, 17*

Paul wrote, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, ‘The one who is righteous will live by faith.’”

To read “the one who is righteous will live by faith,” sounds like a life forgiven by the grace of God that we know in Jesus Christ, which reveals God’s righteousness and which we receive by faith; ultimate trust in the love and power of God. In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven, and the works we do, we do in the name of and for the honor of God! Alleluia! Amen.

HYMN “O God Our Creator, You Work Every Day”

Sing to the tune of “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

O God our Creator, you work every day:

A potter, you form us — your people — like clay.

A shepherd, you guide us and seek out the lost.

A parent, you love us, not counting the cost.

Christ Jesus, how rough were your hard-working hands!

You labored among us; our God understands!

Bless workers who struggle, their families to feed;

Bless those who face hardship, oppression, or greed.

Lord, some live among us who need constant care,

Whose work is to make us more humbly aware.

They teach us the best of your lessons, by far:

It's not what we do, Lord, you love who we are!

We're baptized! Your Spirit gives new work to do,

That we, through our serving, may glorify you.

Each person's vocation, each calling, has worth

As you send us out to bring Christ's love on earth.

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Winfrey Gillette (Upper Room Books, 2009). Hymn Use Permission: Songs of

Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor includes a permission note for those

who own this book to use this hymn in their local church's worship services. Our Pastor has this book.

The congregation may be seated.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dan Guenther

The Psalm:

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

The Gospel:

Luke 14:25-33

MUSICAL MEDITATION "Search Me, O God"

arr. Gary Prim

Those who are able please stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Salem Church Covenant (1629)

A: "We covenant with the Lord and one with an other, and doe bynd our selves in the presence of God, to walke together in all his waies, according as he is pleased to reveale himself unto us in his blessed word of truth." Amen.

RESPONSE: "Gloria Patri"

#493

The congregation may sit down

PASTORAL PRAYERS & SILENT PRAYERS

HOMILY "Everything Costs so Much these Days"

Will those who are able please rise to sing

HYMN: "Let us Break Bread Together" **SSB #18**



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.



3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration

RESPOND

153

Eat of This Bread

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a tempo marking of ♩=65. It consists of four staves 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 chords are: E♭, A♭, D♯dim, Gm, Cm, Fm, Fm7, D♭sus, B♭, D♯dim, Gm, Cm, Fm, B♭, E♭.

The Words of Institution

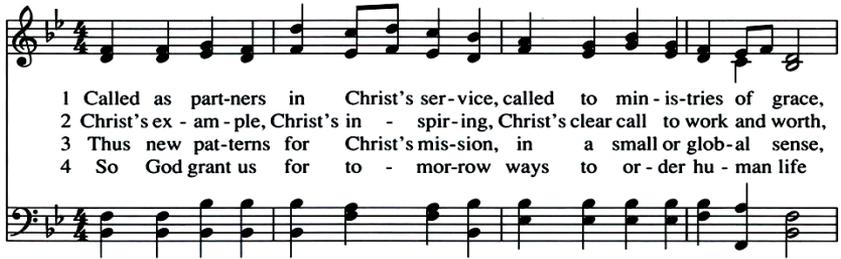
Participation

CLOSING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

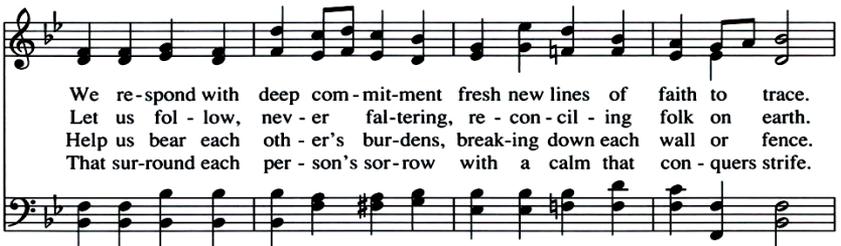
A: Our Father, who art in heaven,
 Hallowed be Thy name.
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread,
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil;
 For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
 and the glory forever. Amen

HYMN: "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

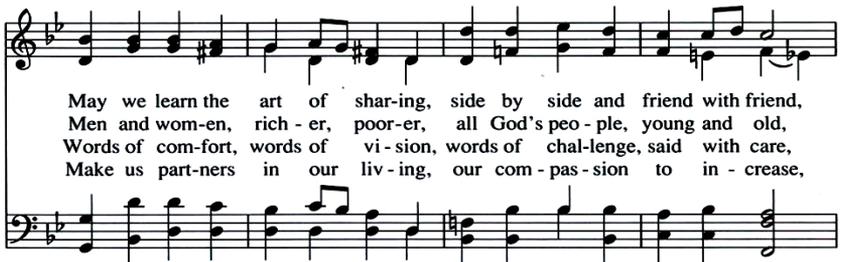
SSB # 13 (vv. 1-3)



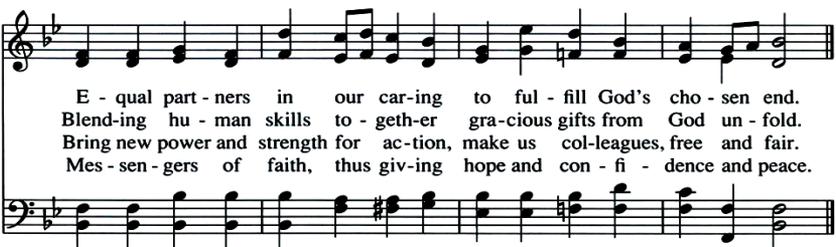
1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, re-con-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-enge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-equal part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-gether gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

CHARGE

BENEDICTION

P: God is good,

C: All the time.

P: All the time,

C: God is good. AMEN!

POSTLUDE “Let Us Break Bread Together”

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	Dan Guenther
RECORDING	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Laurie Mitchell

News in the Pews

Good Morning! Welcome! On this Labor Day weekend, we pray that all our daily labors may be an extension of this time of worship, done to the glory of God.

There is a meeting of the Board for Christian Education after worship this morning.

A reminder that the church office will also be closed on Monday, Labor Day, September 5th.

Sunday School Rally Day is next week, on September 11th at 9 AM! We shall begin then, but we will not be gathering upstairs for chapel and class until further notice. We plan to gather in the sanctuary for chapel on the 11th because the Memorial Room will be all set up for the upcoming Rummage and Bake Sale. After the Rummage Sale is over we will gather in the Memorial Room at 9 AM for chapel and afterwards break up to designated areas for classes. THANK YOU to Rita McMahan, a good friend of Beth Lanford, for agreeing to take one of our classes!!

Rummage Sorting & Bake Sale Prep Updates – Sorting continues Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 PM and Fridays from 10 AM to Noon. Rummage Collecting ENDS September 11th. The Bake Sale is in need of bakers for the Bake Sale, too! Please talk to Barb Todd if you have not already to let her know your plans for participating. Thanks much to everyone who does!

'BRIEF COLLECTION' - With so much going on in May we were unable to hold the Undy 500 so we picked September to ask you to share in this collection instead! The Night Ministry's website asks for this in underwear: Dark colors preferred; Men's boxer briefs, sizes M-XXL; Women's briefs, sizes S-XL. They really do not want white if possible. Please bring your "brief collection" to the sanctuary and place it (them) in front of the chancel, where we put baby items at Christmas. Or leave them by the offices so they will be brought up the stairs from there. Thank you in advance for giving important help to those on the margins and living on the edge! Your Micah 6:8 Committee.

The Rummage and Bake Sale will be September 23rd & 24th from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Our next Village Inn Fundraiser is September 25th! Order food from them on this day, mention St. Peter's UCC Fundraiser to your server and the church gets 20% of whatever you spend. This is good for ordering carryout & delivery as well.

About Communion: All Christians and seekers after God are invited in to partake of the Lord's Supper here regardless of denominational background. We practice open Communion. We do, however, ask our own St. Peter's U.C.C. young folk to first go through the Communicants Class (6th grade). If you are with us in person, we hope you took one of the pre-filled Communion cups (juice) with the wafer on top. When the Pastor prompts us, please peel off the top layer of the cup covering to get at the wafer, then pull the wafer off to eat. If you are worshipping with us on-line, when prompted, please take whatever bread you have set aside for this, take and eat as prompted; when it's time for the cup, please do the same with whatever you have put in your cup at home (juice, wine, water, etcetera).

Our People

Today, September 4th, non-members and friends of the church who want to take advantage of the 3 good spots on Laramie right by the “No Parking Sundays 9 AM to Noon” sign again will be given a placard here today for use starting next Sunday, the 11th. There are 6 placards, more can be made if the need arises. Special thank you to Bill Orpet for his help with the office on these placards!

Hospitalized: Clara Melone, 99, is in Ascension St. Francis Hospital, 355 Ridge Ave., Room 3012, Evanston IL 60202. She is and has been in isolation for over a week, and went in on her 99th birthday with COVID.

Next Sunday our Lector is scheduled to be Carolyn Van Til, and Annie Noorts is scheduled to be our Nursery Attendant.

This coming Wednesday Pastor will be part of the Niles Township Clergy Forum meeting at 8:30 AM over Zoom.

Having birthdays this week are Isabella Aguayo, Jackie Johnson, Nathan Paige, and a girl who was baptized here with family ties to June Peterson, Kylie Sykes.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
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.

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.



MISSION MOMENTS

September 4, 2022

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Philemon 1:1-21

A New Identity

As the letter to Philemon begins, the apostle Paul and his friend Timothy are writing a letter to their friends - two men, Philemon and Archippus, and a woman Apphia. Paul invites them to read the letter to the church community that they have gathered in their home. The letter they write is being carried by a freed slave named Onesimus. That's a lot of characters for such a short book!

In fact, this letter is the shortest book in the Bible. If you have never read the whole thing, why not try it now? As you do, try to put yourselves into the shoes of the characters. Imagine what they are thinking, feeling, seeing and hearing as they write, carry, or read this letter. As you imagine, consider if feeling empathy for these or other characters in the Bible can help you feel close to them, or understand them better.

You don't have to limit your imagination to characters on the page. What about people in your family, your region, your congregation, or your nation? How might your life, or your congregation's life, be changed for the better by using this practice of holy empathy?

Imagine yourself as Paul or Timothy, in prison. As you look around the cell, what can you see, touch, hear, feel? How do you feel about being imprisoned? What are your emotions as you say goodbye to Onesimus? How do you experience God's presence in this place? What is God calling you to do next?

Imagine yourself as Onesimus, traveling toward Philemon and his family. As you travel, what can you see, touch, hear, feel? How do you feel about being on the road? What are your emotions as you prepare to deliver this letter? How do you experience God's presence now? What is God calling you to do next?

Imagine yourself as Philemon, Archippus, Apphia or a member of the church community gathered in their home. As Onesimus delivers his letter, what can you see, touch, hear, feel? How do you feel about those you are gathered with right now? What are your emotions as you hear the words of your friends Paul and Timothy? How do you experience God's presence in this gathered community? What is God calling your community to do next?

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you,

when I was being made in secret,

intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,

when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.

Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."