



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,

July 31,

2022

10:00 AM

**Eighth 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/paypalme/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

St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie
Order of Worship for Sunday, July 31, 2022 at 10:00am
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE "Come Thou Fount" arr. Hayes

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

Those who are able please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP Karen Christianson

Leader: Listen, all who are fleeing from the Holy One;
God is calling us; God has called us together.

**C: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever.**

L: God is eager to put loving arms around us.
God is waiting to satisfy our hunger and thirst.

**C: God fills the hungry with good things.
Our thirsting souls are filled to overflowing.**

L: Set your minds on things that are above.
Put to death your earthly disobedience.

**C: God leads us to new identity, to new life.
We seek renewal in the image of our Creator.
Let us worship our Triune God!**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Merciful God,

**We confess that we have sinned against You
In thought, word, and deed.**

**We have not loved You with our whole heart
And mind and strength;**

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In Your mercy, forgive what we have been,

Help us amend what we are,

And direct what we shall be,

So that we may delight in Your will

And walk in Your ways,

To the glory of Your holy name, and it is in the

Name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Micah 7:18, 19*

L: Hear the good news from the prophet Micah: “Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of Your possession? God does not retain God’s anger forever, because God delights in showing clemency. God will again have compassion upon us, and will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”

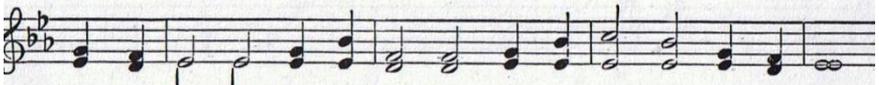
Our God is a merciful God, ready to embrace us as we realize the errors of our misdirection and come back to where we are meant to be, with Jesus Christ. By what Christ has done for us in the ultimate expression of the grace of God, forgiving us and offering us new, resurrection life, I ask the church to join me in acclamation with the words . . .

C: Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Amen.

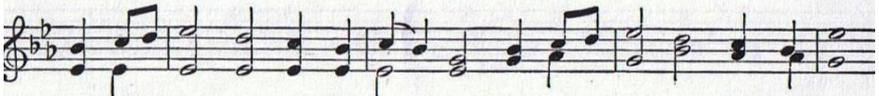
HYMN "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" # 476



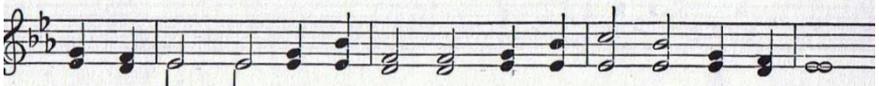
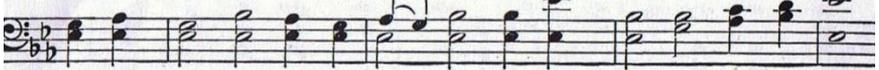
1. Come, thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
2. Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer; Hith - er by Thy help I'm come;
3. O to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!



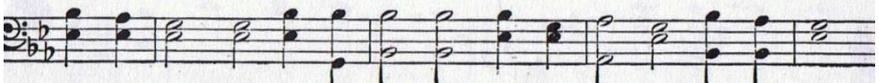
Streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing Call for songs of loud - est praise:
 And I hope, by Thy good pleas - ure, Safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, Bind my wan - dering heart to Thee.



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, Wan - dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, Mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
 He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed with pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart; O take and seal it, Seal it from Thy courts a - bove.



The congregation may be seated.

CALL TO OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected

PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER ('debts)

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**

REFLECTION

"The Price Is Right"

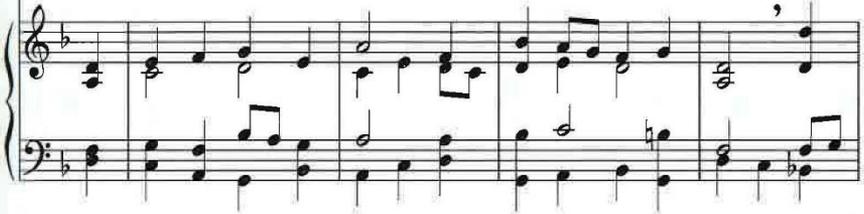
Those who are able please stand.

HYMN

“We Sing to You, O God”



1 We sing to you, O God, the Rock who gave us birth, let
 2 We wan-dered far from home out in a des-ert land, you
 3 You bear us through the world, an ea-gle to her young, who
 4 O God, e-ter-nal God, we hide with-in your wings, the



our re-joic-ing sing your name in all the earth. To you, O
 shield-ed with your love our fear-ful pil-grim band. You kept us
 ris-es on her wings and bears us toward the sun. We ride the
 ev-er-last-ing arms to whom our prais-es ring. Your word is



God, let songs be raised, in joy-ful hymns, our feast of praise.
 safe with-in your arms and shel-tered us a-gainst the storm.
 vaults of light and air and trust in your un-fail-ing care.
 true, your way is just, you are the God in whom we trust.



CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Come Thou Fount” arr. Metsinger

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	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM	Peter Svenson
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Annie Noorts

News in the Pews

Good Morning! Dear family, welcome to this time of worship. Share a word of peace with someone now.

We especially welcome back our Guest Preacher, the Rev. Roger Dart! Roger has preached here before, is a member of Trinity UCC in Deerfield, and is the current volunteer leader of the Illinois Conference Disaster Recovery Team.

St. Peter's Sunday School Teachers Needed - The Board of Christian Education is actively seeking new teachers for the upcoming 2022-2023 year. Kindergarten, 3rd grade, and a combination 5th and 6th grade class. Sunday school classes traditionally begin in September and end in mid-May. Classes meet in the chapel at 9:00 A.M. for a service officiated by Pastor Lanford. Following chapel, students separate into their classrooms for lessons. The classes are approximately 30 minutes in length, ending at 9:45. Keeping our Sunday school alive and well is also implied in the vows we congregation members make when a child is baptized in our worship services; it is a covenant responsibility. Please contact Karen Christianson – Christianson.karen@gmail.com or Pastor Lanford at RevLanford@gmail.com

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. If you can't come at these times, you are welcome to come sort during office hours OR, if you have a key come whenever the mood strikes you!

Sunday, August 21 following worship we will hold our MidYear Congregational Meeting! This is a time to check in on where we are and what we've accomplished during the first half of the year. This year's meeting will be hybrid, like our Annual Meeting was – folks are encouraged to attend in the Memorial Room, and Zoom will also be available on the big TV for those who can't join in person. A Midyear report will be provided one week prior to the meeting for everyone to read, and the meeting itself will not be long. Remember, we added this meeting in 2019 in an effort to stay more in touch with how things are going in the church – spiritually, financially, building-wise, programming, etc. Now, more than ever, we need these vital connections at St. Peter's.

Pastor Richard, currently on vacation, will be back in the saddle on Wednesday, August 3rd. Next Sunday's Lay Liturgists is scheduled to be, based on the Lector schedule, Karen Christianson if available, with Peter Svenson on the Livestream. Pastor left a list of clergy who said they will be available if a pastoral emergency arises while he's gone; contact the office during office hours or President Jenn Schneider; both have this list.

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

If you are gardening and have extra produce, feel free to donate it to the mini-food pantry! Items can be left on the shelves under the stairs by the offices.

Our People

KITCHEN MONTH: Last night would have been Saint Peter's night to serve at the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest, and because of your generosity, the team at the Kitchen were able to buy the groceries and all the other parts of the meal we'd have purchased for it, and then they served curbside as has happened since COVID precautions hit. Thank you!!

Happy birthday! Having a birthday this week are Linda Haig, Sharon Johnson & Richard Hook. **Happy Anniversary** to Gail & Jack Hoellerich. May God shine on their celebrations!

Thanks to everyone who supported last Sunday's Village Inn Fundraiser!

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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.

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

July 31, 2022

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 12:13-21

Soul Investment

Then (Jesus) told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So, it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”.

Luke 12:16-21 NRSV

This parable reminds us that it is human nature to plan and build newer and larger structures in abundant times. This parable ends with the advice to give to God rather than to the glory and false security for the self. How do we give to God? Many other places in scripture act as reminders that the surest way to give to God is to give to those who have need here and now.

For some congregations, their structures enhance and support their giving to others. For others, the building itself - its care and

maintenance - has become their ministry. Prayerful discernment about the role of the building in congregational life can be energizing and lead to new vision and purpose.

During the first half of 2022, the national staff of the United Church of Christ moved from the space that had been home for more than thirty years into new office space. Over the years, the national staff has continued to be reduced. With COVID on the scene, many of the staff began to work from home. The combination of a smaller staff and a greater percentage of those working from home meant that that large space of the old offices was no longer needed. After a period of discernment, it was decided that that building was no longer serving its purpose - to serve the mission and ministry of the church. So, the staff moved their official offices a mile away. The new space at 1300 E. 9th Street in Cleveland, is smaller and more flexible, with an open floor plan that encourages collaboration and innovation.

It will not be the right decision for every church to sell its building and move to smaller quarters. However, every church with a physical plant can ask whether the congregation is serving the building and grounds more than the building and grounds are serving God and neighbor.

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me — and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

Luke 12:13-23

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my

crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing."